THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE
Welcome back to Purdue, and to the department, 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 academic year.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all the new members of the EAS community. We have 20 new graduate students, 32 new undergraduate students, and 6 new post-docs and visiting scholars for the Fall 2011 semester. In addition, we are very pleased to welcome Dr. David Minton as a new Assistant Professor in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Dr. Minton received his PhD in Planetary Sciences from the University of Arizona in 2009 and joins us after serving as a Research Scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

The 2010-11 academic year was exceptionally productive for the department; it is great to see students completing their programs of study and then facing hard choices about which job or graduate school program to accept! Although there are challenges in the job market, an EAS degree continues to be a very strong foundation for success. Our alumni continue to help with leads and opportunities for jobs, as well as providing invaluable support with advice and through funding for scholarships and special programs in the department. We are very fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive group of alumni. EAS faculty, students and staff continue to thrive, as indicated by publications in leading journals, major national and international awards, grant funding, and promotions.

An important change we began last year, and are continuing this year, has been to increase the number of senior undergraduate students involved in our teaching assistants program for lower division classes. The initial response has been very positive, from the students involved as TAs and from the students in the classes. The vast majority of our TAs are graduate students, however, and an article in the August 19th issue of Science provides evidence that combining teaching with research is valuable for graduate students’ research skills. According to the author, “Students who both taught and conducted research demonstrate significantly greater improvement in their abilities to generate testable hypotheses and design valid experiments”.

Our staff members are key to the success of the department, and we continue to evolve our support structure to ensure that we provide the best possible support with the resources we have available. New appointments include Dr. Suzanne Zurn-Birkhimer, who rejoined the department this summer as Assistant Head, replacing Dee Gillespie who moved to Alabama. Patty Rigdon joined the EAS business office team in May, and prior to this Patty worked for two years in the Computer Science business office and before joining Purdue worked for many years as manager of a local retail clothing store. Katie Levitt also joined the EAS business office team in May, and worked previously for the Bursars’ Office at IUPUI, and Bethany Thelling joined EAS as our Stable Isotope Specialist. We also reduced our clerical support staff to two people; Virginia Ewing provided amazing support to EAS for several decades and we wish her every success in her new position in the School of Chemical Engineering.

The 2011-12 academic year is upon us, and in terms of the larger university environment it is clear that there will be continued efforts and opportunities associated with the New Synergies strategic plan, as well as considerable interest and speculation about the priorities a new president might bring to Purdue. I predict strong efforts to enhance the “Learning Beyond the Classroom” emphasis at the college level, a much stronger push for international initiatives in discovery, learning and engagement at the university level, and growing opportunities and support for online learning (both blended models and completely online models for students on and off campus). At the national level there is strong interest in many EAS themes, including issues of sustainability, environmental change, natural hazards, energy sources and security, and strategic materials. It should be an exciting year for us all!

Jon Harbor

UPCOMING MEETINGS
Monday, August 22 **TODAY**
• Primary Committee, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

Monday, August 29
• EAS Faculty Mini Retreat, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)
WELCOME BACK PICNIC
Please join us on Tuesday, September 6, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on the Civil Patio for a welcome back picnic. Dinner will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Jay Melosh’s new book, Planetary Surface Processes is now in print. The book is advertised on Amazon and will be available for sale in five to seven weeks.

Elizabeth McNie had a paper published in the early edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science as the Inaugural Article on Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Development Special Feature Sackler Colloquium titled: "Boundary Work for Sustainable Development: Natural Resource Management at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)," William C. Clark., Thomas P. Tomich, Meine van Noordwijk, David Guston, Delia Catacutan, Nancy M. Dickson, Elizabeth McNie. Abstract

RECENT PRESENTATIONS
Elizabeth McNie gave a talk at a joint session of the American Meteorological Society’s Conference of State Climatologists and Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change held July 18-20 in Asheville, North Carolina titled, “Producing Usable Climate Science for ‘Climate Services’: What Your Research Organization Needs to Know”. Audio recording


Jacob Carley gave a seminar on August 16th to the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Environmental Modeling Center, titled: "Hybrid ensemble-3DVar radar reflectivity assimilation with the GSI and NMMA: Current status and future plans."

NEW FACULTY
Prof. Minton received his PhD from The University of Arizona in 2009, and afterward worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado. His research interests include, but are not limited to, the early bombardment history of the solar system, planet formation, and the dynamics of small bodies. He looks forward to furthering the planetary science research direction within the EAS department. Prof. Minton is joined by his wife, Juliet, and their son, Leo.

INDIANA GOVERNOR’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
Gerald H. Krockover, Professor Emeritus of Earth and Atmospheric Science Education, was awarded the Indiana Governor’s Distinguished Service Medal on August 8, 2011. It was presented by two state legislators, Sheila Klinker and Randy Truitt.

EARTHSCOPE SCIENCE SPEAKER
Lucy Flesch has been named an EarthScope Science speaker for the 2011-2012 academic year. Below is information from the EarthScope website.

Each speaker presents science-based lectures on their own EarthScope-related project, and their talks include an introduction highlighting broader EarthScope objectives and accomplishments. The 2011-2012 EarthScope Speaker Series is presenting scientific results of EarthScope research to faculty and students in departmental seminars at colleges and universities. Read more…
FACULTY AND STUDENTS PERFORM SITING RECONNAISSANCE FOR EARTHSCOPE SEISMIC STATIONS

This past summer, Professors Hersh Gilbert and Robert Nowack, and undergraduate students, Dane Dudley and Austin McGlannan, in EAS at Purdue performed siting reconnaissance to determine locations for seismic stations throughout Indiana and parts of northern Kentucky. The installation of this seismic equipment is part of the USArray EarthScope project, an NSF program to study the structure and evolution of the North American continent. Read more...

ROAD TRIP

August 16 to 21 Terry West and graduate student Nick Farney traveled to Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia looking at field sites for a possible rock slope stability study. It was also an opportunity for Dr. West to update locations for the fall semester field trip in his EAS 591 class on Landslides and Slope Stability. Sites were examined in the Blue Ridge Province of western North Carolina along I-40 and I-26 and a meeting was held with the NCDOT highway geologist in Asheville. The last stop was in Radford, Virginia in the Ridge and Valley Province where Dr. Skip Watts, Purdue graduate and EAS and COS Distinguished Alumni, led field excursions to several rock slope stability areas. Nick Farney was able to collect data at a site that potentially will be the field location for his M.S. thesis research.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Tim Berry was admitted into the PULSE Graduate Program in the Fall of 2010. He has joined Prof. Filley's group working on his Ph.D. degree.

Sarah Bischoff received her Bachelor’s degree from Wright State University. Sarah will be working with Professor Flesch pursuing a Master’s degree.

Jason Francis received his Bachelor’s degree from Coppin State University and is working on a Ph.D. degree with Prof. Niyogi.

Rachel Gipe received her Bachelor’s degree from Juniata College and working with Prof. Ogg on her Ph.D. degree.

Alexander Gonzalez received his Bachelor’s degree from Amherst College. He is working on a Masters with Prof. Brenda Bowen.

Barbara Hauzenberger is working on her Ph.D. degree with Prof. Harbor. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Passau University in Bavaria, Germany.

Bianca Maibauer received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and is pursuing a Master’s degree with Prof. Gabe Bowen.

Ian Pope received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Mary Washington. He is working on his Master’s degree with Prof. Zhuang.

Peter Robertson is working on a Master’s degree with Prof. Ridgway. He received his Bachelors from the University of Tennessee/Knoxville.

Linyuan Shang received his Baccalaureate degree from Wuhan University and a Masters from Academia Sinica. He is working with Prof. Zhuang on his Ph.D.

Subashini Subramanian received her Bachelor’s degree from Women’s Christian College and her Master’s from Madras Christian College. She will be working on a Ph.D. with Prof. Niyogi.

Zeli Tan received both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degree from Wuhan University. He is working with Prof. Zhuang on a Ph.D.

Zachary Umperovitch was one of our undergraduates and is working on his Master’s with Prof. Haq.

Katelyn Verner received her Bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University and is working on her Master’s with both Profs. Flesch and Ridgway.

Ruichao Ye is working on a Ph.D. degree with Prof. de Hoop. He received his Bachelors degree from University of Science and Technology, China.

Yue Zheng is working on a Ph.D. degree with Prof. Niyogi. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Beijing Forestry University and her Masters from Beijing Normal University.

We also have three students admitted to the Ecological Science & Engineering Interdisciplinary Graduate Program who will be working with EAS faculty.

Christy Gibson received both her Bachelor’s and M.S. degrees from Tennessee State University and is working on her Ph.D. with Prof. Filley.

Zhenong Jin received his Bachelor’s degree from Peking University. He is working on his Ph.D. with Prof. Qianlai Zhuang.

Lindsey Payne received a Bachelor's degree from Depauw University and a Master's degree from National University. She also received a Masters degree here at Purdue in the Dept. of Agronomy. Lindsey is working with Prof. McNie on her Ph.D.
REORGANIZATION OF CLERICAL SUPPORT

Over the summer, the departmental clerical support was reorganized in response to our leaner departmental budget. Given that we do not have the resources to continue to support everything we have done in the past, services and clerical functions were prioritized. All of the solutions considered involved ending some aspects of the support that has been provided in the past and rearranging space and duties. The highest priority was placed on supporting key departmental committees and functions that benefit the whole department.

Gina Richey and Kathy Kincade, EAS departmental secretaries, are situated in the main office suite. They will focus most of their effort on supporting departmental committees and cross-cutting departmental needs. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation as we transition to this new arrangement.

We are also happy to report that Virginia Ewing has started her new position as a secretary in the School of Chemical Engineering.

Purdue Degree Among Nation's Best Buys, SmartMoney Says

Purdue ranks seventh nationally in SmartMoney magazine's college 'payback' survey, which quantifies the long-term value of a college education. In 2010, Purdue was ranked ninth. Read more...

Geoscience Currents Discussion Webinar: Geoscience Academic Provenance

Tuesday, August 23, 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Join us to listen to Heather Houlton (MS 2010), from AGI's Workforce Program, speak about her 'pathway' model for recruiting and retaining students in the geosciences. Read more...

EAS/CE Presentation

Dr. Jyoti Mathur (coordinator of the Computational Science and Engineering program) and Darion Grant (CS&E-CE-PhD student and member of Computational Student Leadership Team) will give a presentation entitled "Overview of CS&E: Computational Science and Engineering, an interdisciplinary specialization for MS and PhD students" to the combined EAS and CE departments on Friday, August 26, from noon-1 PM in CIVL 2201. This is for both graduate students and faculty that are interested and want more information on the CS&E program. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. Flyer

GM AIMS Faculty Training

With the roll-out of the new GM AIMS application to faculty, the remaining dates for the targeted Science Faculty GM AIMS training are as follows:

| Science | 9/15/2011 | 3:30-5:00 | NLSN 1195 |
| Science | 9/19/2011 | 3:30-5:00 | SC 277 |
| Science | 9/20/2011 | 10:30-12:00 | SC 277 |

Read more...

ITAP Taking Faculty Orders for Capacity in a New Cluster Supercomputer

Faculty researchers can now place orders for capacity in a new community cluster supercomputer ITaP plans to have operational in September. The Hansen cluster will feature Dell computer nodes with four 12-core AMD Opteron 6176 processors (48 cores per node) and either 96 or 192 gigabytes of memory. A large-memory option with 512 gigabytes also is available. To see available hardware and to order visit: http://www.rcac.purdue.edu/order/.

International Programs Offering Two Competitive Grant Programs

- Study Abroad and International Learning (SAIL)
- Global Strategic Partners (GSP)

Proposal Deadline: September 14, 2011 5:00 PM
Submit to: Dr. David Ayers, Associate Dean of International Programs ayersd@purdue.edu

It's a Boy!

On Monday, August 1, Daniel Petrenko was born to graduate student, Mariya Petrenko and her husband Maksym. Daniel was born at about 9:45 p.m., weighed in at 7 lb 8 oz, and was 22 inches long. He was also welcomed home by his big sister, Anna. Everyone is home and doing well.

A Note From Our Academic Counselor

August 22 - Classes Begin!
August 28 - Last day to add through myPurdue. Instructor and advisor signatures Aug. 29 – Sept. 19.
Sept. 5 – Last day to drop using your myPurdue; course not recorded.
Sept. 5 – Labor Day – No Classes.
Any modifications to your fall schedule after these dates require signature(s) and paperwork to Hovde.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)
These courses will offer SI --MA 153, MA 154, MA 159, MA 161, MA 162, PHYS 172, COM 318, STAT 301, BIOL 203, MGMT 200. SI is peer-led review sessions for these courses, and it’s free. This team approach to integrating concepts was at Purdue for several years, and now it’s back; consistent participation in SI proved to raise student confidence and grades.

Undergraduate Internship Opportunities Callouts
The Discovery Learning Research Center offers several undergraduate internship programs. Attend one of three callouts for information on part-time Fall 2011 internships. Qualified students work in interdisciplinary projects, gain valuable skills and knowledge for a possible career in research or start-up companies, become part of a community, and receive a $500 scholarship. Concurrent enrollment in GS49000 (Thursdays 4:30-5:20) is required. See flyer at the end of the Newsletter for more details.

Callouts: August 25, 29 and 30 in UNIV 101 at 3:30 pm

Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, August 31, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the Memorial Mall. Here’s an opportunity to learn about all the approved study abroad programs. Meet people, ask questions, pick up freebies.

Nancy
Fall 2011 internship opportunities

The Discovery Learning Research Center offers several part-time internship opportunities for undergraduate students. Please visit our website for additional details and the online application.

The Interns for Indiana (IfI) program places qualified students in Indiana high-tech start-up companies. This internship experience allows students to gain valuable real-world skills and knowledge. The program is open to juniors and seniors from all majors with a minimum 2.8 GPA. Applicants must be a full-time student in a degree-seeking program.

The Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship (DURI) program is designed to involve Purdue undergraduates in the interdisciplinary research environment of Discovery Park. The program provides opportunities for students to work with faculty on cutting edge research projects that involve combining two or more disciplinary strengths. The program is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors from all majors with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be a full-time student in a degree-seeking program.

The Margo Katherine Wilke Undergraduate Research Internship (MKWURI) program is designed to involve Purdue undergraduates in research within the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). The program provides opportunities for students to work with CLA faculty affiliated on cutting edge research projects. The program is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors from CLA majors with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be a full-time student in a degree-seeking program.

For additional information please visit http://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark/learningcenter/

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Callouts: August 25, 29 and 30 in Univ 101 at 3:30 pm

or contact the coordinator:

IfI: Monica Shively shivelmm@purdue.edu
DURI & MKWURI: Lisa Kirkham lkirkham@purdue.edu
EAS Faculty, Staff & Grad Students
WELCOME BACK PICNIC

September 6, 2011
Tuesday
4:00-6:30 pm
Civil Engineering Patio

Picnic dinner will be provided...

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!

Families are Welcome!!!

Bring your outdoor games!!
Educating the Engineer of 2020 Workshop
Prevention through Design: Designing a Safer Tomorrow through Engineering Today

Program Chairs
Michael Harris, Professor Chemical Engineering, Associate Dean, College of Engineering, & Co-Chair, Engineer of 2020 Committee
Peter Meckl, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, & Co-Chair, Engineer of 2020 Committee
James McGlothlin, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, Director: Graduate Program in Occupational & Environmental Health Sciences
Craig Miller, Professor of Computer Graphics Technology, College of Technology

Prevention through Design Innovation Competition
The Prevention through Design Innovation Competition is a chance for teams of students to design innovative solutions to safety and health concerns in the workplace. Application areas include manufacturing, chemical processes, health care, and environmental concerns.

This competition is being sponsored by the Engineer of 2020 Committee within the College of Engineering, as well as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It provides students with great opportunities to explore the human side of engineering practice.

If you're interested, the first step is to assemble a team of students with a faculty advisor/mentor. This could be on your own, seeking out a faculty advisor, or it could be as part of a design project course. Once your team is assembled, you should register on the E2020 website.

Final presentations of completed projects are due as email attachments by September 10, 2011.

Receive Awards for Prevention through Design Competition
Awards will be given to teams based on judges' ranking of their projects. Winners will be featured at the upcoming Engineer of 2020 Workshop on Prevention through Design on September 20, 2011. All student team projects will be able to describe their ideas during a poster show over lunch.

If you have any questions about this competition, please contact Peter Meckl at meckl@purdue.edu