

September 8, 2008

## THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE EAS Outstanding Alumni for 2008

Congratulations to the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Outstanding Alumni for 2008! On Friday, the department and the College of Science honored three Purdue EAS graduates as Outstanding Alumni recognizing their significant achievements in their careers. The Outstanding Alumni awards were presented to Angela Buchman, WISH-TV Meteorologist, Amalia Olivera-Riley, Exploration Geoscientist with ExxonMobil, and Pete Robertson, research scientist with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. Brief bios of our three Outstanding Alumni are given below. We thank Angela, Amalia and Pete for their technical presentations and discussions and their participation in discussions with EAS students, faculty and staff. Congratulations again and we wish you continued success!



### Angela Buchman

B.S., 1996, Purdue University  
Atmospheric Science

Meteorologist Angela Buchman is a lead forecaster for 24-Hour News 8 in Indianapolis, Indiana. She received her degree in Atmospheric Science from Purdue in 1996. Angela is a member of the American Meteorological Society, and holds her AMS Seal of Approval.

As a meteorologist for WISH-TV, she forecasts the weather at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. During her time at WISH-TV, she has received two Emmy awards.

In 2006, Forecast 8 was the first weather team to ever be awarded "Indiana's Outstanding Weather Operation" by the Associated Press. The team won this honor again in 2008. NUVO magazine also honored Angela as "Best Television Weather Personality."

Angela graduated from Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. She began her career at the National Weather Service, while attending Purdue. One of her professors at Purdue, Dr. Smith,

recommended her for an on-air forecasting position at WLFI in West Lafayette, so her broadcast career began.

She spent three years at WLFI before she moved to California, where she spent four years as the morning and noon meteorologist at KCRA-TV. In those few years in Sacramento, Angela was voted the city's Best Television Weathercaster by Sacramento Magazine.

Angela is very involved in the community, making regular appearances for numerous community organizations. She especially likes visiting schools, educating children about the weather.

Angela and her husband, Mark, have two children and reside in Indianapolis.



### Amalia Olivera-Riley

Univ. Buenos Aires, Argentina  
(1989) - License in Geology  
Purdue (1995) - PhD  
Geoscience

Since graduating from Purdue, Amalia has worked with ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas. During her career, she's been involved in a broad variety of geoscience projects in Africa and the Americas ranging from large scale regional studies to field scale projects. Her technical contributions have focused in the fields of stratigraphy, regional geology and seismic interpretation, applying an integrative approach to exploration geoscience. In the late 1990's she led a joint technical project with Petrobras and the University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil). Within ExxonMobil, she's been a member of the regional geology technical leadership group since 2002. In parallel with her technical focus, Amalia has had a devotion for recruiting and student relationships, visiting Geoscience departments around the country, and teaching field and classroom student courses in collaboration with ExxonMobil colleagues. In the more recent past, Amalia has stepped out of the Geoscience world to spend a year in Human Resources, but is now back in the exploration business as supervisor of the South America Regional team at ExxonMobil.



**Dr. Franklin (Pete) Robertson**  
B.S., 1971, University of Georgia  
M.S., 1978, Purdue University  
Ph.D., 1981, Purdue University

Dr. Franklin Robertson is a research scientist with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center where he leads the Climate Diagnostics and Modeling Group. His work has been dedicated to understanding the Earth System from the perspective of space and involves aspects of remote sensing algorithm evaluation and development, validation of NASA climate models, and use of space-based measurements data to quantify tropical climate variability. He is currently a member of the NASA Science Teams supporting the Precipitation Measurement Mission and the Energy and Water Cycle Study. He is also a Co-Investigator on the NASA Global Modeling Assimilation Office model development effort in which he leads a pathfinder activity for multi-center science collaboration. Dr. Robertson has been the recipient of the Center Director's Commendation Award for investigation of water and energy cycle feedback processes. More recently, his research findings on inter-annual variations of precipitation were contributed to the 2007 4<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report.

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#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

##### **Wednesday, September 10**

- Executive Committee, CIVL 2173 (9 a.m.)

##### **Monday, September 15**

- EAS Faculty Meeting, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

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#### SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wednesday, September 10, at 4 p.m. in ARMS 1109:** "The Last Great Ice Sheet in Western Canada." John Clague, Simon Fraser University

*Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201*

**Thursday, September 11, at 4 p.m. in Fowler Hall:**

"Right and Left: Mineral Surfaces, Molecular Selection, and the Origin of Life's Homochirality." Robert Hazen, Senior Staff Scientist at the Carnegie Institution's Geophysical Lab and Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science at George Mason University (Sponsored by Sigma Xi and the Department of Physics)

*Reception: 3:15-3:45 p.m., West Foyer, Stewart Center*

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

#### SPECIAL SEMINAR: 1925 TRI-STATE TORNADO REANALYSIS

Monday, September 8, at 2:30 p.m. in CIVL 4251, Bob Johns, retired forecaster and SOO at the Storm Prediction Center, will present some recent work regarding reanalysis of the 1925 Tri-State tornado event. The Tri-State tornado is the deadliest tornado in U.S. history, with a track of over 200 miles that began in eastern Missouri, crossed Illinois, and ended in south-western Indiana. Given the incredible length of this track, there has long been a discussion of whether this was a single continuous tornado, or a series of separate tornadoes (tornado family). Recently, several researchers, including Bob Johns, have revisited this event to determine, as accurately as possible, the tornado's damage, intensity, and continuity. This research has involved personally interviewing survivors along the track, local newspaper accounts, census data, and observations of mounds and depressions caused by felled trees.

Bob Johns is a native Hoosier who grew up in nearby Terhune (Boone County) and attended Purdue from 1960-1962 before obtaining his B.S. in Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma. He retired from the Storm Prediction Center in 2001 after a distinguished ~30 year career with the National Weather Service.

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#### OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ehleringer, J.R., T.E. Cerling, J.B. West, D.W. Podlesak, L.A. Chesson, and G.J. Bowen, 2008: Spatial considerations of stable isotope analyses in environmental forensics. *Issues in Environmental Science and Technology, Volume 26*, R.E. Hester and R.M. Harrison, Eds., Royal Society of Chemistry Publishing, Cambridge, 36-53.

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#### RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Gabe Bowen gave one of two keynote lectures at The 6th International Conference on Applications of Stable Isotopes to Ecological Research (Honolulu, HI; August 25-29, 2008). His talk was entitled "Tracing with isotopes and beyond: Practices, applications, and opportunities."

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#### ATMS TEA

The first ATMS tea will be held this Friday, September 12, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in **CIVL 4251**. Prof. Lasher-Trapp will introduce the pilot EAS 225 research-based lab that is being planned, and a discussion of possible adaptations to the other upper-level ATMS labs will follow.

## A TRIBUTE TO TERRY

At this year's Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting (September 15 – 20 at the JW Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana), Technical Session #18 on Friday, September 19, is a special tribute to Dr. West's university teaching and consulting aspects of environmental and engineering geology during the past 47 years. The presentations are from colleagues and former students who have worked with Terry over the years.

Terry R. West is a Professor of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences at Purdue University. He holds degrees in Geology, Geological Engineering and Civil Engineering, and is a Registered Professional Engineer. His specialty area is environmental and engineering geology. He is the Past President of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG has a membership of 3400 professional geologists), Past Chair of the Engineering Geology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA has 17,000 members), and Past President of the Indiana Academy of Science. Dr West has served as the major professor for 80 graduate students, 18 Ph.D.'s and 62 Master's degrees in his 45+ years on the Purdue University faculty. He is author of a college textbook, "*Geology Applied to Engineering*," Prentice Hall Publishing Co, 1996, 560 pages. He was designated as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Frank O'Bannon for teaching geology for 40 years at Purdue University.

The schedule of speakers is as follows (in order of their presentation):

- Rogers, J.D. – Professor Arthur B. Cleaves of Washington University (Terry's Original Engineering Geology Mentor)
- West, T. – A Half Century of Teaching University Level Geology and the Related Professional Experience
- Family Response by Shirley West, Jill West Duncan, and Matthew West
- Hatheway, A. – Gasworks Site & Waste Characterization; Applying Some "Rules" of Professor
- Hasan, S. – A Tribute to Terry R. West
- Shakoor, A. – Investigation of a Rotational Landslide Affecting Two Adjacent Properties
- Bannister, T. – "You Want Me to Take *What* Course?" – A Former Student's Tribute to Dr. Terry R. West
- Zhao, L. – An Innovative Course in Engineering Geology: A Tribute to Terry R. West

Stohr, C. – Tribute for Terry West, Teacher, Mentor and Colleague

Cho, K. – Rock Slope Stability of the Valdez Marine Terminal in Valdez, Alaska

Wilkerson, J. – A Tribute to Professor Terry West: 47 Years of Teaching Service at Purdue University

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## WEATHER BRIEFING SCHEDULE

As part of the Team Weather Forecasting course, we have a ~20 minute weather briefing Monday-Thursday. The briefings will be open to everyone who wishes to attend and will be scheduled as follows: Monday/Wednesday: 1:00-1:20 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday: 11:30-11:50 a.m., in CIVL 4175. Since we are currently renovating and installing new computer equipment in this room and in CIVL 4173, the location may vary between these two rooms. These discussions are intended to provide a summary of the current and future weather, allowing the class to examine and discuss the interesting weather events and forecasting issues of the day. EAS 391F students will lead the briefings and the audience is welcome to participate in the discussion. Students not enrolled in the course are welcome to sit in at anytime.

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## 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.

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## EXXONMOBIL INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16

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](http://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.

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#### CONOCO-PHILLIPS INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19

To apply for a Geoscience position at ConocoPhillips, students should go to their website: <http://www.conocophillips.com/index.html>. Click on the tab along the top gray bar that reads "CAREERS". From the dropdown box, click "University Recruitment". Once the screen refreshes, click on the "United States" hyperlink. This will launch a new browser window containing the Job Function List. (You may need to turn off your pop-up blocker if you have trouble). **Applications are due by noon on Wednesday, September 10.**

The easiest way to find the Geoscience job applications is to type "Geologist" as a keyword in the Basic Job search. The keyword search should bring up two job descriptions: 004A6 for the Intern position and 004A7 for Full-time (Graduate) position. To apply, click on the job description of interest, and then click the red "Apply Online" button. **Log in with your user name and password from last year, or click "New User" to create an account.**

Students should then upload a current resume or CV (in MS Word or .pdf form), and work their way across the progress bar at the top of the application. Under the heading "Institution", **please make sure that you have selected your university.** It is preferred that applicants upload undergraduate and graduate transcripts under the "Additional Attachments" area.

Unofficial transcripts are okay. **If you cannot access or create a digital copy of the transcripts to upload, please bring paper copies to the interview.**

At any time during the application process, applicants may choose the "save as draft" option and come back to it later. **When an application has been successfully submitted, you should see the following confirmation: Thank You. Process Completed.**

Additional information about careers and benefits at ConocoPhillips can be found by browsing the "University Recruitment" page of the website: <http://www.conocophillips.com/careers/UnivRecruit/index.htm>. Students are welcome to contact [Frank.Rodriguez@conocophillips.com](mailto:Frank.Rodriguez@conocophillips.com) with questions or concerns, please provide a telephone number in your email.

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#### CHEVRON INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23

On September 22 and 23, Philip Richardson with Chevron will be on campus interviewing M.S. and Ph.D. students in geology and geophysics. Send your resume (in Word or PDF) and an unofficial transcript of your graduate and undergraduate transcripts to [philiprichardson@chevron.com](mailto:philiprichardson@chevron.com) by **September 15 (no later)**. See Kathy Kincade in CIVL 2169D to sign up for an interview.

Also, on Monday, September 22, at 4 p.m. in CIVL 3201, Philip will present an overview of Chevron. All interested faculty and students are invited to attend.

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#### National Physical Science Consortium Graduate Fellowship in the Physical Sciences

The Fellowship Program of the National Physical Science Consortium (NPSC) is again open for receipt of applications at [www.npsc.org](http://www.npsc.org). NPSC offers two programs.

1. The Traditional NPSC Program provides a two-phase, six-year fellowship. Initial support is for two or three years, depending on the employer-sponsor. If the student makes satisfactory progress and continues to meet the conditions of the award, support may continue for a total of up to six years. Students typically apply during their senior year.
2. The Dissertation Support Program provides support while the graduate student conducts dissertation research. Students should apply in the year prior to the beginning of their dissertation

research program, but not until they can describe their research at least in general terms.

The deadline for the online application is November 7, 2008.

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#### A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

##### [Civil Engineering Career Fair](#)

Wednesday, September 17, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Purdue Armory. The Civil Engineering Career Fair provides students with an opportunity to talk with a wide variety of companies primarily focused on Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering Management, and Land Surveying and Geomatics. For EAS consider environmental, geotechnical, and related firms as possible employment opportunities.

#### This Week

Today, **September 8**, is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your record. You can drop a class through myPurdue only until 5 p.m. Note: The deadline to add in myPurdue was August 31. The final day to do anything with a fall schedule has been changed to **October 29<sup>th</sup>** (previous date was October 28<sup>th</sup>).

**September 9-10** Memorial Mall (rain location: Armory) for the Industrial Roundtable job fair. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**September 10** at 7 p.m. in CIVL 1252 **\*\*PUMA\*\*** Callout. All students interested in atmospheric science are invited.

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/](http://www.purdue.edu/eas/)). Material for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to Gina Richey ([grichey@purdue.edu](mailto: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>.



# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Presents:

## Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop

Topic: Research Integrity

**Dr. Peter Dunn, Associate Vice President for  
Research**

**September 18, 2008**  
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Whistler Hall, Room 116**

To register, click on the workshop calendar link below:

[http://ias.itap.purdue.edu/rgs/wgb\\_workshop\\_disp\\_online\\_workshop](http://ias.itap.purdue.edu/rgs/wgb_workshop_disp_online_workshop)

Registration opens September 1, 2008