

EAPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 27, 2026

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EAPS MEETINGS & EVENTS

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EVENTS](#)

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CONGRATS, KUDOS, COOL STUFF, AND THUMBS UP!

- A big congratulations to our Dept. Head (Andrea Donnellan) for [her AP video](#) being picked up by media outlets across the U.S. Her CBS News Radio hit has reached over 6.6 million people!!
- Are you attending the [AMS meeting in Houston, January 25-29, 2026?](#)
 - Our EAPS AMS Alumni dinner will be at the restaurant [Rodeo Goat](#) in Houston on January 27 at 7:00 PM.
- Look back through **AGU 2025** below! Pictures on the website are downloadable.
 - https://purduescience.exposure.co/eaps_a_gu2025?source=share-purduescience

NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES AT PURDUE

EAPS SEMINAR

Thursday, January 29, 3:30 pm in PHYS 223. This week's departmental seminar will be presented by **Jeremy Maurer**, Associate Professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Jeremy is one of our candidates for the Active Tectonics search.

You can view the itinerary and abstract here: [Itinerary/Abstract](#)

EAPS UNDERGRAD STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in an EAPS undergraduate research opportunity, [click here](#) for more information.

EAPS GRAD STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in an EAPS grad research opportunity, [click here](#) for more information.

EAPS COMMUNITY SOCIAL HOURS

EAPS Community Social Hours will be held on **every Tuesday from 3 – 4 pm in HAMP 2201**.

This is a time for folks to come hang out, gripe, play Jenga, knit, work in the corner, stare at the wall, make a new plot, don't make a new plot, talk about a new paper or current events, drink a coffee, brainstorm, and just be together. Note: Occasionally, there might be another department event in the room, so if the 2201 door is shut or looks like something else is going on in there, gingerly check with folks in the room or look at the schedule that is posted on the door before barging in.

EAPS CONFERENCE ROOM UPGRADE

Our EAPS 2173 conference room in the main office is getting a much-needed upgrade this year! We will have three enlarged photos on the west wall in the conference room, and we would like to showcase our own EAPS photos that best represent your main areas. This will be an ongoing project, as we will replace the photos a few times throughout the year.

It can be EAPS field work, or a cool photo you took in your research area. JPG or PNG files would be perfect. Anything high-resolution and crisp will work well, so it prints at the best quality.

Please go to the link below and upload your image(s).
<https://purdue.app.box.com/f/d622339829834490b9a7e45a019f678f>

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES

This site provides important information and updates from federal agencies that impact the Purdue University research enterprise.

<https://government-transition.research.purdue.edu/>

DEFENSE CIVILIAN TRAINING CORPS - PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Purdue's Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC) is a new program that will build civilian careers in the Department of Defense relating to acquisition, digital technologies, critical technologies, science, engineering, finance and more. The Defense Civilian Training Corps is a scholarship-for-civilian service award.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH PURDUE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Purdue Science Olympiad is a K-12 STEM competition where middle and high school students compete in 46 events each centering around a different topic in STEM, including several Earth science events. As college students, we plan, prepare, and run the entire tournament for these competitors. For example, our Rocks and Minerals event gives students the chance to identify rocks and minerals as well as demonstrate their understanding of geologic processes and development of natural resources.

On **January 31st**, we will be hosting the Purdue Science Olympiad Invitational tournament for over 1,000 middle and high school students. This competition is a wonderful opportunity to help encourage and facilitate their passion for science as well as showcase why Purdue is a powerhouse in STEM. Since our club is entirely student run, we need about 300 volunteers on January 31st for the tournament. We would love to partner with EAPS students and staff to help us run this event!

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please fill out [this form](#) to sign up and get on our email list for further information. All volunteers will be given breakfast, lunch, and a free t-shirt. We deeply appreciate the several EAPS students who have already helped us by writing exams and hope to see many more on the day of the tournament! If

you have any questions, please feel free to email Christina Sowinski at csowinsk@purdue.edu or [visit our website](#) for more information.

MORTAR BOARD SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Joey Vetter, vice president of scholarship for the Barbara Cook Chapter of Mortar Board, Purdue University's long-standing senior honor society, has asked for assistance in sharing information about the 2026 Mortar Board Awards and Scholarships. Mortar Board is dedicated to scholarship, leadership and service, and each year the chapter awards several \$1,000 scholarships along with campus-wide recognition awards to outstanding Purdue students, faculty, staff and student organizations.

The chapter is currently promoting its 2026 awards and scholarships. Full descriptions and nomination forms are available at:

<https://www.purduemortarboard.com/awards-scholarships>

One award of particular note is the Helen B. Schleman Gold Medallion Award, which honors a faculty member or administrator for exceptional contributions to Purdue, especially in advancing women students and women's issues. The award was established in honor of former Dean of Women Helen B. Schleman, is selected by Mortar Board and includes a \$1,000 honorarium. Faculty and administrators are encouraged to nominate colleagues whose work reflects Dean Schleman's legacy.

Mortar Board awards recognize a wide range of achievements, including leadership, resilience, service, mentorship and staff excellence. Reaching a diverse group of Boilermakers is a key goal of the nomination process.

All Mortar Board award and scholarship

nominations and applications are due by Jan. 31.

Questions or requests for additional materials may be directed to Joey Vetter at vetter5@purdue.edu.

STREAMLINE CLIMATE & ATMOSPHERIC DATA ACCESS AT PURDUE

To better facilitate the atmospheric and climate science research within the Purdue community, RCAC is assessing the interest and current usage of key datasets and models. Our goal is to continue to grow centralized, ready-to-use data repository and pre-installed models in our cluster environment. This will reduce redundancy, streamline access, and optimize both time and resources across research groups. Please take the time to put your input in the

survey link:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3K91QLGCvyrCGwu

NASA HUBBLE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Purdue University has been officially named a host site for the **NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP)**, opening the door for top postdoctoral scientists to carry out independent astrophysics research on campus.

The competitive program is open to applicants who have completed their doctoral degree on or after Jan. 1, 2022. Applications for the next cycle will be announced later.

51 PEGASI B FELLOWSHIP

Purdue University is proud to be a host institution for the **Heising-Simons Foundation 51 Pegasi b Fellowship**, and we have 17 faculty mentors from the College of Science.

The 51 Pegasi b Fellowship provides postdoctoral scientists with the opportunity to conduct theoretical, observational, and experimental research in planetary astronomy.

The 51 Pegasi b 2025 application is now closed. All applicants will be notified about the status of their applications by early February 2026.

Check out our new website on the EAPS webpage here:

<https://www.eaps.purdue.edu/research/51pegbfellowship.html>

You can also email [Alexandria Johnson](#), who is Purdue's institutional contact. For more information, go to the [HS Foundation's website](#).

ADVANCING SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

February 9, 2026, in the Purdue Union from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, the 2nd annual Advancing Space Exploration at Purdue Symposium will bring together leaders from inside and outside Purdue to discuss opportunities for universities to work with industry partners to make the next giant leap in robotic and human space exploration. We will explore ways to develop spacecraft missions, discuss needed scientific, engineering, and technology developments, and identify opportunities for collaboration with both NASA and the private sector for the successful flight of compelling spacecraft missions.

What to expect:

- Hear from experts and thought leaders in the space industry

- Connect with leading industries driving technological advancements
- Network with top talent and faculty at the forefront of space exploration
- Poster session

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)



OUTREACH NEWS

If you or your group has worked with or helped with an activity for K-12 students or teachers, please fill out the [departmental outreach activity form](#).

Check out the latest [STEM Career Highlight](#)!

Board Game night is the third Friday of each month.

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Location: HAMP 2244

Ongoing:

- Purdue University Kids STEM Degree
- Science From the Expert

See all of our videos on the Superheroes of Science YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SuperheroesofScience>

Social sites:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook Superheroes of Science](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- Bristol, K. E., Sprain, C. J., Mittal, T., Monteiro, A., Duraiswami, R., Tremblay, M. M., & Mijum, M. (2026). Geomagnetic Variability in a Post-Superchron Geodynamo: Insights From the Deccan Traps. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, 131(1), e2025JB033124. [doi: 10.1029/2025JB033124](https://doi.org/10.1029/2025JB033124).
- **Sori, M.M. and S.L. Olson** (2025), Europa's thick lid, *Nature Astronomy, News & Views*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-025-02756-8>
- Xu, Wendi, Xiaojie Liu, Wei Yan, Yanpei Tian, **Yiming Xu**, Wenkai Zhu, Noor M. Mohammad, Zhenyuan Niu, Ya Liu, Pengfei Deng, Qilong Cheng, Fengyin Du, Jinlong He, Hengxue Xiang, Ying Li, Jeffrey P. Youngblood, Nathan T. Kurtz, Meifang Zhu, **Qianlai Zhuang**, and Tian Li, Biomass-Based Nanoengineered Cooling Geotextile for Permafrost Thawing Prevention, *ACS Nano* 2025 19 (48), 40774-40788, [DOI: 10.1021/acsnano.5c06567 \(PDF\)](https://doi.org/10.1021/acsnano.5c06567)
- **Yuan, Y., Q. Zhuang, B. Zhao** and **L. Liu**, (2025), Improving the quantification of global free-living and symbiotic nitrogen fixation in natural terrestrial ecosystems: present-day estimates and 21st century projections, *Environ. Res. Lett.* 20 124005 [DOI 10.1088/1748-9326/ae198c. PDF](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ae198c)
- Shi, D., **Wang, S., Zhuang, Q.**, Yang, Z., Wang, Y., & Jin, X. (2025). Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Climate Potential Productivity of Agricultural Ecosystems in Liaoning Province, China, During 1950–2023. *Agronomy*, 15(12), 2697. [https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15122697 .PDF](https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15122697)
- **Wang, S.; Zhang, X.; Zhuang, Q.; Yang, Z.; Wang, Z.; Li, C.; Jin, X.** Spatio-Temporal Variations in Soil Organic Carbon Stocks in Different Erosion Zones of Cultivated Land in Northeast China Under Future Climate Change Conditions. *Agronomy* 2025, 15, 2459. [https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15112459 .PDF](https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15112459)
- Zhou, M.; Wang, S.; **Zhuang, Q.**; Yang, Z.; Gan, C.; Jin, X. Process-Based Modeling of Forest Soil Carbon Dynamics. *Forests* 2025, 16, 1579. [https://doi.org/10.3390/f16101579 .PDF](https://doi.org/10.3390/f16101579)

MEETINGS/EXPOS/OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF PURDUE

2026 CADRE-EPIC DATA ASSIMILATION TRAINING AND SCIENCE WORKSHOP

The 2026 CADRE-EPIC Data Assimilation Training and Science Workshop to be held 1-5 June 2026 at the National Weather Center, Norman, OK. If you are interested in attending, please submit your application by **Feb. 2, 2026**. Click the link below for more information.

https://ucadre.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/draft_cadre_training_2026_flyer.pdf

DBER REU AT MTSU FOR SUMMER 2026

The Mathematics and Science Education (MSE) Research Community at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) will be hosting RAIDERS, an REU Advancing Interdisciplinary Education Research in STEM in Summer 2026.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in making discoveries about how students learn Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM) by joining an interdisciplinary community of STEM education researchers, this is the REU for you! The summer 2026 session will offer 10 project choices across the STEM disciplines (see project descriptions at <https://urc.mtsu.edu/raider-reu/>). After completing the 8-week REU in July, undergraduate researchers will return to MTSU in January to present their research at the Southeastern STEM Education Research Conference (SSERC).

We are looking for STEM majors or pre-service STEM teachers interested in how people learn.

The program will run from **May 31 – July 25, 2026**. Selected participants will:

- Receive a **\$6,300 stipend**.
- Receive travel to and from MTSU (35 miles southeast of Nashville) and housing and a meal allowance for the summer.
- Receive funding to attend and present their work at the Southeastern STEM Education Research Conference (SSERC) in January 2027.

Please share this opportunity with interested undergrads. Applications should be submitted via NSF's ETAP system: <https://etap.nsf.gov/award/8341/opportunity/11487> **Application deadline is February 2, 2026.** If you or your students have any questions, comments, or excitements – feel free to reach out at jennifer.kaplan@mtsu.edu

NEW FELLOWSHIP TO SUPPORT SCIENTISTS IN ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTATION

The Heising-Simons Foundation is excited to announce the launch of a new multi-year fellowship to support postdoctoral scientists who are developing instrumentation to shape the future of astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, and planetary science. The [**Astronomical Innovation \(Astronova\) Fellowship**](#) will provide funding for up to two scientists per year at select host institutions for the next four years, beginning in Fall 2026. Promising early-career instrumentalists interested in this fellowship are welcome to **submit an application for the inaugural cycle through the [fellowship's portal](#) by February 27, 2026, at 2pm PT.**

FULLY FUNDED MAT EARTH SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Teaching Earth Science Residency Program in the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City is **looking for graduates with Earth and space science backgrounds, including those graduating in 2026** (geology, mineralogy, paleontology, oceanography, astronomy, environmental geology, and more) who want to make a difference in the world of STEM education. This teaching fellowship combines coursework, mentoring, and real-world experience to prepare Earth and space science graduates for **rewarding careers as culturally responsive middle and high school teachers.**

All degree candidates will receive **free tuition, books, and a \$40,000 stipend** towards the cost of living. In return, candidates commit to teaching in a high-needs school in New York City for two years. With a sole focus on preparing new Earth science teachers, the program is a full-time, 15-month Master's degree program that takes place at the Museum and in urban partner schools. We seek a student body with a passion for social justice and diverse life and career experiences.

We are currently accepting applicants for the class that will begin in June 2026. Prospective students are encouraged to attend an Information Session or to contact us for more information.

Check out more [program information here.](#)

EXPLORERS CLUB IMPACT GRANTS

Fieldwork in the following disciplines will be considered: biological sciences, archaeology, anthropology, paleontology, earth sciences, ecology, and astronomy, as well as exploratory projects that reveal new knowledge about the planet and its inhabitants, including regions undergoing significant environmental or cultural change. While there may be lab components of a project, grants provide funding for projects that are largely based upon a field expedition. Fieldwork can be rugged and adventurous, but the program will not consider projects purely focused on adrenaline sports or physical feats. Adventure with a purpose, combining adventure with genuine conservation or scientific objectives, will be considered.

Check out their [website here!](#)

UCAR STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES WEBSITE

Check the opportunities website for opportunities at UCAR.

POST-DOC OPPORTUNITY - AIR FORCE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine administers postdoctoral and senior research awards at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), and the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) under the [**Air Force Science & Technology Fellowship Program \(AF STFP\)**](#).

Seeking highly qualified candidates who are U.S. citizens and hold, or anticipate earning, a doctorate in a variety of fields of science or engineering.

Application deadline dates (four annual review cycles): February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1
Awardees have the opportunity to:

- Conduct independent research in an area compatible with the interests of the Air Force laboratories
- Devote full-time effort to research and publication
- Access the excellent and often unique Air Force research facilities
- Collaborate with leading scientists and engineers
- Awardee benefits:
- Base stipend starting at \$76,542; may be higher based on experience

- Health insurance (including dental/vision), relocation benefits, and a professional travel allowance

For detailed program information, to search for AFRL, AFIT, and USAFA Research Opportunities, and to contact prospective Research Adviser(s), visit www.nas.edu/afstfp.

RECRUITMENT FOR CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is looking for more weather observers throughout Indiana and beyond.

By participating in CoCoRaHS, farmers contribute valuable data that supports better agricultural decisions, weather-related products, and faster recovery during severe weather events.

The application for U.S. participants is at <https://www.cocorahs.org/application.aspx>

106TH AMS ANNUAL MEETING

January 25-29, 2026

Houston, TX / Virtual

[Meeting info](#)

2026 AAAS (AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE) ANNUAL MEETING

February 12-14, 2026

Phoenix, AZ / Virtual

[Meeting info](#)

LUNAR and PLANETARY SCIENCE CONFERENCE (LPSC)

March 16-20, 2026

The Woodlands, TX / Virtual

[Meeting info](#)

37TH CONFERENCE ON HURRICANES AND TROPICAL METEOROLOGY

March 30 to April 3, 2026

San Diego/La Jolla, CA / Virtual

[Meeting info](#)

POSITIONS AVAILABLE- CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- [Multiple Faculty Positions at the College of Petroleum Engineering & Geosciences](#)
- [Future Faculty in the Physical Sciences \(FFPS\) Fellowship](#) – Princeton
- [Multiple Positions with Enviroforensics](#)
- [Meteorology and Atmospheric Science](#) – [multiple positions from various companies](#)
- [AGI Geoscience Job Center](#) – [multiple positions](#)
- [Gradient Corp](#) – [multiple opportunities](#). contact [Qian Zhang](#)
- [National Weather Service](#) – [multiple opportunities](#)

NEWSLETTER INFO

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is 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. Material for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to [David Siple](#) by **5:00 pm on Thursday of each week for inclusion in the Monday issue.**

For answers to common technology questions and the latest updates from the EAPS Technology Support staff, [click here](#). As an additional resource for information about departmental events, seminars, etc., see our [departmental calendar](#).

***If your online profile picture on the EAPS website has not been updated, or if you do not have one, please contact David Siple (dsiple@purdue.edu) to schedule a quick photo session.**