

August 25, 2008

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome back to Purdue and to the department for a new semester to all EAS students, faculty and staff! I hope that you had an enjoyable and productive summer and that you are looking forward to another exciting and successful academic year.

We would like to extend a special welcome to our new EAS undergraduate and graduate students. We have 16 new graduate students and 35 new undergraduate students for the Fall, 2008 semester. Welcome to EAS!

Congratulations to the following graduate students (and their major professors, in parentheses) who earned advanced degrees for the summer, 2008 graduation: Cristina Carbajo – M.S. (West), Kathryn Schreiner – M.S. (Filley), Denise Weinkauf – M.S. (West).

Two new faculty members have joined the department this semester. Saad Haq is now an Assistant Professor in EAS. Prof. Haq received his PhD from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2004 and has been a Visiting Professor in EAS since August, 2005. His specialty involves physical and numerical modeling of Earth deformation at plate boundaries, particularly the structural and mechanical evolution of collision boundaries. Also, Elizabeth McNie is a new Assistant Professor of Political Science (75%) and Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (25%). She received her PhD in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder and obtained a certificate in Science and Technology Policy Research. In 2007 Elizabeth was a fellow with the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Her primary area of research is climate sciences and how to improve the utility of climate science information for decision makers. She is also interested more broadly in linking knowledge with action, environmental and science policy, science and technology studies, and sustainability issues. Elizabeth received her BS and minor in Marine Transportation and Engineering from the California Maritime Academy and an MA in Psychology - Organization Development from Sonoma State University. Welcome and congratulations to Professors Haq and McNie!

We welcome back Professor Wen-Yih Sun who has completed a two-year leave of absence from Purdue serving as the founding Director of the research institute National Center for Typhoon and Flooding Research (NCTFR) in Taiwan.

We also recognize Professors Jon Harbor and Paul Shepson who have recently accepted new positions. Prof. Harbor has taken a leave of absence from his position as Associate Vice President for Research to be the Interim Dean of the College of Science. Professor Harbor will also be inducted into Purdue's Book of Great Teachers at a recognition ceremony to be held at 3:30 p.m. on August 28, 2008 in the North Ballroom of the Purdue Memorial Union. Prof. Shepson recently accepted the position of Department Head for the Department of Chemistry. Congratulations and best of success to Professors Harbor and Shepson!

The EAS department also suffered a loss this summer as Professor Steve Fritz passed away on June 21 after battling cancer. Prof. Fritz came to Purdue in 1987, conducted research in low temperature geochemistry and hydrogeology and taught a variety of service, majors and graduate courses in the department. We will miss Steve and his contributions to the success of the department, his intellect, and his friendship and humor.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, August 25

- EAS Primary Committee, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, August 28, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Are There Any Wild Cards in Global Climate Change?" Ernest Agee, Purdue University

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

For more information, see the EAS online [calendar](#).

EDITORSHIP

Professor John Cushman has been named an associate editor of the newly established "International Journal of Mechanics of MultiComponent Materials."

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Under the auspices of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), a special section focusing on recent methane cycling study has been published at *Journal of Geophysical Research -- Biogeoscience* organized by Prof. Qianlai Zhuang and Prof. Bill Reeburgh. The section presents results from new field studies, new instruments, and new approaches to the above areas. The section specifically addresses the issues of methane emissions in both natural and managed ecosystems, which are undergoing anthropogenic and natural perturbations of water table, permafrost thaw, volcanic deposition, sulfur deposition, and manure/fertilizer amendment. To better quantify the regional and global CH₄ emissions, these effects and controls need to be considered in biogeochemistry models. The continuous and long-term observations of CH₄ fluxes impacted by those factors and processes should still be a priority for the CH₄ research community. A complete set of articles may be found at <http://www.agu.org/contents/sc/ViewCollection.do?collectionCode=METHANE1&journalCode=JG>.

Zhuang, Q., and W. S. Reeburgh, Introduction to special section on Synthesis of Recent Terrestrial Methane Emission Studies, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 113, G00A02, doi:10.1029/2008JG000749, 2008.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Terry West gave a talk to the Lafayette Daybreak Rotary Club on Thursday, August 20, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select in downtown Lafayette. The presentation was entitled "Drilling in ANWR, Alaska National Wildlife Reserve." Greg Chmiel served as the technical assistant for the talk. Approximately 35 Rotarians and guests were present for the 7 a.m. meeting. Professor West included some recent photos taken in Valdez (glaciers, rock slopes and waterfalls) and in Prince William Sound (brown bear, whales, sea lions and oil tankers) from his recent trip to Alaska.

Tang, J., Q. Zhuang, Changes of Growing Season Length and Soil Thermal Regimes in Alaskan Boreal Forests, 93rd Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 3-8, 2008.

Zhuang, Q., K. Xu, and J. Tang, Evaluating Effects of Changes of Climate, Land-use and Land-cover, and Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition and Methane Concentrations on Global Soil Methane Consumption, 93rd Ecological Society of America

Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 3-8, 2008

On August 3, 2008, Prof. Qianlai Zhuang gave an invited talk entitled "Quantifying Carbon Budget in the Conterminous United States Using In Situ Measurement and Satellite Data" at the first Sino-Eco Symposium at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Sonia Lasher-Trapp presented the paper "Effects of Entrainment and Mixing on Droplet Coalescence in a Simulated Warm Cumulus Cloud" at the 15th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation in Cancun, Mexico held in July. She was also elected to serve on the International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation as a U.S. representative.

Graduate students Jen Bewley and Dan Arthur presented their posters, "The Effects of Entrainment and Mixing on Droplet Populations" and "A New Three-dimensional Visualization System for Combining Aircraft and Radar Data and its Application to RICO Observations," respectively at the 15th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation in Cancun, Mexico.

Presentations at the International Geological Congress; Oslo, Norway, 6-14 August:

Eric Riggs and Christie Lindemann, "Fractured cobbles and outcrop-scale deformation reflect stresses associated with brittle regional detachment faulting: Titus Canyon formation, Death Valley region, California/Nevada, United States"

Russell Balliet and Eric Riggs, "Geologic problem solving in the field: Analysis of field navigation and mapping by advanced undergraduates"

Eric Riggs and Eleanora Robbins, "Sharing the land: Geoscience education and information to empower Native American students and cultures in the United States"

Gerald H. Krockover and Daniel P. Shepardson served as co-conveners for the Earth System Geoscience Education Program Area and presented "Using Action Based Research Teams to Foster Constructivist Approaches to Reform Undergraduate College Earth System Science Teaching" at the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway, August 13, 2008.

The International Geologic Time Scale – Status of boundary definitions (James Ogg; poster)

Recent developments in the geologic time scale (Felix Gradstein; James Ogg, oral)

An astronomical time scale for the Mesozoic Era (Linda Hinnov; James Ogg, oral)

A Middle and Late Permian time scale calibrated by cycles and radio-isotopic age determinations (Manfred Menning, James Ogg; poster)

Construction of the Cretaceous astronomical time Scale. Part 1: Early Cretaceous (Linda Hinnov, James Ogg; poster)

Construction of the Cretaceous astronomical time Scale. Part 2: Late Cretaceous (Rob Lockair, Linda Hinnov, James Ogg; poster)

Solving Earth history problems with the Astronomical Time Scale (Linda Hinnov, James Ogg; oral)

The Cretaceous astronomical time scale (Linda Hinnov, Rob Lockair, James Ogg; poster)

TEACHING FACULTY INVITATION

Eric Riggs was invited this year to be on the teaching faculty for the Indiana University Geological Field Station course G429, "Field Geology in the Rocky Mountains". He was teaching there from June 29 through July 21, and also helping Russ Balliet conduct dissertation research in field-based student learning in conjunction with the course.

ITAP NEWS

Several training opportunities are available in August which may be of interest, including:

- Getting Started with Blackboard Vista
- Blackboard Vista: Mastering the Grade Book
- Introduction to eInstruction
- Adobe Acrobat Connect Professional: Web Conferencing,
- Collaboration, and Teaching Online

A link to ITaP's August training calendar may be found at: <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/calendar/>. (Click on course title for description and registration information.)

EAS Technology Support Newsletter Available Online

The fall 2008 version of the EAS Technology Support newsletter is available at <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/resources/it/newsletter/fall-2008.html>. The newsletter contains important information about changes that have happened over the summer and reminders about EAS technology information.

Brief Hypocenter Outages Scheduled

In order to install a security update, hypocenter will experience brief outages on Monday, September 1 (Labor Day). File shares on Windows and Mac machines will not be available during the outages. Print services and Linux access to hypocenter will remain available.

CIE to Offer Workshop on 'Clickers'

The Center for Instructional Excellence staff have prepared a special workshop for this fall.

Integrating Clickers into your Everyday Teaching

Date: August 28, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: STEW 214 A/B/C/D

About this workshop...

Clickers. CPS. eInstruction. Student Response Systems. There are many different names for this classroom tool, which is becoming a common way to interact with and learn from your students during class. In this workshop, we will briefly introduce Clickers as a technology; but the focus of the workshop will be on how to integrate them into different classroom learning activities and environments.

CIE staff also will present both College Teaching Workshops series this fall, which are designed to improve the teaching skills of Purdue faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants. Instructors may register for one session, or for the entire series.

To register online for any or all of the sessions, visit: <http://www.cie.purdue.edu/workshop/register/index.cfm>

Portland Group Suite Available for Personal Use

The Portland Group is offering a no-cost PGI Visual Fortran license to students and faculty living in the USA. Learn more at <http://www.pgroup.com/freepvf>.

FORECAST GAME BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

After a whole summer of rest, the Forecast Game returns to town on Tuesday, September 2. Do you have what it takes to be the Michael Phelps of forecasting? All faculty, staff, and students are invited to participate in the world's foremost forecasting challenge. For more information, see <http://wxp.eas.purdue.edu/forecast> or e-mail bcotton@purdue.edu.

EAS DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

EAS held its annual "Welcome Back" picnic at Happy Hollow Park on Tuesday evening, August 19. Terrific weather and great company made for a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to Juli Bell, Kathy Kincade and Stacy Story who helped with set up and clean up. Extra special thanks to Stacy's husband Clayton and Greg Chmiel who grilled everything for us!!



EAS OUTREACH OPEN HOUSE

Outreach is having an open house, Friday, August 29, 2008 (4 - 7 p.m.). We will be inviting area K-12 teachers to the department to showcase and inform all that our department has to offer.

If you or your group have anything you would like to share with area teachers, please let Steve Smith (mrsmith@purdue.edu) know so that he can insure your information is included.

CONGRATULATIONS RUSSELL!

Mr. Russell Conard, a recently graduated Harrison High school student worked on his science fair projects in the lab of Tim Filley, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Purdue University Sciences while during his junior and senior years. His project was part of NSF-funded grant to Tim Filley and collaborators from the Smithsonian Institution to study the biogeochemical implications of invasive earthworm activity on organic matter budgets and chemistry in forest litter and soil. Russell applied new chemical techniques to the question of how earthworms alter the chemical trajectory of decomposition in forests.

Russell presented his findings at the Purdue Regional Science fair and the Indiana State Science Fair in which he placed first in his division. Russell

was invited to present his research at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, Georgia May 11-16, 2008. Russell did spectacularly well and received:

- 1st Place in Biochemistry
- Best in Class - Overall Winner Representing the Biochemistry Category

He was first alternate for an all expense paid trip to Stockholm to attend the International Youth Science Seminar. As it turned out, one of the initial three winners didn't meet the requirements so he is going to Stockholm this December to represent the ISEF and the United States.

Russell had this to say about his upcoming trip to Sweden:

"Having done some additional reading, I found that the group of 25 students is actually in the official Nobel party! I will be attending the lectures, the ceremonies, the banquet, the ball, tours, the formal events, the press conferences, and will have a presentation of my own. Also, part of the week is getting fitted for formal black tails for the guys and full length ball gowns for the ladies for the Nobel Ceremonies. I'm really excited already!"

Russell will be attending the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology this fall to study software engineering and biochemistry.

AMS COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Jennifer Bewley was nominated to serve as a member of the American Meteorological Society Committee on Cloud Physics. Jen's three-year term will begin on January 1, 2009.

SHELL OIL PIZZA PARTY

On Tuesday, September 9, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Jonathan LaBuz from Shell Oil Company will host a Meet-n-Greet Pizza Party in CIVL 2201 to answer questions about Shell and the oil industry. All interested graduates, faculty and undergraduates planning on pursuing a degree in geology are welcome to attend this event.

EXXONMOBIL INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year. It's that time again to either begin or update your resumes. **ExxonMobil** will be on campus **September 15 and 16** to interview M.S. and Ph.D. students interested in petroleum geoscience-related

careers in areas associated with: Exploration, Production, and Research.

Please submit your resume and application online (www.exxonmobil.com/apply) at least one week prior to interviewing. Copies of transcripts and resumes should be brought to the interview. At this stage of the process, "unofficial" school versions of transcripts will be accepted as attachments to the online submittal.

Instructions for completing the online application may be found posted in CIVL 2279 and 2169D. A sign-up sheet is also available in Room 2169D.

Candidates for Regular Employment: ExxonMobil will be interviewing graduate students receiving an M.S. or a Ph.D. degree in geology or geophysics. Preference will be given to those candidates who complete their degree and will report to work during 2008 or 2009.

Candidates for Internships: ExxonMobil will be interviewing students who meet the following requirements: a) will be completing their M.S. or Ph.D. degree program within a year after their internship, and b) have the ability to work approximately three months. Internships are available throughout the year starting in February 2009. Although preference will be given to students graduating in 2008 or 2009, ExxonMobil will be happy to discuss career opportunities with other students as the interview schedule permits.

Recruiters Brian West and Sarah Pietraszek-Mattner will also present an ExxonMobil overview on Sunday, September 14. More information on this to follow. All interested faculty and students are invited to attend.

IT'S A GIRL!

Kristine Nielson and her husband Derek Hasterok are the proud parents of Sylvia Astrid Elizabeth Hasterok who was born on Thursday, August 7 at 4:18 a.m. She weighed in at a hefty 5 lb 13 oz. Congratulations!



A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Email

Check your Purdue email on a regular basis. This will help you keep up with information and what is going on if you check in at least once a day.

Schedules

Please make certain you are in paid status, or if \$0 due that you confirmed your registration on myPurdue. Anyone not paid or confirmed will be cancelled on **August 29**, and there is a \$200 re-registration fee with multiple signatures to obtain.

Drop/Add Dates for Fall 2008

If you need to modify your schedule, the following dates are important:

August 31 is the last day to add a class without signatures.

September 8 is the last day to drop a class with no record of the class.

September 22 is the last day to drop a class with advisor signature and a notation of W (withdrew) for students with a semester classification of 03 and above. If your semester classification is 01 or 02, you have until **October 28** to drop a class with a W and advisor signature.

September 22 is the last day to add or modify a class with instructor and advisor signatures.

September 25 is the last day for anyone in MA 153, 154, or 159 to change to a different level math class. Check your course ground rules for detailed information.

Local Address & Phone

If you live off campus, please go into myPurdue and make certain that your local address and phone are listed.

Study Abroad Callout

September 3, (Wednesday), from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Memorial Mall (rain or shine) is the Study Abroad Callout. Find out what you can do; hear what students returning from study abroad have to say. For information on EAS programs for Study Abroad see the EAS website at:

http://www.purdue.edu/eas/academic_programs/undergraduate/study_abroad.html. There are opportunities for funding, courses transfer for your major, etc. Learn more about all aspects of Study Abroad at <http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/>.

NO CLASSES on Monday, **September 1** – Labor Day.

Have a great first week and Labor Day Weekend.

Nancy

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This weekly newsletter is the place to look to keep up with departmental happenings, announcements (seminars, student group events, scholarship and award deadlines, departmental committees), job and grant opportunities, and anything else you need to know about the department. It should cut down on the glut of email and other forms of separate announcements – **if it is in the newsletter, we assume you know about it** and no other reminders are needed. Past issues will be available on our departmental web site (www.purdue.edu/eas/). Material for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to Gina Richey (grichey@purdue.edu) by **Friday noon** of each week for inclusion in the Monday newsletter.

For answers to common technology questions and the latest updates from the EAS Technology Support staff, please visit <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/resources/it>.

Also, as an additional resource for information about departmental events, seminars, deadlines, etc., see our departmental calendar at <http://calendar.science.purdue.edu/eas/seminars>.

