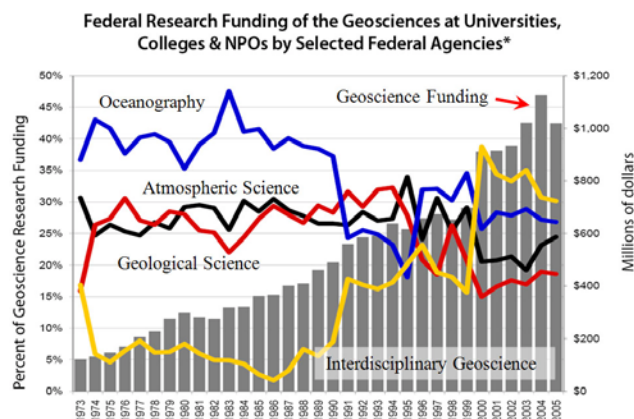


November 10, 2008

## THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

### "Geoscience Currents"

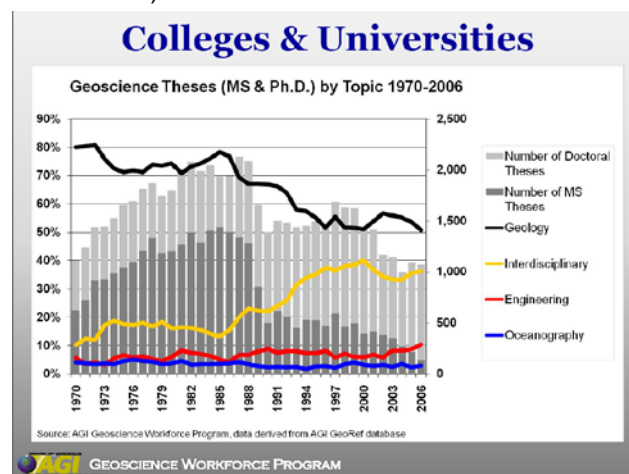
The American Geological Institute (AGI) is a federation of 45 geoscience societies that "provides information and education services to its members, promoting a united voice for the geoscience community" (<http://www.agiweb.org/>). Over the years, AGI has also been a major source of data and statistics on geoscience workforce, research funding and education. Recently, AGI began publishing fact sheets or "one pagers" called *Geoscience Currents* that provide a snapshot of some of these data and statistics. The *Geoscience Currents* are available at: <http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/>. A recent *Currents* figure (below) shows the increase (not adjusted for inflation) in federal research funding of geosciences at universities, colleges and Non-Profit Organizations from 1973 to 2005. Perhaps more interesting are the changes in trends of funding that indicate a substantial increase in Interdisciplinary Geoscience.



Modified from Figure in *Geoscience Currents* #14 (<http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/>).

The AGI webpage (<http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/>) also includes a link to the recent Betty Vetter presentation, *Tracking the Dynamics of the Geoscience Workforce* by Leila Gonzales of AGI. The pdf of the PowerPoint slides is available at: [http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/BV\\_Gonzales\\_final.pdf](http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/BV_Gonzales_final.pdf).

I encourage you to examine the data and results that are illustrated in this presentation. An example is provided in the Figure below that shows the number of Geoscience Theses from 1970 to 2006 and the disciplines represented by those theses. The number of Interdisciplinary Geoscience theses has increased significantly during this time period. Also note the general decrease in the number of theses over time (many of us expect these numbers to increase after 2006 due to increased hiring in industry) and the relatively small number of MS theses in geosciences in recent years. This decrease is due partly to reporting as the thesis data can take a few years to get into the database, but is also due to an increase in non-thesis degrees (as shown by a comparison of MS degree and MS Thesis data).



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Wednesday, November 12

- EAS Leadership Team, CIVL 2173 (9 a.m.)

### Friday, November 14

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

## EAS SEMINAR

**Thursday, November 13, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:** "Tropical Cloud and Evaporation Delusions." Ray Pierrehumbert, University of Chicago

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

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

## THESES DEFENSE

### Monday, November 10 at 9 a.m. in CIVL 3214:

"Quantifying Relationships between Erosion and Uplift in Tectonically Active Landscapes, Italy, Using Cosmogenic Nuclides and Channel Morphometry." PhD Defense by Andrew Cyr

### Friday, November 14 at 12:30 p.m. in CIVL 2201:

"Magnetic Polarity Zonation and European Paleomagnetic Poles for the Upper Jurassic." PhD Defense by Piotr

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## OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Parashar, R., D. O'Malley and **J. H. Cushman**, 2008: Mean First Passage Time for Super-Diffusion in a Slit-Pore with Sticky Boundary. *Phys. Rev. E*, **78**, 052101-1,4.

Tang, J., and **Q. Zhuang**, 2008: Equifinality in parameterization of process-based biogeochemistry models: A significant uncertainty source to the estimation of regional carbon dynamics, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **113**, G04010, doi:10.1029/2008JG000757.

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## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Larry Braile (and Sheryl Braile, Happy Hollow Elementary School; and Robert DeGroot, Southern California Earthquake Center, University of Southern California) presented a workshop entitled, "Earthquakes - A One Day Workshop for Teachers" at the California Science Teachers Association (CSTA) convention in San Jose, California on November 1, 2008. The workshop was sponsored by the Education and Outreach program of IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology), an NSF supported consortium.

Lucy Flesch gave an invited seminar at the University of Southern California on Monday, November 3rd entitled, "The Dynamics of Western North America: Constraints from Finite Element Forward Models with Power Law Rheology."

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## INVITED FORUM PARTICIPATION

On 29-31 October 2008, upon invitation, Professor Qianlai Zhuang participated in MIT Global Change Forum, XXVIII, entitled, "Reconciling short-term policy with long-term goals," in Boston, Massachusetts. The forum provides a non-official, neutral setting for review and assessment of the evolving state of scientific understanding and policy analysis, and of the ongoing processes of climate policy formation and institutional development.

## A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

### NSF Research Internships

The National Science Foundation Science & Technology Centers (STCs) offer summer internships at each of 17 centers, located at prestigious universities around the United States. These summer internships provide undergraduates an opportunity to conduct research in a "graduate school" setting in the following fields: Biological sciences, computer and information sciences, **geosciences**, mathematical and physical sciences. Information at: <http://www.nsfstc.org/centers.htm>. The open enrollment has been posted by most of the institutions.

### [Indiana Multicultural Career Fair](#)

Wednesday, **November 19**, 2008, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) – Campus Center Indianapolis, Indiana. Over 80 employers expected. This event is open to any degreed or soon-to-be degreed person from any College/University. Candidates from all cultures and backgrounds are welcome.

Sponsored by Indiana state-supported colleges/universities including **all campuses of Purdue University**. Admission is Free.

### **Reading London – 2009 Summer Study Abroad**

Monday, **November 17**, at 7 p.m. in Heavilon 129. Callout for the 2009 study abroad summer program. For more information click on [http://www.education.purdue.edu/student\\_services/study\\_abroad.html](http://www.education.purdue.edu/student_services/study_abroad.html) and follow the Reading London information.

### **Looking for London or...**

As part of Geographic Information Systems Day, which is November 19, Purdue Libraries will run the geocaching event, which is a scavenger hunt using GPS devices, from November 10-18. The hunt is open to anyone, and rules are posted at <http://www4.lib.purdue.edu/gis/gisday/geocaching>. The top two finishers in the geocaching event will receive GPS receivers. The third- and fourth-place finishers will receive a subscription to Geocaching.com or Google Earth Plus.



"Mash Something" is scheduled from 2 – 4 p.m. November 18 in the iLab of Hicks Undergraduate Library and is free and open to the public. Map mashups are Internet applications that combine data from more than one source into an integrated tool. Anyone interested in this workshop may self-register at <http://www4.lib.purdue.edu/gis/>. GIS Day is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research, the College of Science, and the College of Engineering.

Nancy

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Tim Filley – November 10  
Jerry Krockover – November 12  
Ken Ridgway – November 12



### 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/](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.

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>.



A FEW PHOTOS FROM HALLOWEEN



The duel winners of the costume contest were Jim and Gabi Ogg (not pictured) and the Brenda and Isaac Bowen.

