

March 8, 2010

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

This past weekend we had another very successful **EAS Expo**. This annual event combines a departmental conference in which students present their research as talks and posters, with our recruiting weekend for prospective new graduate students. Twenty-seven students presented their research, across wide ranging areas of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and it was very impressive to see the quality of the work and listen to the discussion and debates. Having students and faculty really dig into and enjoy discussing their science is a real highlight of the department. It is also great professional preparation for our students. The presentations and discussions were also very important in helping our prospective graduate students get a sense of what they might be able to achieve if they come to Purdue. We had 24 prospective students on campus from across the US and representing the diverse areas of EAS. The EAS applicant pool is very large and talented this year, and so I am confident that we will continue to have an exceptional graduate community in EAS. We are very grateful to Exxon-Mobil, Chevron and Shell for their support for the EXPO, and for sending representatives Rick Hoy, Lisa Roehl and Mark Davidson to take part. Also, many thanks to Courtney Creamer, Heather Houlton, and the Graduate Committee for all their hard work to make this event such a success.

PURDUE PROFESSOR HELPS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT ASTEROID IMPACT CAUSED DINOSAUR EXTINCTION

A Purdue University researcher found further evidence an asteroid that crashed into the Earth 65 million years ago caused the mass extinction that ended the age of the dinosaurs.

Jay Melosh, a distinguished professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, co-authored a paper that will appear in Friday's (March 5) issue of the journal *Science* that refutes recent alternative hypotheses to the dinosaur extinction and offers new data to support the asteroid impact theory. [Read more...](#)



UPCOMING MEETINGS

****TODAY** Monday, March 8**

- Graduate Committee, CIVL 3201 (9:30 a.m.)

EAS SEMINAR

Thursday, March 11, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 2201: "Atmosphere-Cryosphere Coupled Model Development and its Application for Regional Climate Studies." Dr. Ki-Hong Min, EAS, Purdue University

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

SIGMA XI SEMINAR

Kevin Gurney was recently named as the 2010 recipient of the Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award. Kevin is the first Purdue faculty member to receive this award. To recognize this achievement, the Purdue chapter of Sigma Xi has asked Kevin to give a seminar, with a reception to follow.

Tuesday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m. in Dean's Auditorium, Pfendler Hall: "Chasing carbon through the Earth System... or how I came to care about trains, planes, trees and dirt."

Reception to follow in Pfendler Gallery. For more information, see the [flyer](#).

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hitchens, N.M., R.J. Trapp, M.E. Baldwin, A. Gluhovsky, 2010: Characteristics of Sub-diurnal Extreme Precipitation Producing Systems. *J. Hydrometeor.*, **11**, 211-218.

Sun, W. Y., and J. D. Chern, 2010: One-Dimensional Sea Ice-Ocean Model Applied to SHEBA Experiment in 1997 - 1998 Winter. *Terr. Atmos. Ocean. Sci.*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 1-15, February 2010 doi: 10.3319/TAO.2009.03.20.01(IWNOP)

CONGRATULATIONS

Wen-Yih Sun was made Honorable Member of the Editorial Board of *Global Journals* for 2010.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Wen-Yih Sun gave an invited paper entitled, "Mass correction applied to semi-Lagrangian advection scheme" at the International Aerosol Modeling Algorithms (IAMA) Conference. Extensive Abstract. Davis, California, December 9-11, 2009 (with O. M. T. Sun).

CCTR ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

Terry R. West attended the quarterly Advisory Panel meeting of the Center for Coal Technology Research (CCTR), housed at Purdue, held in Indianapolis on March, 4, 2010 at the State Office Building Conference Center. Presentations included 1) the impact of alternate CO₂ limiting legislative design on Indiana, 2) Indiana electricity needs projection, the 2009 Forecast, 3) Charge induced gasification, 4) The future of coal by product utilization, 5) An update on legislative activity regarding coal at the State and Federal levels, 6) Carbon capture and sequestration approaches, including Oxy Fuel technology, and 7) open discussion. Dr. West was invited to become more closely affiliated with the Center, by Marty Irwin, Director of the Center and by Professor Steven Son, Associate Director.

PRF RESEARCH GRANTS

It is time for submissions of proposals for a Purdue Research Foundation (PRF) Research Grant for the 2010-11 year. These grants provide one year of support for a Ph.D. student. We have been notified that the department will receive two (2) PRF research grants for the 2010-11 year. All faculty who supervise Ph.D. research are eligible to apply for a grant. [Read more...](#)

FACULTY MENTORS NEEDED: SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

It is that time of the year again. The graduate school is going through applications for SROP (formerly MARC-AIM) <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/diversity/srop-marcaim.cfm>. We would like to provide them with faculty who agree to mentor students in this program. Ultimately, the choice will depend on the student's interests. However, all faculty who volunteered last year were placed with a student and had an enjoyable experience. Potential volunteers should contact Dr. Harshvardhan (harshvar@purdue.edu) by spring break.

Note → Due to Spring Break, the next newsletter will be on March 22.



Thank you to all faculty and students that participated in the graduate student recruitment on Friday, March 5th, and the graduate student research exposition on Saturday, March 6th. We appreciate your help in making these events a success!

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE GRADUATE STUDENT TEXTBOOKS

The Shell Oil Company has provided funds that can be used to subsidize the cost of textbooks for *EAS graduate courses in geology for the Fall 2010 semester*. If you feel that your graduate course textbook applies, please notify Kathy as soon as possible. Include details for the textbook (cost and ISBN) and the expected number of students in the course. The Department will then make arrangements to purchase the books directly for your students.

SUSTAINING NEW SYNERGIES

FYI: Informational forums are being held for each individual college. In addition, five public forums will be held to help educate the University community. Be on the lookout for dates and times!

Question Of The Week: Is there someone in your area or unit that you would like to highlight for being a role model for fiscal responsibility? This could be someone who because of how they approach their job, saves the University money, or deserves credit for being a good steward of University resources. Please send me names (jtalz@purdue.edu) and a brief summary as to why you nominate them by the close of business Wednesday and we will use selected individuals to give praise where praise is due!

Sustaining New Synergies Communication to highlight:

1. The Campus Information Technology Plan Committee would like to invite information technology staff to one of three information forums to be held next week. [Read more...](#)
2. The new IT initiative Web page, featuring an FAQ from the Campus Information Technology Plan committee, is available [here](#).

EAS LIBRARY NEW BOOKS

Click [here](#) to see a list of the newest books in the EAS library.

PAC MEETINGS

All EAS promotable faculty should contact their PAC committees to schedule a meeting prior to the first EAS Primary Committee meeting on April 12.

As a reminder, EAS Primary Committee meetings are scheduled from 11:30-1:30 in CIVL 3201 on April 12, April 19 and May 3.

REMAINING SPRING MEETING DATES

EAS Exec Committee	
March 25	9:30-10:30 CIVL 2173
April 21 WED	10:30-11:30 CIVL 2173

EAS Faculty Meetings	
March 29	11:30-1:30 CIVL 3201
April 26	11:30-1:30 CIVL 3201

EAS Leadership Committee	
April 1	1:00-2:00 CIVL 2173
May 6	1:00-2:00 CIVL 2173

EAS Primary Committee	
April 12	11:30-1:30 CIVL 3201
April 19	11:30-1:30 CIVL 3201
May 3	11:30-1:30 CIVL 3201

College of Science Faculty Meetings	
April 13	4:00-5:30 TBD

EAS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT NEWS Power outage Tuesday, March 16th

The EAS side of CIVL will have all power shut off from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16.

All EAS Linux and Solaris machines, including the departmental file server (hypocenter), will be powered off at 4:30 p.m. in preparation for the 5 p.m. scheduled power outage. Please ensure that all processes have completed and applications are closed in preparation for the power outage.

Windows and Mac users, please save all open files, close all applications, and shut down your system around 4:45 p.m. Hypocenter will receive routine patching after power is restored.

Central servers will be powered back on between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Please power on Linux and Windows workstations at your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact eas-itap@purdue.edu.

NEW COURSE DEVELOPMENT SUMMER SALARY

The College of Science is able to provide limited summer salary (1 month) support for faculty (approximately 2) who wish to develop new courses. Selection will be based on the following priorities:

1. Proposals to adapt the current SCI 490 College Great Issues course so it can be offered this Fall 2010 to a section of ~100 students. This course was established by Prof. A. Hirsch (PHYS), and is currently offered only in the Spring.
2. Proposals to develop a new Great Issues course that would enroll 100 or more students from the College.
3. Proposals to create additional sections for existing Great Issues courses, including SCI 490.

More information about SCI 490 can be found at the following sites:

[Purdue University – College of Science – Approved courses in Great Issues in Science](#)

Procedure:

1. Proposals should include a brief description of the course content and how it will be evaluated, and an indication of the departmental or college outcome that is to be addressed.
2. Proposals are due to Dee (gillesp@purdue.edu) by March 17 to meet the College of Science deadline.
3. Proposals must be accompanied by a written endorsement from the department head and must indicate the semester the course will be offered.

Please direct specific questions to: Christie L. Sahley (sahley@purdue.edu).

RESEARCH PROJECT HELP REQUESTED

As part of a research project this summer at the USDA-NSERL in West Lafayette, we are planning on a two-week rainfall simulation in Waterloo, Indiana. We are looking for a few local people who would be interested in helping out with this research project.

The focus of this project is looking at long-term no-till and rotational tillage on pesticide, sediment, and nutrient runoff. The study will most likely take place sometime in May (weather dependent) – after the fields are planted but prior to any herbicide application – so the timing is not absolute.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me for more details by email (Janae.Bos@ars.usda.gov) or (765)404-4474.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

NSF FIRE: Awards are open to investigators who have received a doctoral degree in a disciplinary STEM field outside of education and wish to pursue research in learning and education, or who have received a doctoral degree from an educational research program and wish to complement their expertise with training in a disciplinary STEM field outside of education.

NSF Fostering Interdisciplinary Research on Education (FIRE)

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10541/nsf10541.htm>.

Deadline: May 20. FIRE is a new strand of the Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) program ([NSF 09-601](#)) and it is anticipated that after this first competition, FIRE will be incorporated into the REESE solicitation. The FIRE strand seeks to facilitate the process by which scholars can cross disciplinary boundaries to acquire the skills and knowledge that would improve their abilities to conduct rigorous research on STEM learning and education. The primary goal of the strand is to facilitate the development of innovative theoretical, methodological, and analytic approaches to understanding complex STEM education issues of national importance and, by so doing, make progress toward solving them. In order to address this goal, proposals must describe a research plan that makes it clear how the project could help to catalyze discovery and innovation at the frontiers of STEM learning, education, and evaluation in formal and informal settings. Consistent with the goals of the REESE program, this strand encourages proposals that seek to contribute to both far-reaching, transformative, and longer-term developments in knowledge and theory, as well as those that address shorter-term problems and topics in STEM teaching, learning, and evaluation.

VOLUNTEER WORK AND VISITING SCHOLARS

Please see this [memo](#) from the office of international students and scholars. It pertains to the inability of students to work as volunteers rather than as paid graduate students.

CLIMATE CHANGE INTERNSHIPS WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service has awarded a five-year grant to the National Council for Science & the Environment (NCSE) to develop and administer the George Melendez Wright Climate Change Internship Program through its Campus to Careers Program.

NCSE's Campus to Careers Program supports college students and recent graduates in their transition to environmental careers through meaningful, paid internships with federal agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses.

The Climate Change Internships will involve science-based research, resource conservation, data collection, monitoring, communication, policy development, sustainable operations, and other projects to support adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change on lands administered by the National Park Service.

For further details about the internship program and how to apply, please visit www.ncseonline.org/CampustoCareers or email c2c@ncseonline.org from March 12.

GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Purdue Graduate Student Government would like to invite all graduate students to apply for the 2010 Graduate Student Excellence Award. The Graduate Student Excellence Award is to recognize outstanding scholarship and professionalism by graduate students at Purdue University. The award will be given to one Master's student and to one Ph.D. student who exemplify excellence in the three missions of Purdue University: Discovery, Engagement, and Learning. This award is sponsored by the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) and the Academic and Professional development committee. Presentation of the award will be given on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the PGSG Spring Gala. Applications will be accepted from **March 1, 2010 to April 1, 2010**. Please see [flyer](#) for more information.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Spring Schedule – Last Day to Drop

Monday, **March 22**, is the last day to modify your spring schedule for regular, 16-week classes. First-year students (classified as freshman in myPurdue) need advisor and student signatures to drop; sophomores and above need signatures from your advisor and the instructor who also assigns a grade of W or WF. All paperwork must be taken to Hovde Room 45 before 5 p.m. that day for processing.

Fall 2010 Schedule of Classes

The Registrar was able to move the date to view the fall list of classes to **March 8** (prior release date was March 15). The summer list of classes is already posted. You can check your specific registration times in myPurdue under Registration Tools.

Summer Regional Campus Registration

Representatives from the following regional campuses will be available at West Lafayette to assist with the 2010 summer session registration for those students who plan to attend their respective campus this summer. The location for all of the registrations will be in the Main Lobby of Schleman Hall. This is the complete list; reminders for each campus will be sent nearer their arrival dates.

IUPUI

Tuesday	March 23, 2010	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday	March 24, 2010	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	March 25, 2010	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Calumet

Thursday	April 1, 2010	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday	April 2, 2010	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

North Central

Wednesday	April 7, 2010	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	April 8, 2010	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fort Wayne

Wednesday	April 14, 2010	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	April 15, 2010	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

No Classes March 15-19.

Have a great Spring Break.

Nancy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Greg Michalski – March 17
Larry Braile – March 21



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/ 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) 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>.

