

October 15, 2007

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## THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE



INTERNATIONAL 2007 & 2008  
**POLAR YEAR**



### **Earth Science Week "The Pulse of Earth Science" October 14-20, 2007**

This year marks the tenth annual Earth Science Week (<http://www.earthsciweek.org/>). This year's theme is "The Pulse of Earth Science." With this theme, Earth Science Week activities will promote public and professional awareness of the status of Earth science in education and society. The theme will also focus attention on geoscience research, such as that associated with the International Polar Year (IPY, <http://www.ipy.org/>) and the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE, <http://www.esfs.org/>). Through these major initiatives Earth Science Week will help spread understanding of the impact the Earth sciences have on society. Educational activities, especially for K-12 teachers, are available at: <http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/classroomactivities.html>. I encourage you to be involved in Earth science activities throughout the year.

### **Purdue Re-elected to UCAR Membership**

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) member institutions met in Boulder Colorado on October 9-10 to conduct the business of the corporation at its annual meeting. Among the many highlights was Purdue's re-election to another eight-year term of membership in UCAR. UCAR was founded in 1960 and Purdue became a member in 1971. One of UCAR's primary missions continues to be the management of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) under sponsorship of the National Science Foundation. Purdue representatives attending the meeting were Administrative Representative, Jon Harbor (substituting for Dean Jeffrey Vitter) and Scientific Representative, Ernie Agee.

### **Prof. Joe Francisco Presents the McCoy Distinguished Lecture**

Congratulations again to Prof. Francisco on receiving the Herbert Newby McCoy Award. Prof. Francisco presented the McCoy Distinguished Lecture last week in Fowler Hall. His very interesting talk was entitled "From Earth's Atmosphere to Planetary Engineering of Mars: Adventures in Chemistry" and was well attended by faculty and students.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **\*\*TODAY\*\* Monday, October 15**

- Alumni Committee Meeting, CIVL 2173 (1 p.m.)

### **Monday, October 22**

- Primary Promotion Preliminary Working Meeting (full professors only), CIVL 2201 (12 p.m.)
- Primary Promotion Preliminary Working Meeting (associate and full professors), CIVL 2201 (1 p.m.)

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## SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Thursday, October 18, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:**

"The Signature of Rainfall and Life on Soil Chemical and Physical Processes in Northern Chile." Ron Amundsen, University of California-Berkeley

*Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201*

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

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## WORKSHOP

Dr. Wen-Yih Sun writes that an "International Workshop on Computational Hydrometeorology and Prof. H. L. Kuo's Memorial Symposium" was held on October 15-17, 2007 at the National Center for High Performance Computing, Hsin-chu, Taiwan.

For more information go to:

<http://www.nchc.org.tw/event/2007/meteorology/>.

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## OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Srivastav, R. K., K. P. Sudheer, and I. Chaubey, 2007: A simplified approach to quantifying predictive and parametric uncertainty in artificial neural network hydrologic models. *Water Resources Research*, **43**, W10407, doi:10.1029/2006WR005352, 2007.

An article by Laura J. Pyrak-Nolte entitled, "Fracture anisotropy: The role of fracture-stiffness gradients" appeared in the September 2007 issue of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists gateway publication *The Leading Edge* on pages 1124-1127. Data collected by former EAS graduate student Changjiu Xian appeared on the cover.

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## NEW APPOINTMENT

Eric Riggs has been appointed as one of three new Associate Editors for the *Journal of Geoscience Education*, effective immediately.

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Greg Michalski gave a talk as the plenary speaker at the 7th Annual Association of Isotope Geochemists, in Stellenbosch South Africa on 10-14 September titled, "Theory and Applications of  $^{17}\text{O}$  anomalies in Biogeochemistry." Prof. Michalski also gave a poster presentation at the conference titled, "Detecting Nitrification in the Hyper-arid Atacama Desert using  $^{17}\text{O}$  anomalies"

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## INFORMAL WEATHER BRIEFINGS

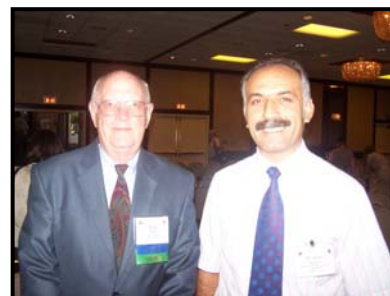
Prof. Baldwin has recently initiated an informal, daily (almost) weather map discussion. We meet Monday through Thursday from 1:30-1:50 pm in CIVL 4247. Briefings are led by volunteers who facilitate discussion on interesting weather topics of the day. We often examine the forecast issues for the local region as well as cities involved in the Purdue and Wxchallenge forecasting contests.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the latest weather information is welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed to lead the briefings. Check the sign-up sheet in CIVL 4247 for the schedule or contact Prof. Baldwin ([mbaldwin@purdue.edu](mailto:mbaldwin@purdue.edu)) if you are interested.

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## REUNION AT AEG MEETING

This photo is from the AEG annual meeting held last week in Los Angeles. Shown here with Prof. Terry West is Prof. Kamil Kayabali, a former PhD



student of his. This is the first time Prof. West saw Kayabali since he graduated from Purdue with his PhD degree in December 1993. Kayabali is now a Professor of Geological Engineering at Ankara University in Ankara, Turkey.

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## A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR Environmental Entrepreneurship

There will be an Information Session on **October 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 205 of ABE**. Free pizza. Collaborate and turn your ideas into a service, product, process, or technology; help solve or prevent environmental problems; cash awards to the best teams. Sponsored by Purdue's Center for the Environment. Information at: <http://www.purdue.edu/dp/environment/I2P>.

### Volunteers Needed

Each year the American Chemical Society and Iota Sigma Pi, the national honor society for women in chemistry, team up to present National Chemistry Week from Purdue University. The goal of NCW is to promote chemistry to the general public. This year they are reaching out to more than 130 local elementary classrooms and need **VOLUNTEERS**.

This year NCW is **October 22-26**, with volunteer opportunities from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers go in pairs to elementary school classrooms and do fun experiments with the kids for 45 minutes. This year one of the experiments will be making bouncy balls and talking about polymers. You don't need to be a chemistry expert to volunteer – you will be given all of the experiment and teaching materials you need.

Sign-up sheets are located in **BRWN 2105**. When you sign up, also sign up for a training session time. These brief sessions will be held the week before to go over experiments and information.

Please consider volunteering for this rewarding event, it really is a lot of fun for the kids (and for you), and it's a great chance to be involved in the community.

### SCA/Mazda Conservation in Action Multimedia Contest

The Student Conservation Association is offering students an opportunity to protect the environment, challenge their intellect, and win top prizes. Check out the 411: <http://www.thesca.org/contest/>.

- Submissions may be a research project or thesis as well as video, PowerPoint, or even a website
- Prizes include a 2008 Mazda3i, \$37,000, and eight expense-paid trips to SCA's April 2008 EarthVision Summit in Washington DC
- The deadline is **December 1, 2007**

The SCA/Mazda Conservation in Action Multimedia Contest is part of a year-long series of events to celebrate SCA's 50th anniversary and honor founder Elizabeth Titus Putnam, whose senior thesis launched SCA in 1957.

### Pre-Law Society

Wednesday, October 24, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in STEW 218D. Alumni Law Panel will describe how they entered the field of law. Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts.

### Substitute Teachers Needed

If you are interested in being a substitute teacher in the Lafayette School Corporation, email me so I can provide all the details. At least 60 hours of college credit are needed: [nstewart@purdue.edu](mailto:nstewart@purdue.edu).

### Dates

**Wednesday, October 24**, is the LAST day to make any changes to your fall schedule. If you are a sophomore and above, signatures will need to be obtained for any drops, etc.

Nancy

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Dev Niyogi – October 18

Darrell Leap – October 19

Gabe Bowen – October 21



### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This weekly newsletter will be 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 department web site ([www.purdue.edu/eas/](http://www.purdue.edu/eas/)). Material for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to Gina Richey ([grichey@purdue.edu](mailto:grichey@purdue.edu)) by **Friday noon** of each week for inclusion in the Monday newsletter.



