

Purdue Water Community - 2010 Report of Accomplishments

The Water Community has many accomplishments to celebrate at the end of 2010, its first full year of existence. We have been honored to provide leadership to the Community in this important year, and are proud to provide this look back at all the Community has accomplished so far, as well as information on the evolving structure and leadership of the Community. We look forward to 2011, as the Purdue Water Community advances under the leadership of incoming Director Ron Turco.

The Purdue Water Community 2010 Leadership Team:



Chip Blatchley,
Professor, Civil Engineering and Environmental & Ecological Engineering



Tomas Hook,
Asst. Professor, Forestry & Natural Resources and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant



Jane Frankenberger,
Professor, Agricultural & Biological Engineering; Env & Ecol. Engineering

Community Building: The Community now includes 54 faculty, 27 staff, and a growing number of graduate students. Intangible benefits include proposals that have been developed together, resource sharing, and collaboration in course development and communication.

Course Coordination: A list of water-related courses from across the university provides information to help students and advisors select courses. Prerequisites and a summary of each course are available. Also, a list of courses that are offered each semester has been developed (available under the “Academics” tab on the [website](#)).

Seminars: Bi-weekly seminars were held throughout 2010, providing opportunities to learn about each other’s research and hear from outside speakers from other universities and agencies. The Spring 2011 seminar series will be held in conjunction with the new interdisciplinary grad course, “Great Lakes Science and Management”.

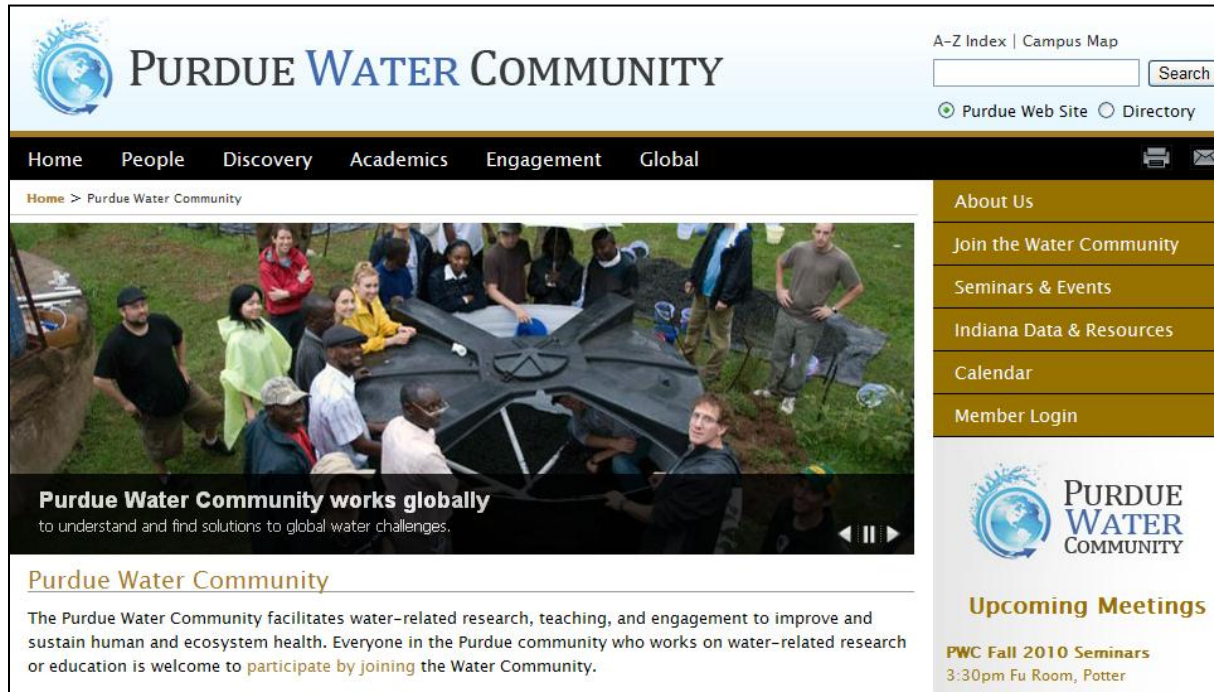


Members of the Water Community gather for a bi-weekly seminar.



Vision Statement: *The Purdue Water Community is a vibrant, interconnected academic community that creates a collaborative environment for discovery and delivery of critical information focused on solving global and regional water challenges.*

Communication: One of our most visible accomplishments is the development of a website, at <http://www.purdue.edu/water>. This site provides information to audiences outside the university on Purdue’s many water research, teaching, and engagement activities, and also enhances networking within the community. Highlights include photos and contact information for members, collaborative research projects, a list of courses related to water from departments across the university, links to major engagement activities, and internal resources for the Community. A [brochure](#) has also been developed to highlight the accomplishments of the Purdue Water Community, and inform external and internal audiences about the Community.



Purdue Water Community Web site, at <http://www.purdue.edu/water>

Indiana Water Resources Symposium: In collaboration with the Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA), PWC hosted more than 110 researchers, agency officials, and private sector professionals from around the state came in June to share research and facilitate networking. The successful symposium helped IWRA achieve the “Outstanding State Section” award from the American Water Resources Association.

Data Sharing: Enhancing water data hosting and accessibility would further enhance Purdue’s water research capacities. A group has been meeting regularly to discuss strategies. A recent seminar on the Water Hub and Cyber Center resources provided information on some joint initiatives to move towards this goal.



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Water Technology Innovation Cluster: The Water Community and OVPR have represented Purdue in meetings that are aimed at establishment of a Water Technology Innovation Cluster in the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky area. A steering committee comprised of business, government, and industry representatives has established a vision to “collaborate to establish the region as a global leader in sustainable, environmental technology innovation, with an initial emphasis on water”.

Research Facilities Coordination: A list of facilities for monitoring and analysis has been developed and is linked from the Water Community [website](#). The Community toured the new hydraulic lab in Civil Engineering in November, and discussed opportunities for enhanced coordination of critical resources. A group of Water Community members has been invited to submit a full proposal to NSF MRI for shared research facilities.



The Water Community tours the new Hydraulics Lab in Civil Engineering.

Purdue Water Community Structure and Leadership Evolution

2010 Leadership Structure: During a November 2009 retreat, the Water Community decided to identify a three-member team to provide leadership in 2010. Chip Blatchley, Tomas Hook, and Jane Frankenberger were selected as the Leadership Team, and Chip Blatchley was asked to be the Primary Contact. In January the Community formed 10 teams, known as *tributaries*, to advance the Community’s goals through the initiatives named above. Dedicated volunteers have moved these forward. The Community thanks Brent Ladd, Laura Esman, Jennifer Freeman, and Daryl Schultze, who completed their leadership of initiatives in 2010.

Joining the Global Sustainability Initiative: The Purdue Water Community has been integrated into the Global Sustainability Initiative (GSI), joining the Purdue Climate Change Research Center, the Energy Center, and the Center for the Environment. The Leadership Team has represented the Water Community at monthly GSI and Discovery Park Leadership meetings. We are thankful to Rose Filley, who provided staff support through GSI in 2010, and look forward to the assistance of Jill Wable, who will provide staff support moving forward.

Strategic Plan: A strategic plan was developed, providing guidance for the years ahead. This documents our mission as “*The Purdue Water Community will foster interdisciplinary water research and educational programs, via University-wide coordination of water research and educational activities, and creation of linkages with regional, national and global communities.*”



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Executive Committee: In September, the Community decided to select a 12-member Executive Committee, who would set up a more formal structure for the Community under a Director.

Nominations and voting for the Executive Committee were held in October, and 14 members were elected due to a tie. Members are **Chip Blatchley, Laura Bowling, Sylvie Brouder, Indrajeet Chaubey, Otto Doering, Jane Frankenberger, Tomas Hook, Linda Lee, Rabi Mohtar, Larry Nies, Linda Prokopy, Marisol Sepulveda, Cary Troy, and Ron Turco.** The Executive Committee held its first meeting in November, reviewing the year, discussing goals, determining an election procedure, and starting work on by-laws.



New Director: The Executive Committee elected **Ron Turco** as Director in December, and he will take over leadership of the Community in January 2011.

*Dr. Ron Turco, Director of
the Purdue Water
Community for 2011-2012*



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