

April 13, 2009

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

Professor Phillip J. Smith Retirement Event

The Phil Smith retirement event was held on Monday, April 6, in the Buchanan Club of Ross Ade Stadium. The dinner and recognition program was very well attended including family members, colleagues, EAS faculty and staff, friends, current students and former students. Thanks to Gina Richey, Ernie Agee and all who helped organize and help with the event! There were excellent tributes given by Professors Agee and Vincent and Phil's former students, Dr. Pete Robertson and Dr. Ken Parsons. Professor Smith's response was particularly entertaining. Phil is officially retiring from Purdue on May 9, 2009 after 42 years of service to the department, the college, the university, his students, and the field of atmospheric science. Congratulations, thanks, and best wishes to Phil and Linda Smith!



Larry Braille congratulates Phil and Linda Smith.

The event also provided the opportunity to gather six people who contributed to the development of the atmospheric science program in the Department of Geosciences (now EAS) beginning in 1967, as well as the early years of meteorology and climatology at Purdue. The photo below shows Professors Smith, Agee and Vincent from EAS, and Professors Jim Newman, Bob Dale and agricultural advisory meteorologist for the state of Indiana Walt Stirm from Agronomy.



Dayton Vincent, Ernie Agee, Jim Newman, Phil Smith, Bob Dale, and Walt Stirm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Monday, April 13

- Primary Committee, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

Thursday, April 16

- EAS Student Award Banquet, Buchanan Club, Ross-Ade Pavilion (5:30 p.m.)

Friday, April 17

- COS Distinguished Science Alumni Awards Program, Shively Club, Ross-Ade Stadium (6 p.m.)

Monday, April 20

- Primary Committee, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

EAS SEMINARS

Thursday, April 16, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Careers in the Mining Industry Today." Bill Reid, President & CEO, Gold Resource Corporation, Denver, Colorado

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

Friday, April 17, at 2:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Natural Gas: U.S. Energy Bridge to the Future." J. Mark Lester, Executive Vice President – Exploration, Chesapeake Energy Corporation (<http://www.chk.com/Pages/default.aspx>)

Refreshments at 2 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bowen, G.J., West, J.B., Vaughn, B.H., Dawson, T.E., Ehleringer, J.R., Fogel, M.L., Hobson, K.A., Hoogewerff, J., Kendall, C., Lai, C.T., Miller, C.C., Noone, D., Schwarcz, H.P., and Still, C.J., 2009: Isoscapes to address large-scale Earth science challenges: *Eos*, **90**, 109-116.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Prof. Laura Pyrak-Nolte gave a presentation entitled, "Imaging Fracture Processes" at Schlumberger-Western Geco in Houston, Texas on April 3, 2009.

On April 6, Brenda Beitler Bowen gave an invited lecture entitled, "CO₂ Sequestration: A Geologic Perspective" at Westwood as a part of the President's Leadership Class.

Graduate student, Mr. Jinyun Tang, gave the following invited talk at *The 4th GEOS-Chem Scientific and Users' Meeting* at Harvard University on April 9, 2009:

Tang, J., and Q. Zhuang, Evaluating hotspot tropospheric methane concentrations in Himalaya region with GEOS-Chem and AIRS satellite retrievals, *The 4th GEOS-Chem Scientific and Users' Meeting*, April 7-10, 2009, Harvard University.

GSA SESSION ORGANIZER

Terry West organized a theme session for the North Central Section, Geological Society of America (GSA) for the meeting held April 2-4, 2009 in Rockford, Illinois. The title of the session was, "Applied Geology: Environmental, Hydrogeologic and Geotechnical" and it consisted of twelve oral presentations. Dr. West's paper was entitled "Drainage Problems Affect Housing Area, West Lafayette, Indiana: A Consequence of Topography and Soil Type." Because of a scheduling conflict, Dr. West was unable to attend the meeting and Chris Stohr, EAS graduate and a staff engineering geologist at the Illinois State Geologic Survey, agreed to serve as the moderator of the session and present the paper. Chris Stohr reports that the session was well attended and a similar program would be welcomed for next year's North Central meeting

EAS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT NEWS

Call for Software in Instructional Lab

If you will be teaching summer or fall classes and need software installed in the 4th floor instructional lab, please contact the EAS Technology Support staff at eas-itap@purdue.edu. A list of currently available software can be found on the EAS Technology Support website's FAQ section: <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/resources/it/faq>.

RCAC Still Looking for Cluster Purchase Interest

Last year ITaP arranged deeply discounted purchases of computer equipment to build out a large community compute cluster. Through community clustering, ITaP leverages funds to make more computing power available than faculty and campus units could afford individually. ITaP installs,

administers and maintains those systems, so researchers can concentrate on doing research rather than on running a high performance computing system.

The prices were also accessible to those who wanted the components but did not want to place their purchases in the cluster.

As you are likely to have heard, the plan is to repeat the scenario. ITaP wants to gather information on the scope and specifications of faculty needs via a short survey (seven questions). They are asking faculty members to fill out a simple survey at: http://www.rcac.purdue.edu/hardwarepurchase/interest_survey.cfm.

Linux Upgrades Planned for This Summer

In order to maintain the software needed for research and instructional use, the EAS Technology Support staff are preparing to upgrade EAS Linux machines from Red Hat Enterprise 4 to Red Hat Enterprise 5. This will be a much smaller change than in years past, but will still involve some testing. Faculty with Linux machines will be contacted this week to receive more information and to arrange for a test machine to be upgraded in each lab.

MAY GRADUATION DEADLINES

April 24 – Last day to defend.

April 24 – Last day to turn in your Final Examination Report to the Graduate School.

May 1 – Last day to deposit thesis.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Finals Workshop

Wednesday, **April 15**, 4:30 p.m. in STEW 318. Workshop: Surviving Finals. Free and open to all Purdue students; get tips from students on preparing for and taking exams.

Indiana Collegiate Career Fair

Wednesday, **April 22**, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Crowne Plaza at Union Station, Indianapolis, Indiana. Admission is free and open to all soon-to-be degreed or graduates:

<https://careerfairs.uc.iupui.edu/Default.aspx>.

Nancy

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>.

