



What's Up?

The EAS Weekly News

February 20, 2006

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

First Year Students at Purdue.

A questionnaire completed by over 4500 of Purdue's new undergraduates, as well as 66,000 of their peers at other public, doctoral universities provides interesting insight into what they think, what motivates them, and how our students compare to others. A few things that caught my attention in the data I saw last week:

Top three reasons for attending college:

1. To be able to get a better job
2. To be able to make more money
3. To learn more about things that interest me

Purdue students were higher than the national average in choosing the first two of these, and just under average (but still high) in the third.

Why they chose this university: Purdue students were 20% above the national average in indicating "It has a very good academic reputation" and 15% above average in indicating "national reputation". Purdue was also 10% above average as the "first choice" for students, but below average in "reputation for social activities".

Diversity Attitudes: Mixed results, but generally our students are somewhat less likely than the national average to agree with statements such as "it is essential or very important to improve my understanding of other countries and cultures" and "it is essential or very important to promote racial understanding"

Finances: Over 90% of our students were confident or reasonably confident that they would have enough funds for college (higher than the national average), and "Family" is by far the most important source of their funds for educational expenses.

Study Abroad: Over 50% of our incoming students are interested in studying abroad (about an order of magnitude more than the percent who actually do it).

Political views: Our students are less likely to be liberal and more likely to be conservative than the national average.

Further Study: About 70% of our incoming undergraduates intend to obtain graduate or professional degrees.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 23

- EAS Heads Meeting, CIVL 2169A (11 a.m.)

SEMINARS

Wednesday, February 22, at 4 p.m. in CIVL 4251:

"Earth's Mass Variations from Space Gravimetry."
C. K. Shum, The Ohio State University

Thursday, February 23, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Radar Analysis of Precipitation Development in Florida Cumulus Clouds." Sabine Göke, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Nowack, R. L., S. Dasgupta, G. T. Schuster and J.M. Sheng, 2006: Correlation Migration Using Gaussian Beams of Scattered Teleseismic Body Waves, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, Vol. 96, pp. 1-10.

MUSEUM NETWORKS AT THE NANOSCALE LEVEL

See how nanotechnology can become a learning tool through a lecture by Boston Museum of Science administrator Larry Bell, who is leading an NSF-funded project - The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network. This lecture focuses on a \$20 million project funded by NSF.

Tuesday, February 21, at 10 a.m.

Dean's Auditorium at Pfendler Hall

(Lecture is free and open to the public.)

For more information, contact Chris Ramsey at 494-6717 or cramsey@purdue.edu.

EXCELLENCE IN DISTANCE LEARNING

The 2006 Purdue University Awards for Excellence in Distance Learning recognize faculty or staff members who demonstrate excellence in distance learning and promote creative and innovative approaches to developing learning opportunities that reach out to Purdue students beyond our campuses. For more information, including an application form, see <http://www.continuinged.purdue.edu/distance/awards/>. The deadline is February 24.

GRADES NO LONGER MAILED

Grades will no longer be mailed to students. Effective with the Spring 2006 Semester the Office of the Registrar will no longer be mailing paper grade reports to students enrolled at the West Lafayette Campus. Students will be able to view or print their grades via SSINFO from any location where they have access to the web.

CCLI

Involved in Course, Curriculum or Laboratory Improvement? NSF has a program to support this! Deadline in May, check out the CCLI program at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06536/nsf06536.htm>.

2006 TLT KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote address for the 2006 TLT conference will feature Robert Beichner, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Physics at North Carolina State University, who will be speaking on technology-enhanced student-centered activities for large enrollment undergraduate programs. The address will be March 1 at 8:30 a.m. in STEW 322. For more information about the TLT conference and to register for free, see: <http://tit.purdue.edu>.

AWARD WINNERS

Gordon Emore received an Outstanding Student Paper Award for his presentation at the Fall American Geophysical Union meeting titled: Recovering absolute seismic displacements through combined use of 1 Hz GPS and strong motion accelerometers.

Emre Unal received the first place award (\$200) for his poster presentation entitled, "Exotic Biogenic Structures from the Marble Mountains, California." Emre received the award at the Sigma Xi Graduate Student Research Awards Competition held on February 14.

Megan Utley, Environmental Geosciences Senior, received the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Community Activity Recognition Award. This award is presented to those students selected from nominations for "going above and beyond" in local community activities while maintaining a high level of academic achievement. The award was presented at halftime during the Purdue women's basketball game on Sunday, February 19.

NOTE: The Office of Technology Commercialization has a new website at <http://www.prf.org/otc/>.

SCHOOL DATEBOOKS SEEKING PROOFREADERS

School Datebooks (publisher of the Purdue Mortar Board) is seeking 25-30 Purdue students for summer employment to proof custom academic planning calendars for more than 1,500 schools across the United States. Interviews begin February 20 and will conclude March 10. Please inform your students of this opportunity. Students may email or call Jonathan Brandt (brandtj@schooldatebooks.com) or 471-8883) to set up an interview.

GRAD/UNDERGRAD SCHOLARSHIP

The Midwest Gas Storage Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers will be awarding a scholarship for the 2006-2007 academic year. The deadline for application is March 10, 2006. This \$1000 scholarship shall be applied toward the 2006 fall semester tuition for the student, and is open to both graduate and undergraduate students pursuing a degree in Petroleum Engineering or other related science or engineering curriculum (including, but not limited to: Geological Engineering, Geophysical Engineering, Mineral Engineering, Geology, Geophysics). Applications are available by visiting the Section's webpage at <http://midwestgs.spe.org/> and clicking on "Scholarship Information". If you have questions, please contact Joan Levick at spemwgss@yahoo.com or by phone at 314-741-5690.

The Midwest Gas Storage Section of SPE will be hosting a Roundtable meeting on March 15, 2006 in Pontiac Illinois. There are five scheduled presentations at that meeting that you may find of interest. Additional details are available on the webpage.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Let's Talk Money

Federal Government Raises Stafford and Parent PLUS Loan Interest Rates

President George W. Bush has signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Effective July 1, 2006, the bill raises Federal Stafford Loan interest rates from a variable rate plan (currently 5.3%) to a locked interest rate of 6.8%. The parent PLUS loan interest rate is expected to go from a variable rate plan (currently 6.1%) to a locked interest rate of 8.5%. Information regarding the impact of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 on federal student aid continues to be gathered. A summary of the student aid provisions in the bill is available for review at <http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2006/greconciliationsummary020206.html>.

Federal Student Loan Consolidation Will Be Hot Topic with Workshops Planned

Interest rates on Federal consolidation loans are also scheduled to rise July 1, 2006. In addition, "in-school" consolidation regulations are changing. Thus, all Purdue student borrowers are being encouraged to consider Federal student loan consolidation options to lock in low interest rates. Purdue student borrowers may be able to lock in a Federal consolidation loan interest rate as low as 4.75% before **July 1, 2006**.

The Division of Financial Aid is arranging a series of loan consolidation workshops for students to learn about their options. The workshops will be conducted by loan consolidation experts from Sallie Mae, the servicer for most Purdue Stafford loan borrowers. The workshops will be held February 27 and March 6 at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. in STEW 206 for all dates and times and will be advertised to Purdue student borrowers via email and the DFA website. For more information on Sallie Mae federal student loan consolidation, visit <http://www.salliemae.com/apply/borrowing/smartloan/index.html>.

It's Time to File for Financial Aid

It is important for all prospective and continuing students to know that the 2006-07 financial aid priority filing date is **March 1, 2006**. Students should file one form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), by March 1 to be considered for federal, state of Indiana, and Purdue-controlled financial aid.

While students may continue to receive Federal Pell Grants (if eligible), Stafford Loans, or Parent Loans after the March 1 priority filing date, state and institutional grant and scholarship funds are generally exhausted after awarding to applicants who file by March 1. The state of Indiana requires the FAFSA record be RECEIVED by a March 10 date for state aid consideration, though we still recommend a March 1 submission date to insure students meet state and Purdue aid requirements.

Scholarships

The Amelia Earhart Scholarship is based on academic merit and leadership and is open to juniors and seniors enrolled in any school at the West Lafayette campus. Applications are due by **February 28, 2006**. [USA Funds](#) is based on need, and due **March 1, 2006**.

CCO Career Workshops

Tuesday, February 21 at 4:30 pm in STEW 202.
Make Job Fairs and Informational Interviews Work for You.

Wednesday, February 22 at 4:30 pm in FRNY B124.
Acing Your Interview.

Job Fairs

[Liberal Arts Career and Internship Fair](#). Wednesday, February 22, 2006. Purdue Memorial Union 118 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Promotes full-time and internship opportunities for Liberal Arts students. Open to all students and employing organizations. Sponsored by Liberal Arts Student Council.

[PESC Intern Expo](#). February 27, 2006. PMU Ballroom. Open to all students in all majors. Sponsored by Purdue Engineering Student Council.

[High-Tech Job Fair & Purdue Research Park](#). Wednesday, March 1, 2006, Purdue Technology Center (PTC). Purdue Research Park, 3000 Kent Avenue, West Lafayette, IN (2 blocks east of WL Wal-Mart), 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Designed to highlight full-time, part-time, and internship career opportunities which exist in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Opportunities Abroad

DFG Research Center Ocean Margins (RCOM) Summer Fellowships

Summer Student Fellowships at the DFG Research Center for Ocean Margins are awarded to undergraduate students who have completed their junior or senior year at colleges or universities studying in any of the fields of science including but not limited to the fields of biology, chemistry, geology, geophysics, mathematics, meteorology, physics, and oceanography. Students must have at least a tentative interest in the ocean sciences. Applications should include the application form, a current CV, an official transcript, your complete undergraduate school records, and two letters of recommendation. Deadline: **February 28, 2006**. Application and information: <http://www.rcom-bremen.de>.

March 1 is the deadline to apply for study abroad for summer and fall
<http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/>.

Nancy