

March 30, 2009

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

2009 Graduate Student Expo Presentation Awards

This year's Grad Expo was very successful and there were excellent presentations by EAS graduate students. As in past years, a faculty committee selects the top presentations for recognition and awards. The award winners for best oral presentation are: Daniel Mendoza ("The Vulcan Project: Methods, Results, and Evaluation") and Patrick Brennan ("Lithospheric Deformation Along the Denali Fault System of South-Central Alaska"). The award winners for best poster presentation are: Nathan Hitchens ("WRF Simulations of Sub-diurnal Extreme Precipitation in the Midwestern United States") and John Witmer ("Tectonic Processes Along the Southeastern Margin of Alaska – the Neogene Sedimentary Record: Yakataga Formation, St. Elias Mountains"). Congratulations to Daniel, Patrick, Nathan and John and their faculty advisors! Thanks again to all students, faculty and staff who helped with and participated in the 2009 Expo. And, thanks to Shell Oil for providing financial support for this year's awards.

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Calais, Eric, and Seth Stein, 2009: Time-Variable Deformation in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. *Science*, **323**, 1442. (see the news release at <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/x/2009a/090313CalaisSteinMadrid.html>)

Finzel, E.S., K.D. Ridgway, R.R. Reifensuhl, R.B. Blodgett, J.M. White, and P.D. Decker, 2009: Stratigraphic framework and estuarine depositional environments of the Miocene Bear Lake Formation, Bristol Bay basin, Alaska: Reservoir strata in a frontier gas-rich basin. *American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin*, **93**, 379-405.

van Hooijdonk, Ruben, and Matthew Huber, 2009: Equivocal evidence for a thermostat and unusually low levels of coral bleaching in the Western Pacific Warm Pool. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **36**, L06705, doi:10.1029/2008GL036288.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Friday, April 3

- Executive Committee, CIVL 2173 (8:30 a.m.)
- ATMS Tea, CIVL 2201 (2:30 p.m.)

Monday, April 6

- EAS Faculty Meeting, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)
- Phil Smith's Retirement Dinner, Buchanan Club, Ross-Ade Pavilion (5:30 p.m.)

EAS SEMINAR

Thursday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252:

"Precipitation Characteristics of Trade Wind Clouds during RICO Derived from Radar, Satellite and Aircraft Measurements." Robert Rauber, University of Illinois-Urbana

Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2201

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

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Wen-Yih Sun presented the keynote speech: "Numerical Weather Prediction and HPC" at High Performance Computing (HPC-ASIA) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, March 2-5, 2009.

On March 17, Gabe Bowen gave an invited lecture entitled, "Water Isotope Monitoring: Contributions to Water Cycle Research and the Forensic Sciences" at the University of Tsukuba Terrestrial Environmental Research Center (Japan).

Eric Riggs delivered an invited presentation entitled, "Effectiveness in Problem Solving during Geologic Field Examinations: Insights from Analysis of GPS Tracks at Variable Time Scales," and he conducted an informal faculty workshop on geoscience education research and new directions in geoscience curricula on March 26 at Indiana University, Department of Geological Sciences.

WORKSHOP CHAIRED

On March 19-20, 2009, Prof. Qianlai Zhuang chaired the 4th workshop of his Working Group on, "Toward an adequate quantification of CH₄ emissions from land ecosystems: Integrating field and in-situ observations, satellite data, and modelling" in Santa Barbara. The workshops were sponsored by The

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), which is funded by NSF. The Working Group was attended by both international and national experts on studying global methane cycling.

EAS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT NEWS

New worm to begin operating this week

The latest version of a widely known worm, called Conficker.C (also known as Downadup.C) will begin operating on April 1. At this time, it is unknown what actions Conficker will take when it begins operating. It may be as (relatively) benign as a pop-up ad generator, or it may result in the theft and/or loss of data.

You should be aware of any unusual changes in the performance of your Windows computers on April 1. Microsoft has made a tool available that will scan and detect all known versions of the Conficker worm: <http://onecare.live.com/site/en-us/default.htm>.

For more information, please see the Secure Purdue website: <http://www.purdue.edu/securepurdue>.

If you have any questions, please contact the EAS Technology Support team by sending an e-mail to eas-itap@purdue.edu.

SPRING FEST

This year's Spring Fest will be held on April 18-19 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. EAS will have a section set up and we could use help from staff, graduate and undergraduate students in helping to run the events. If people would like to help on either or both days they can contact Ainsley Bota-Miller at mille179@purdue.edu.

MAY GRADUATION DEADLINES

April 10 – Graduate School Form 8 (Request for Appointment of Examining Committee) must be turned in to the Graduate School (or a minimum of two weeks prior to defense).

April 24 – Last day to defend.

April 24 – Last day to turn in your Final Examination Report to the Graduate School.

May 1 – Last day to deposit thesis.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

Summer Regional Campus Registration

Representatives from the following regional campus will be available at West Lafayette to assist with the 2009 summer session registration for students who plan to attend Calumet. Location: Main Lobby of SCHL.

Calumet	Thursday	April 2, 2009 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Friday	April 3, 2009 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

North Central will be here April 8-9.

T-Shirt Contest

T-shirt design contest open to all College of Science students. Submit your design and name electronically to cos.designcontest@gmail.com. Due **April 10**. Become famous (or more famous) and help us all look really good! (See last page of this Newsletter)

Nancy

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/). Material for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to Gina Richey (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>.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

T-Shirt Design Contest

Open to all students in the College of Science

DUE DATE: APRIL 10th

Submit Designs Electronically to

cos.designcontest@gmail.com

Please include name and
major with each submission

Presented by:

Purdue Science Student Council

