

January 26, 2009

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE EAS Alumni Reception at the AMS meeting in January



Founders Endowment banner displayed at the reception.

The EAS alumni reception at the annual American Meteorological Society (AMS) meeting on January 13, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona was a big success. About 60 EAS faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends attended the reception. In addition to socializing and catching up on news from alumni that we haven't seen for a while, the department formally announced the **Founders Atmospheric Science Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment** and recognized the three

EAS faculty founders of the atmospheric science program, Phil Smith, Ernie Agee and Dayton Vincent. The endowment will support scholarships for undergraduate students in atmospheric science. Some photos from the reception are shown below.

In addition to the research papers and posters by EAS faculty and students that were listed in last week's newsletter, we were very pleased to see that five of our students were recognized with scholarship or other awards by the AMS. Three EAS undergrads (Amanda Sheffield, Jace Bauer, and Jesse Nusbaumer) were recognized as 2008 AMS scholarship winners, one undergrad (Kandace Gleason) was recognized with a travel award for the next AMS meeting, and one Purdue graduate student (Annelise Lenz) received the AMS Father James B. Macaelwane Award in Meteorology. Congratulations to Amanda, Jace, Jesse, Kandace and Annelise!



Lola and Dayton Vincent, Ernie Agee and Carol Ward, Linda and Phil Smith.



EAS alums and Lola Vincent.



EAS students enjoying the EAS alumni reception at the AMS.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, January 26

- EAS Faculty Meeting, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, January 27

- Visiting Prof. Search Committee Meeting, CIVL 2201 (2:30 p.m.)

Friday, January 30

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

EAS SEMINAR

Thursday, January 29, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Overview of Hydrogeology with Applications to Flow through Various Geological Terrains." Mike Whitworth, University of Missouri

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

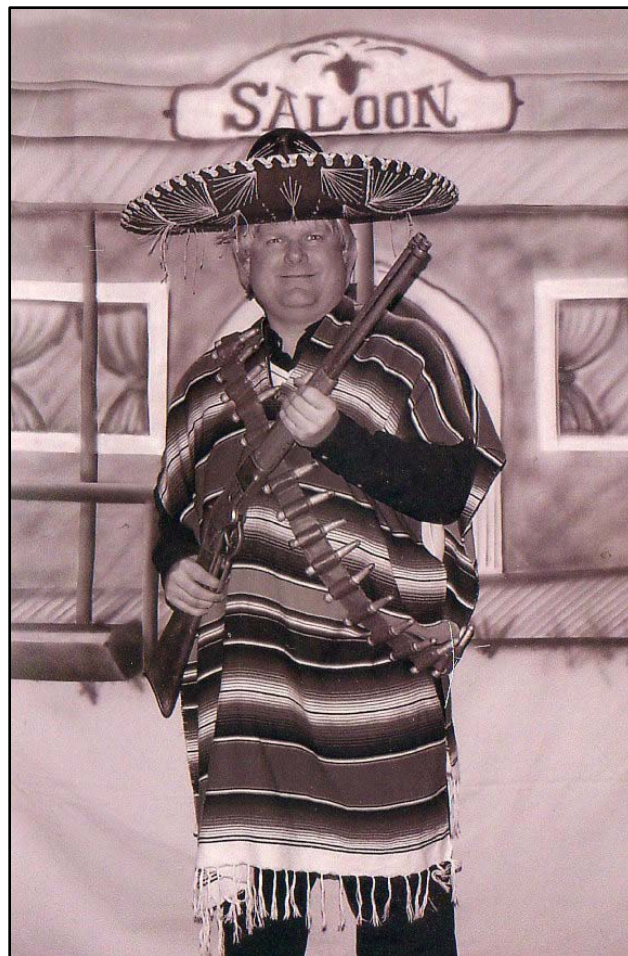
On January 14 Gabe Bowen gave an invited talk entitled, "Tracing greenhouse carbon with carbon isotopes" at the Greenhouse Earth Symposium of the 6th Climatic and Biotic Events of the Paleogene Conference in Wellington, New Zealand. He spent the previous week on a field trip visiting Late Cretaceous and Early Paleogene outcrops on New Zealand's South Island.

Angel A. Acosta-Colon gave a presentation entitled, "Scale Effects on Seismic Wave Propagation across Fractures" at the Rock Physics and Borehole Geophysics Group at Stanford University, January 19, 2009.

Terry West presented an invited talk at the Lafayette Rotary Club on January 20, 2009 entitled, "Lessons Learned through Evaluation of a Road Construction Failure in Compressible Soils, Lindberg Road Improvement Project, West Lafayette, Indiana." Greg Chmiel served as a technical assistant for the PowerPoint Presentation. The presentation developed from work accomplished by Spencer Fairfax in his M.S. thesis and on the semester project developed by Dr. West for the capstone course in Environmental Geology, taught several years ago.

EXTERNAL REVIEW INVITATION

Please plan to join us for a reception to meet the External Review Committee members on Monday, February 2, in CIVL 2201 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Appetizers and bar service will be provided.



Photos from the GOES Town party at the AMS Annual Meeting. Can you recognize present and past students?

FORECAST GAME BEGINS TODAY

The often-imitated, never-duplicated Purdue Forecast Game begins again on Monday, January 26. The Forecast Game is open to all Purdue faculty, staff, and students interested in challenging Mother Nature to a battle of wits. For more information, see <http://wpx.eas.purdue.edu/forecast>.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL AMS ALUMNI EVENT
PHOENIX, AZ
(January 13, 2009)**

Another successful annual get-together of atmospheric science alumni and friends was held in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) annual meeting. This year's meeting was held in Phoenix, AZ from 10-15 January with the alumni event held on Tuesday, January 13. This year's event was co-sponsored by the PCCRC. Our total attendance was 50 people, equaling the number of our previous three events. Those in attendance included alumni, faculty, former faculty, spouses, friends, and current graduate and undergraduate students. This year's event was particularly special because Professors Phillip J. Smith, Ernest M. Agee and Dayton Vincent were honored for their role as founders of the EAS department in a ceremony to recognize the establishment of the Founders Atmospheric Science Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment. Prof. Braile presented plaques honoring Profs. Smith, Agee, and Vincent, who in turn spoke a few words of appreciation that stressed their overwhelming support of undergraduate education in atmospheric sciences at Purdue. Interim Dean Jon Harbor also addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of establishing and supporting scholarship endowments in the College of Science. The initial goal for the endowment fund is to raise \$112,000 – one thousand dollars for each year of service of the founding faculty. Eventually, the expectation is for the endowment to exceed \$500,000 allowing the funds to provide scholarship support for at least two high achieving undergraduate students in atmospheric science each year.

The EAS alumni in attendance at this year's event, to the best of our recollection and with the help of our sign-up sheet were: Faye Armstrong ('07), Tom Bettge ('75), Mike Bosilovich ('97), Mark Bourassa ('93), John Brown ('87), Susan Chavez, Kent Knopfmeier ('07), Kurt Lutz, Ken Parsons ('01), Bill Patzat, Colleen Reiche ('08), Anthony Reinhart ('07), Jon Schrage ('98), Tom Schroder ('74), Bill Sjoberg ('86), Justin Stachnik ('07), Dan Vietor ('87), Jenafer Wolf ('07). Other alumni that could not make it to the reception, but were in attendance at the conference included: Tom Adang ('73), Bill Murray ('73), and Randy Peppler ('80).

Others in attendance included EAS faculty: Ernie Agee (and wife Carol), Mike Baldwin, Larry Braile, Jon Harbor, Sonia Lasher-Trapp, Phil Smith (and wife Linda), Jeff Trapp, and Dayton Vincent (and

wife Lola); graduate students: Jennifer Bewley, Jacob Carley, and Erin Jones; prospective student Mallie Toth; undergraduate students: Brad Hegyi, Zac Mangin, Michael Mathews, Jesse Nusbaumer, Dominic Pezzute, Tom Sandquist, Amanda Sheffield, Jake Stengel, Samantha Wilde, and Dave Zelinsky; and guests/friends: Allison Lutz, Lauren Parsons, Fei Chen, Andreas Fink and Michael Christoph. The efforts of Claire Chandler, Dee Gillespie, Jennifer Bewley, Jacob Carley, Erin Jones, Mike Baldwin, Sonia Lasher-Trapp, Jeff Trapp, and Dayton Vincent in planning and hosting the reception as well as manning the recruiting booth are much appreciated.

This year's meeting was the fifth straight year that EAS has participated in the AMS Student Conference and Career Fair which was held on 10 January. Our department had a booth at the Fair showing all facets of the department's activities and programs. Several prospective graduate students stopped by our table inquiring about graduate programs in EAS at Purdue.

Several scientific talks and posters were given at the meeting (the list appeared in the January 19th newsletter). Lastly, we plan to continue our practice of having a great get-together again next year. The 90th AMS meeting will be held in Atlanta on January 17-21, 2010 and keep Tuesday, January 19, 2010 open for the Annual EAS Alumni Gathering. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

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 Friday, February 13:**

- 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.

UNDERGRADUATE FIELD ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY

Purdue is currently involved in an international project investigating former glaciations of the eastern Tibetan Plateau, jointly with colleagues from Peking University and Stockholm University. The work involves visiting field sites for which we have created preliminary geomorphic maps based on remote sensing and a review of previous literature. Field observations are used to refine / verify the mapping, to find features not visible in the remote sensing data, and to collect samples for age dating (our primary techniques are cosmogenic radionuclides and optically stimulated luminescence). The work involves strenuous hiking in spectacular mountains at high elevations and with conditions that at times are rather basic. The work also provides fascinating cultural and culinary experiences!

There is an opportunity for an undergraduate field assistant to join the group in late summer and early fall, primarily to assist two graduate students who will be leading the main field campaign. The ideal candidate is someone who enjoys fieldwork in remote locations, is excited by experiencing new environments, is adaptable, and can work happily with people from different cultural backgrounds. A background that includes field geology (completion of a geology field camp) is essential, and experience with geomorphology and Quaternary geology a real plus. There is no requirement to be able to speak Chinese, however the ability to converse with other team members who speak English with a range of accents and abilities is necessary. The project period will overlap significantly with the fall semester, so this opportunity would be best suited to a student who is interested in turning this experience into an undergraduate research or independent study project (you can sign up for independent study or research credit hours in the fall instead of regular

courses). The project will provide funding for airfare and all expenses in China.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Jon Harbor at jharbor@purdue.edu.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR Drop/Add

Today, January 26, is the last day students can drop a class in myPurdue until 5 p.m.; once dropped, there is no record that the course was on the schedule. After today, any drop requires paperwork and signatures.

It's recommended that you check with your advisor before dropping a class.

Butler Undergraduate Research Conference (URC)

Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference at Butler University is on Friday, April 17, 2009. This conference brings together approximately 600 students from over 30 Midwest colleges and universities to share their learning and experiences. At the conference, undergraduate students present summaries of their work in sessions organized by topics via a brief oral presentation or poster presentation format. Submission deadline is Friday **February 20, 2009**. www.butler.edu/urc.

National Weather Center REU 2009

The National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma, invites motivated undergraduate students interested in a career in scientific research or secondary science education to apply for a 10-week summer research program. The 10-week program will run from May 25 - July 31, 2009. A stipend of \$4,410 is provided, along with \$600 for subsistence (help with food costs), and \$500 travel allowance. Participants will also receive a travel allowance to present their work at a professional conference. Summer housing will be provided in furnished campus apartments. REU Website: <http://www.caps.ou.edu/reu/>. Download an application: <http://www.caps.ou.edu/reu/NWCREUApplication-09.pdf>. **Due February 11, 2009.**

Nancy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tom Tharp – January 28



The names of those pictured in the GOES Town photos are as follows: Dan Vietor in large photo. Small photo (left to right) Erin Jones, Colleen (Henry) Reiche, Amanda Sheffield, Justin Stachnik, Jacob Carley, Jennifer Bewley (the man on the floor is David Ramsaur, a good friend of Jacob Carley).

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>.

