

February 9, 2009

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

Thanks to all who participated in the department's External Review! We had an excellent review committee and they were very grateful for the welcome that they received from the department and the college, the arrangements made for their visit, and the excellent discussions with students, faculty and staff. At the wrap-up meeting with the committee, they had a number of positive comments to make about the department as well as several concerns and recommendations. Their plan is to provide a written report of the review in two to three weeks. The department will be asked to provide a response to their report and we will want to begin acting on their recommendations. Thanks again for your assistance and participation in the review!

The third annual College of Science Faculty and Staff Recognition Luncheon was held last Wednesday in the Purdue Memorial Union. Over 75 faculty and staff in the College of Science received awards or were honored for years of service to departments, the college and the university. From EAS, Secretaries Virginia Ewing, Kathy Kincade and Gina Richey received the Customer Service Award and Professor Ken Ridgway received the Graduate Student Mentoring Award. Business Manager Melissa Guinn was recognized for 10 years of service, Assistant to the Department Head Dee Gillespie was recognized for 15 years of service, and Gina Richey was recognized for 30 years of service. Congratulations and thanks to Virginia, Kathy, Gina, Ken, Melissa and Dee!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 11

- Graduate Committee, CIVL 2201 (11 a.m.)

Friday, February 13

- ATMS Tea, CIVL 2201 (2:30 p.m.)

EAS SEMINAR

Thursday, February 12, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"From Russia 'With Love'; Oil, Gas, Money and Power." Jim Ogg, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Purdue University

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

TODAY

Darryl Granger will be giving a talk today (Feb. 9) in the Anthropology department entitled, "Cosmogenic nuclide dating and human evolution: New results from Sterkfontein, Atapuerca, and Zhoukoudian." The talk will be from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Stone Hall B2.

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Riggs, Eric M., Christopher C. Lieder, and Russell Balliet, 2009: Geologic Problem Solving in the Field: Analysis of Field Navigation and Mapping by Advanced Undergraduates. *Journal of Geoscience Education*, **57(1)**, 46-61.

Zhuang, Q., J. M. Melack, S. Zimov, K. M. Walter, C. L. Butenhoff, and M. A. K. Khalil, 2009: Global methane emissions from wetlands, rice paddies, and lakes. *Eos*, **90(5)**, 37-38.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Terry West gave an invited presentation at the Lafayette Rotary Daybreak Club on January 5, 2009 at 7 a.m. in the Holiday Inn Select hotel in downtown Lafayette. The title of the talk was "Lessons Learned through Evaluation of a Road Construction Failure in Compressible Soil, Lindberg Road Improvement Project, West Lafayette, Indiana." The talk highlighted the problems encountered during the upgrading of the road across Celery Bog from a two lane to a four lane road. Greg Chmiel served as the technical assistant for the PowerPoint presentation

which was attended by about 25 Rotarians including former West Lafayette Mayor, Sonja Margerum, who served during part of the time when the road was extended. The original cost of \$3.3 million has grown to \$7.47 million and now a \$6.5 million bridge has been proposed to solve the problem.

On January 28th, Lucy Flesch presented a talk entitled, "Continent scale geodynamics integrating GPS kinematics with seismology-determined structure" at an Earthscope Briefing at NSF.

EAS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT NEWS

SMARTcomputing update

SMARTcomputing is a collaborative university-wide endeavor to establish and make available an enterprise level tool for departmental IT staff to use in supporting Windows workstations. SMARTcomputing has also negotiated significant hardware discounts on a limited number of computer models.

Currently, EAS participates in SMARTcomputing by utilizing the hardware discounts. We are now ready to begin the process of utilizing the available workstation management and support tools.

Since EAS Windows workstations are currently supported using similar tools, no major changes are needed. Each workstation is updated to enable it to point to SMARTcomputing's support server, simply allowing future updates and software installs to be handled by the new SMARTcomputing management tools.

The EAS IT support staff will be contacting you to arrange a convenient time or let you know when your workstations will be pointed to the new support server.

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact us at eas-itap@purdue.edu.

BILSLAND DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship provides support to outstanding Ph.D. candidates in their final year of doctoral degree completion. Bilsland fellows are expected to devote full-time effort to the completion of all doctoral degree requirements and to receive the doctoral degree at the conclusion of the fellowship tenure. A Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship provides an \$18,000 stipend, payment of tuition and most fees, and includes a medical insurance supplement. The Bilsland Dissertation

Fellowship may be administered as two six-month awards or as a one-year award.

Recipients of Bilsland Dissertation Fellowships must be enrolled as Ph.D. candidates in a degree-granting doctoral program at Purdue and have demonstrated superior academic abilities and scholarly achievements. The recipients must have completed all degree requirements, except for the dissertation.

If you are interested in applying for the 2009-10 Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, please submit the following to Kathy Kincade, CIVL 2169D, **by Tuesday, February 10:**

- A one-page write-up of your research and indicate your anticipated date of graduation,
- An updated CV, and
- A supporting letter from your Advisor which also indicates your anticipated date of graduation.

Additional information on this and other Fellowships may be found on the Graduate School's website.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR **Schedule Reminder**

Today, **Monday, February 9**, is the last day to drop a class with just advisor and student signatures for sophomores and above; instructor signature required after today. Those classified as freshman in myPurdue have until March 23 to drop a class with just advisor and student signatures, and that is the last day for anyone to drop a spring class.

Interns for Indiana – Fall Semester Internships with High Tech Companies

Indiana Fall 2009 Information Sessions: 4:30-5:30 p.m.:

Monday, February 9 – MRGN 121
Tuesday, February 10 – MGRN 121
Monday March 2 – MGRN 121

The Burton D. Morgan Center (MGRN) is located on the SW corner of State and Jischke

This is for undergraduate students with junior standing or higher and a 2.8 GPA or higher; all majors welcome to apply.

Work with high-tech start-up companies and learn what it's like to be an entrepreneur. Students are placed in a part-time academic term internship and earn a \$500 scholarship and one academic credit for

the mandatory companion seminar series (Thursdays, 4:30-5:20 p.m.). Work scheduling is flexible and allows you to keep a full course load.

Academic-year companies are located in the Purdue Research Park, West Lafayette and Lafayette. The program provides internship experience during the school year and can result in a full-time summer internship as well. Application Deadline: **March 3, 2009 by 5 p.m.** For more information, visit: www.purdue.edu/dp/learningcenter and click on Interns for Indiana.

Environmental Internship

In partnership with the South African National Parks board, Global Vision International is offering internship placements at parks throughout South Africa for 6 months or one year. The internships offer participants the chance to work alongside conservation and environmental education professionals and play a part in the long term conservation of South Africa's most famous parks. GVI is particularly interested in recruiting students from the fields of environmental sciences, zoology, biology and other such related degree courses.

Overview

After an in depth training period in Kruger National Park, Interns will be placed within the "People in Conservation" departments at one of twenty parks throughout South Africa according to where their skills are needed most. Interns will then assist in the implementation of new projects developed by SANParks to integrate local communities into the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage sites within the parks.

Activities will focus on environmental education and community development projects, such as creating displays, developing education programs and establishing relationships with the surrounding communities. These national parks offer opportunities such as game viewing, bush walks, canoeing and a chance to experience the history and culture of South Africa. Wildlife is abundant and cultural interaction is crucial.

Highlights of the internship program

- Opportunity to gain experience in environmental education and conservation within a high profile organization

- Living in the most spectacular locations in South Africa,
- Learning about conservation in National Parks, training in Kruger National Park, five day tour of parks with fellow volunteers,
- Working with local communities and amazing wildlife encounters,
- Diverse adventure opportunities, such as game viewing, camping, hiking, bush walks and canoeing and white water rafting.

Internships start in January and July of each year and last for 6 months or one year. Further details including a detailed briefing are outlined on the relevant webpage at <http://www.gviusa.com/projects/Africa/South%20Africa/south-africa-traineeship-national-parks/home>.

Career Opportunities in the field

GVI offers a large range of jobs, internships and other exciting field work placements in the fields of education, research, environmental management and wildlife research alongside its partner organizations in countries across the world. For more information about GVI visit www.gviusa.com.

Semester at Sea

Interested in combining sailing with oceanography? Check out: http://www.sea.edu/home/index_flash.asp and find out about Woods Hole Semester at Sea. You can now explore the oceans at: <http://earth.google.com/ocean/>.

Nancy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Ben Cotton – February 9
Virginia Ewing – February 14
Andrei Gabrielov – February 14
Yuch-Ning Shieh – February 15



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This weekly newsletter is the place to look to keep up with departmental happenings, announcements (seminars, student group events, scholarship and award deadlines, departmental committees), job and grant opportunities, and anything else you need to know about the department. It should cut down on the glut of email and other forms of separate announcements – **if it is in the newsletter, we assume you know about it** and no other reminders are needed. Past issues will be available on our departmental web site (www.purdue.edu/eas/). 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 newsletter.

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>.

