

April 12, 2010

## THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

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**Awards Banquet and Alumni Visitors:** I always look forward to this week in the spring semester – it is one of the busiest and most exciting weeks of the year. We have our annual EAS awards banquet on Thursday at which we will recognize the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students. We also have our Alumni Advisory Committee on campus on Thursday and Friday, to give us important perspectives on ways we can continue to advance the department. The week ends with college-level recognition of Distinguished Alumni on Friday – the college is recognizing two EAS alumni this year! As an added bonus, on Saturday we are having an alumni and student gathering as part of the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers in Washington D.C., and expect to have record attendance this year.

**Undergraduate Research:** Several EAS students participated in the university's undergraduate research poster session this last week and we are very proud of their accomplishments. The posters were professionally put together, and I was very impressed at the clear and thorough explanations that each student gave when asked to talk about his or her work. Covering the range of work done in EAS, these students are excellent ambassadors for the quality and scope of work that is possible in our department, and I'd like also to thank the faculty and graduate students who work with our undergraduates to mentor and assist them with their research. It is hard to underestimate the importance of undergraduate research in helping to develop key skills that are valuable, regardless of future career paths, and many of our alumni make a similar point when they talk to our faculty and students. I know that many highly qualified students look closely to see whether they will have an opportunity to do undergraduate research in deciding between schools. I have made recent visits to a number of outstanding, smaller colleges and universities, and undergraduate research is something they highlight as a key feature of their educational success.

**Moving up the ladder:** As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, several of our faculty have been

promoted to Associate and Full Professor, and we are delighted at their achievements that made this recognition possible. The bar is set high for these major career steps at Purdue, and EAS is very proud to see our faculty moving successfully up the ranks!

**A sign of the times:** In a recent issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education there was an interesting article about a faculty member at the University of Houston who, in an effort to deliver a writing intensive course for a large number of freshmen, is experimenting with outsourcing assignment grading to a company whose employees are mostly in Asia. Personally, I would encourage exploring Calibrated Peer Review as an alternative to outsourcing with a lot of advantages (see <http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/>).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Monday, April 12

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

### Tuesday, April 13

- COS Faculty Meeting, LWSN 3102A/B (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

### Monday, April 19

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

## EAS SEMINARS

### Wednesday, April 14, at 2 p.m. in CIVL 2201:

"Origin of the Ganymede/Callisto Dichotomy by Impacts during the Late Heavy Bombardment."  
Amy C. Barr, Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, Colorado

*Refreshments at 1:30 p.m. in CIVL 2201*

### Thursday, April 15, at 4 p.m. in PHYS 203:

"Saturn's Titan: Earth-like or not?" Prof. Robert Brown, University of Arizona

*Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in PHYS 242*

**Friday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m. in CIVL 2201:** (Title to be announced). Bill Landwer, Kerns Petroleum, Inc, San Antonio, Texas [COS *Distinguished Alumnus*]

*Reception at 1:15 p.m. in CIVL 2201*

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

## PURDUE TRUSTEES APPROVE FACULTY PROMOTIONS

### Many congratulations go to:

Alexander Gluhovsky, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences

Robert J. Trapp, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences

Gabriel J. Bowen, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences

Qianlai Zhuang, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences



## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Gabe Bowen presented an invited seminar at the University of Utah Department of Geology and Geophysics Distinguished Lecture series on April 1<sup>st</sup>. His title was "Tracing Large-Scale Hydrological Fluxes using Isotopes and Isoscapes."

## OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Xu, K., C. Kong, G. Liu, C. Wu, H. Deng, Y. Zhang, and **Q. Zhuang**, 2010: Changes of urban wetlands in Wuhan, China, from 1987 to 2005, *Progress in Physical Geography*, **34**, 207-220.

## LASHER-TRAPP CONTRIBUTES TO TEXTBOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr. Sonia Lasher-Trapp has contributed a chapter to a recently published textbook on climate change. *Climate Change and Sustainable Development* was published in March 2010 by Linton Atlantic Books, Ltd.

The book explores the impact and related policy implications of climate change on our planet. The need for sustainable development is discussed from many different perspectives. It is presented at the upper level of undergraduate higher education, with ideas on how to use this book in the classroom and questions to help students to review the material. The editor is Dr. Ruth Reck, Professor of Land, Air and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. Professor Lasher-Trapp's chapter is titled "Clouds in a Warmer Climate: Friend or Foe?" [Read more...](#)

## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS SCREENINGS

Sign up now for a wellness screening appointment! [Read more...](#)

## FIELDWORK COMPLETION

Greg Michalski, EAS PhD student and PCCRC Fellow Fan Wang, and collaborator Dr. Wensheng Ge completed two weeks of fieldwork in the Turpan-Hami basin, Xinjiang China.

## UNIVERSITY FACULTY SCHOLARS

See the [memo](#) from George McCabe announcing the 2010 University Faculty Scholars from Science. These individuals will be honored at the University Faculty Awards Convocation on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the Science Newly Promoted Faculty dinner on May 11.

## EAS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT NEWS

### GEMPAK Roll Back to Version 5.11.1

Due to issues encountered with nmap2 in GEMPAK version 5.11.4, the current version of GEMPAK is being downgraded to version 5.11.1. If there are no objections, the older version will be distributed to all EAS Linux machines on the morning of Tuesday, April 20th.

Please let us know should you have questions or concerns by sending email to: [eas-itap@purdue.edu](mailto:eas-itap@purdue.edu)

Thanks,  
EAS IT Support

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ISSUES TRAVEL ALERT REGARDING THAILAND

The University Travel Office urges the Purdue community to be aware that the U.S. Department of State (DOS) issued an alert Friday morning (April 9) regarding Thailand. [Read more...](#)

## EAS LIBRARY NEW BOOKS

Click [here](#) to see the most recent list of new books in the EAS library.

## WELLS CARGO TRAILERS

EAS has two field 1983 Wells Cargo trailers (6' x 10') ([see photo](#)) that are not road-worthy at this time. We would need to do some extensive repairs and also get the trailers registered. They are so old that their current plates have expired!!! Does anyone foresee a specific need for these trailers that would warrant repair and BMV registration? If so, please let Dee know by Friday, April 16. Otherwise, they will be sent to salvage.

## SPRING FLING 2010

May 20, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Faculty/Staff/Retiree/Grad Staff Appreciation Day

The major purpose of this day is to show appreciation to all faculty, staff and retirees. The coordinating committee has been hard at work planning for a successful day of fun for all who attend. [Read more...](#)

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### RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP PROGRAMS

The National Research Council of the National Academies sponsors a number of awards for graduate, postdoctoral and senior researchers at federal laboratories and affiliated institutions. These awards provide generous stipends and the opportunity to do independent research in some of the best-equipped and staffed laboratories in the U.S. [Read more...](#)

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### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Aaron Goldner** received an honorable mention for this year's NSF Fellowship 2010.

**Jessica Griffin** attended the AAPG/SEG sponsored Spring Student Expo and Job Fair at the University of Oklahoma, March 11-12, where there were more than 20 companies interviewing for students. In addition, there was a poster session for students, as well as several short courses and a career symposium. Jessica Griffin's poster received 2nd place in the student poster session for geophysics.

**Paytsar Muradyan** was awarded the Faculty for the Future Fellowship (FFTF) for the 2010-2011 academic year. Paytsar first received this fellowship in 2007, and since then it has been renewed for the 4th consecutive year. The long-term goal of this fellowship is to generate conditions that result in more women pursuing scientific disciplines. The FFTF is awarded to women from developing and emerging economies for PhD or post-doctoral study, to later continue their academic careers in their home countries and inspire other young women (<http://www.slb.com/about/community/foundation/>).

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### NASA PLANETARY SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL

NASA is accepting applications from science and engineering post-docs, recent PhDs, and doctoral students for its 22nd Annual Planetary Science Summer School, which will hold two separate sessions this summer (19-23 July and 2-6 August) at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. [Read more...](#)

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

**Funding your Graduate Education: How to Find Assistantships and Fellowships** – Wednesday, April 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m., PHYS 114

This workshop will present an overview of the process of finding funding sources for graduate students, including fellowships and research, teaching, and graduate assistantships at Purdue.

**Job Search Resources and Services offered by the CCO (Center for Career Opportunities)** – Thursday, April 15, 4:30-5:30 p.m., PHYS 114

This workshop will present an overview of job search resources and services offered by the CCO (Center for Career Opportunities) at Purdue.

**Employment Planning for International Students: CPT, OPT, J-1 Visa, and H1-B Visa Requirements and Application Procedures** – Friday, April 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., PHYS 114

This workshop will present an overview of work authorization requirements and application processes for international graduate students seeking employment in the U.S. It will cover requirements such as CPT and OPT for F-1 Visa holders, J1 Visa, and H1-B Visa.

To register for workshops, please go to [www.gradschool.purdue.edu/workshops](http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/workshops)

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### A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR Last Regional Campus Visit

Fort Wayne regional campus representatives will be in Schleman Hall, Main Lobby, this week to help students register for summer courses at their campus.

Wednesday April 14, 2010 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday April 15, 2010 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Maximize Your Summer

Saturday, **April 17**, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in PMU 263. This event will explore different activities that you can participate in to make the most of your summer. Topics include study abroad, summer internships, volunteering, and summer school. In addition, an alumni panel will be present to answer questions from an employer's perspective, as well as offer advice to students looking to enter into the work force. All students are encouraged to attend. Info: <https://www.cco.purdue.edu/Events2010/MaxYourSummer.pdf>

### Just in Time Job Fair

Tuesday, **April 20**, 2010, **10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** in the Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms. This job fair is the final opportunity of this school year to connect with a wide variety of companies for all majors and degree levels.

### Surviving Finals Week

Wednesday, **April 21**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. in LWSN B155. Free workshop for students who want tips on studying for finals. Hear from successful students as they share their strategies.

It's probably a good time to check your May finals schedule if you have not already done so.

### 2010 Symposium

Congratulations to the following EAS Students and their faculty research advisors for their participation

in the 2010 Undergraduate Research & Poster Symposium on April 7, 2010.

**Jon Buening** – Exploring the Past: Canadian Geology Viewed with the TimeScale Creator.  
Advisor: Jim Ogg.

**Nicholas Farny** and **Zachary Umperovitch** – Global Erosion in Model Fold-and-Thrust Belts.  
Advisor: Saad Haq.

**Kandace Gleason** – An Assessment of Solar Cycle Quiet Period (23-24). Advisor: Ernie Agee.

**Adam Simkowski** – 2008 Chicago Derecho: Understanding the Forecast. Advisor: Mike Baldwin.

**August Veron** – Weather Analysis using GEMPAK.  
Advisor: Mike Baldwin.

Nancy

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter will now be used as the primary information source for current and upcoming events, announcements, awards, grant opportunities, and other happenings in our department and around campus. Active links to additional information will be provided as needed. Individual email announcements will no longer be sent unless the content is time-sensitive. We will continue to include our publications, presentations and other recent news items as well. Those using paper copies of the newsletter should go to our newsletter archive on the EAS website at [www.purdue.edu/eas/](http://www.purdue.edu/eas/) and **Click on News** to access active links as needed. 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 issue. **If it is in the newsletter, we assume you know about it and no other reminders are needed.**

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>.

