

October 16, 2006

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## THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

### Hurricane Research I

We are currently in "hurricane season" for the Atlantic Ocean and it's been just over a year since the devastating occurrence of Hurricane Katrina. Although 2006 has been relatively quiet thus far for Atlantic hurricanes that affected the North American coastline, hurricanes, associated hazards and hurricane research are current topics for scientists and policymakers. Several new reports and recommendations have emerged. Significant new funding on hurricane research is being proposed to address the long term challenge of hurricane risk. A description of a draft report from the National Science Board of the NSF follows.

"On September 29, 2006, the National Science Board released a draft report entitled: *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative*. The report recommended an increase of about \$300 million per year over current federal hurricane research funding levels. "The present federal investment in hurricane science and engineering research relative to the tremendous damage and suffering caused by hurricanes is insufficient," the report found. "Time is not on our side. The hurricane warning for our nation has been issued and we must act vigorously and without delay." NSF is accepting comments on the report until October 29, 2006." The proposed funding "...would go toward a wide range of research topics, including:

- Predicting hurricane strength, storm surge and inland flooding.
- Understanding air-sea interaction.
- Understanding the relationship between hurricanes and global warming.
- Developing technologies for disaster response and recovery.
- Improving scientists' ability to track and collect storm information using radar and other technology.
- Investigating ways to reduce the intensity and alter the track of hurricanes." (Joel M. Widder, Lewis-Burke Associates)

The report can be found at: <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/hurricane/report.pdf>. I encourage you to read the short Executive Summary (or the entire report) which provides a very convincing rationale for action and a brief overview of the report's recommendations.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Monday, October 16

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

### Thursday, October 19

- EAS Leadership Team, CIVL 2169A (9 a.m.)
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## SEMINARS

### Tuesday, October 17, at 4 p.m. in CIVL 3201:

"Uses, Abuses, and Examples of Seismic-derived Acoustic Impedance Data: What Does the Interpreter Need to Know?" Dr. Rebecca Latimer, Chevron Energy Technology Co., Houston, Texas (*AAPG Distinguished Lecture*)

### Thursday, October 19, at 4:00 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Oil and War." Dr. Amos Nur, Stanford University (Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 2201)

For more information on seminars and meetings, see the EAS Seminars and Events [calendar](#).

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## OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dasgupta, S. and R. L. Nowack, 2006: Deconvolution of Three-Component Teleseismic P Waves Using the Autocorrelation of the P to SV Scattered Waves, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 96, 1827-1835.

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## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Gabe Bowen gave a talk titled, "Prospects for a high-carbon future inferred from Earth's past" at Earlham College on October 6. He gave an invited talk with the same title at the University of Illinois Department of Geology Colloquium on October 13.

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## FREDERICK N. ANDREWS ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT AWARDED

Debjani Deb, a PhD student under Jon Harbor, has been awarded the Frederick N. Andrews Environmental Grant worth \$2500 for her research, "Modeling Fate and Transport of Livestock Antibiotics."

## UCAR ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

[\(Click for group photo\)](#)

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) held its annual members' meeting in Boulder, Colorado, on October 10-11. Attending from Purdue were Jeff Vitter, Ernie Agee and Matt Huber. Jeff and Ernie serve, respectively, as Purdue's administrative and Scientific Representatives to UCAR. Matt was invited as an Early Career Scientist, a new UCAR initiative to help engage younger faculty in the affairs of the corporation. UCAR also hosted the Heads and Chairs meeting on October 12-13, sponsored jointly by the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union. Larry Braile participated as Purdue's EAS Department Head. In 2007, Purdue University is up for re-election to another eight-year term in UCAR; membership it has held since 1971.

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – ENGINEER I SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Description: Perform Radiosonde Replacement System deployments at Weather Forecast Offices as part of a team to checkout each deployed system and train the office personnel in its use. Act as technical expert to assist Weather Forecast Office personnel during symptomatic soundings via a help line.

Qualifications: Five plus years of total experience with two plus years of directly applicable experience in upper air observations. Ability to learn and teach technical material to small groups. Ability to resolve Radiosonde Replacement System issues remotely in support of the help line. Must possess ability to effectively communicate in a multi-team environment.

Submit resumes to [c\\_dickerson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c_dickerson@sbcglobal.net)  
Cheryl Dickerson, Recruiter  
(440) 779-4360  
QSS Group, Inc.  
[www.qssgroupinc.com](http://www.qssgroupinc.com)

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## A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR Ethics Essay Contest

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity sponsors the Prize in Ethics Essay Contest. This competition is designed to challenge college students to analyze the urgent ethical issues confronting them in today's complex world. Students are encouraged to write thought-provoking personal essays that raise questions, single out issues, and are rational arguments for ethical action.

The 2007 suggested topics are:

- What does your own experience tell you about the relationship between politics and ethics and, in particular, what could be done to make politics more ethical?
- Reflect on the most profound moral dilemma you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself.
- Examine the ethical aspects or implications of a major literary work, a film, or a significant piece of art.
- What is the relation between religion and ethics in today's world?

**Eligibility:** Registered undergraduate, full-time juniors and seniors at accredited four-year colleges or universities in the United States during the fall 2006 semester are eligible to submit an entry. Prizes range from \$500 to \$5000.

Guidelines and entry form are available online at: [www.eliewieselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org).

**Deadline:** December 8, 2006. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted.

### Job Fairs

[Indiana Multicultural Job Fair](#), (click for poster)  
Friday, October 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Indiana Convention Center, Downtown Indianapolis, Register at door for \$10.

[High Tech Job Fair for Indiana Companies](#),  
Wednesday, October 25, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., PMU Ballrooms (50+ companies expected for the fair).

### Interested in Law School?

[Midwest Association of Prelaw Advisors' Law School Caravan](#) – [Registered Law Schools](#) (schools planning to attend). Wednesday, October 18, 2006 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact: (812) 855-1873. Alumni Hall, 1st floor of Memorial Union, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

### Purdue Science Student Council

The callout is **Tuesday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in **Lilly G-432**. Free Food. EAS students are specifically encouraged to join! Interested in leadership in Science? Check out: <http://pssc.science.purdue.edu/>.

Reminder: **October 25** is the last day for any revisions to 16-week classes for this current fall semester.

Nancy

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Dev Niyogi – October 18  
Darrell Leap – October 19  
Gabe Bowen – October 21  
Sonia Lasher-Trapp – October 22



### 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.



