

March 17, 2008

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

More on Energy...

Reminder: The Purdue Pugwash Conference is scheduled for March 20-22 in the Stewart Center. The theme for the conference is "Energy and the Environment: Powering the Future Responsibly". For more information, see: <http://pugwash.student-orgs.purdue.edu/Conferences/Conference2008/Agenda.html>. The home page for Purdue Pugwash is: <http://www.purdue.edu/pugwash>. I encourage you to attend and participate in the conference!

Also, \$110 per barrel crude oil! Energy and energy costs are almost continuously in the news, including crude oil prices topping \$110 per barrel and gasoline prices that are projected to rise to \$4 per gallon in the near future. Many people ask why crude oil prices have increased so much. Of course increasing demand, particularly from developing countries, nearly continuously adds to price pressure. Additionally, unrest in oil producing areas of the world contributes to high prices. However, another factor has been increasingly important in the past several years. Most people are not aware that, by international agreement, crude oil is officially valued and sold using U.S. dollars. Therefore, the "value of the dollar" has a significant impact on the price of crude oil. For example, when the dollar goes down relative to other currencies, it is cheaper for people in other countries to purchase crude oil and they can aggressively bid for crude oil futures, thus driving the price, in U.S. dollars, up. During most of 2002, one dollar would buy about 1.1 Euros. In recent days, the dollar has weakened to the point where one dollar will buy only about 0.65 Euros. This effect has markedly increased the price of crude oil, particularly for U.S. purchases. The weakness of the dollar has even encouraged investors to purchase crude oil futures rather than hold or invest in dollars, further increasing the price of crude. Unfortunately, none of these causes of increases in the price of crude is likely to improve dramatically in the near future. Perhaps the only positive effects that can come from the sharp increases in crude oil prices are encouragement for energy conservation and improved competitiveness of alternative energy strategies – both effects that are desirable for our energy future, addressing global warming, and protecting the environment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, March 17

- Cedric J. Newby Scholarship Committee, CIVL 2173 (1:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 18

- Haq's Search Committee, CIVL 2173 (3 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 19

- EAS Leadership Team, CIVL 2173 (8:30 a.m.)

Thursday, March 20

- EAS Annual Performance Review Committee, CIVL 2173 (1 p.m.)

Friday, March 21

- EAS Executive Council, CIVL 2173 (9 a.m.)

Monday, March 24

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

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Moist Convection and Eddy Mixing: How Saturation Potential Vorticity Provides New Insights into Climate Dynamics." Robert Korty, Texas A&M

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bowen, G. J., 2008: Spatial analysis of the intra-annual variation of precipitation isotope ratios and its climatological corollaries, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **113**, D05113.

Bowen, G. J., A. L. Daniels, and B. B. Bowen, 2008: Paleoenvironmental isotope geochemistry and paragenesis of lacustrine and palustrine carbonates, Flagstaff Formation, central Utah, USA, *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, **78**, 162-174.

Stamps, D. S., E. Calais, E. Saria, C. Hartnady, J.-M. Nocquet, C. J. Ebinger, R. M. Fernandes (2008), A kinematic model for the East African Rift, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **35**, L05304, doi:10.1029/2007GL032781. [The editors selected this paper as an "AGU Journal Highlight."]

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Eric Riggs participated with the AAAS Science, Technology and Engineering Congressional Visits day and related policy meetings at the American Geological Institute in Washington, D.C., March 3-5. He met with the staffs of Senators Lugar and Bayh and Representatives Buyer, Visclosky and Donnelly. He had a chance to meet Senator Bayh and Reps. Buyer and Visclosky in person. During the meetings, it was clear that the Indiana congressional delegation is strongly supportive of a continued robust Federal investment in science, technology, and engineering research AND in educational research in these fields. Senators Lugar and Bayh have both signed on to a currently circulating "Dear Colleague" letter in the Senate that sets funding targets for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science and Technology that put these agencies on a funding track consistent with the authorizations in the America Competes Act of 2007. While this year's budget games on the Hill are likely to be complicated by the major election season we are in, and there is a good chance that these funding gains for NSF and DOE, and related gains for NOAA and NASA might not be realized until the next budget as a result, it is reassuring to know that our message about the importance of science and mathematics research and education is embraced by our elected representatives in the State from both parties.

ITAP NEWS

Office 2008 available

Microsoft Office 2008 (the latest version of Office for Mac OS X) is now available. Office 2008 is free for all University-owned Mac OS X systems. If you would like it installed, please e-mail eam-itap@purdue.edu to schedule a time. MathType 5.1 is known to not work with Office 2008 (according to the MathType website, MathType 6 for Mac will be available this summer and will support Office 2008).

Dreamweaver Training Offered

The EAS Technology Support Staff will be offering Dreamweaver training to interested EAS faculty, staff and students. A basic course will be offered on Wednesday, March 19, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. An advanced course will be offered on Thursday, March 20, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. To register for either or both of these courses, please e-mail pparamit@purdue.edu. For descriptions of the courses, see the EAS Technology Support website.

Helpful Links

Do you have copyright questions? The University Copyright Office maintains a very helpful website at <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/uco/index.html> which includes tools for determining fair use and public domain.

ITaP's Teaching and Learning Technologies group has a website with a listing of commonly (and uncommonly) used instructional tools available on campus. You can see this listing at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tt/tools.cfm>.

As always, for answers to common technology questions and for the latest news from the EAS Technology Support staff, please visit <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/resources/it>.

CINCINNATI BLIZZARD

EAS graduate student, Erin Jones, experienced a recent blizzard during "Spring" Break in Columbus, Ohio where they got over 20 inches of snow.



A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Safe Passage Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Montana State University – Bozeman

MSU is inviting applications from undergraduate students in all fields of engineering as well as biology, **environmental and earth sciences**, and related fields to participate in a unique interdisciplinary summer research program. The Safe Passages REU site will research the complex issue of simultaneously providing for safe passage of humans, wildlife, and aquatic organisms through rural transportation corridors. The 10-week program runs June 2 - 8, 2008. The stipend is \$4,500 (plus an additional weekly food stipend) with travel reimbursement up to \$900 for travel costs to MSU. The program covers all on-campus housing expenses for participants. Application Deadline: **April 30, 2008**. For more information, please visit the [website](http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx) at: <http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx>.

Intersections - A Student Conference on Diversity

This conference, which runs March 18-19, will include guest speakers and callouts for DiversiKey on the Purdue campus. For more information on the events for this conference visit <http://www.purdue.edu/diversikey>.

NACE International Student Virtual Career Fair

International students who are currently studying in the U.S. and looking for a full-time or internship position in your home country or are currently pursuing optional practical training opportunities and/or summer curricular internships in the U.S. can search for employment until **May 16, 2008**. Check out: <https://www.cco.purdue.edu/Student/2008NACEIntCareerFair.shtml>.

Vocal Expression: Voice and Diction for the International Student

This class is THTR 590K: 2 credits - pass/fail - Monday through Thursday 9:30-11:20 a.m. during Maymester, May 12 through June 6.

The purpose of the class is to work with international students where English is their second language (but open to all students or instructors wanting to improve or learn about voice/speech, soften American regional dialect, etc.). The class is geared towards improving the individual's pronunciation and articulation for standard American pronunciations. The class will center on the vocal instrument, breath support, articulators, vowels placement and putting this all together to develop the individual's speech patterns. Depending on class size, there will be private sessions to work on specific problems the individual is having that may be holding them back in diction and clarity. The students will also learn tools they can use to help their own individual growth in this area and gain confidence in public speaking.

Purdue Undergraduate Research Training Program

Each trainee works for a professor in Education for two semesters and participates in a weekly, 3-credit hour course; this opportunity does pay. If interested, email nstewart@purdue.edu for the application. The deadline is **May 1**. Selection is based on academic credentials and interest in the program.

This Week

Today, **March 17**, is the LAST day to drop a spring class.

On **March 19** and **20** representatives from IUPUI will be in the main lobby of Schleman Hall to help register students for summer classes at that campus. Wednesday's hours will be 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday's 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nancy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Greg Michalski – March 17

Larry Braile – March 21

