

The Summer Monthly News

June 4, 2007

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Dee Gillespie has accepted the position of Assistant to the Department Head for EAS. Dee has a BS degree in Wildlife Biology from SUNY, Syracuse and an MS degree in Natural Resources/Remote Sensing from the University of Connecticut. She has been at Purdue since 1990 and is currently the Assistant to the Department Head in the Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology department. Dee will be in the department for brief periods during the week of June 4 and will officially begin her appointment on June 11. Her office will be CIVL 2169B. Please stop by to meet Dee and to welcome her to EAS!

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gilbert, H., C. Jones, T. J. Owens, and G. Zandt, 2007: Imaging Sierra Nevada Lithospheric Sinking, *Eos*, 88, 225-236.

Striver, R. L., and M. Huber, 2007: Observational evidence for an ocean heat pump induced by tropical cyclones, *Nature*, **447**, 577-580.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

John Cushman gave an invited lecture on May 31st at the SIAM Conference on Dynamical Systems in Snowbird, Utah entitled, "Universality in Dispersive Processes."

NASA ESS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Jinyun Tang, who has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious NASA Earth System Science (ESS) Fellowship! The fellowship is renewable up to three years starting from 2007-2008 academic year with his research project, entitled "Improving a Process-Based Biogeochemistry Model Using an Atmospheric Transport Chemistry Model and In-Situ and Remotely-Sensed Terrestrial and Atmospheric Data". Jinyun is in the first year of his Ph.D. program and Prof. Qianlai Zhuang serves as his thesis advisor.

TEACHING HONOR ROLL

Several of our faculty colleagues have made the department's Teaching Honor Roll for the 2007 Spring semester (based on student evaluations; overall instructor rating) as noted below. Congratulations!

Service Courses (=> 4.0)

Larry Braile	EAS 100	4.6
Jerry Krockover	EAS 102 (two sections)	4.8/4.6
Steven Fritz	EAS 105	4.0
Yuch-Ning Shieh	EAS 111	4.1
Steven Fritz	EAS 112	4.5
Kevin Gurney	EAS 113	4.5

Undergraduate/Graduate Courses (=> 4.5)

Ernie Agee	EAS 191A	4.9
Gabe Bowen	EAS 191R	4.5
Saad Haq	EAS 191R	4.6
Matt Huber	EAS 391S	4.5
Jeff Trapp	EAS 422	4.9
Bill Zinsmeister	EAS 473	4.8
Jeff Trapp	EAS 523	5.0
Ken Ridgway	EAS 591A	4.9
Saad Haq	EAS 591M	4.5
Bob Nowack	EAS 591N	4.8
Qianlai Zhuang	EAS 591W	4.8
Wen-wen Tung	EAS 637	5.0

The following TAs have made the Teaching Honor Roll for 2007 Spring semester by achieving a score of 4.5 or higher as rated by their students. Congratulations!

Loren Carleton	EAS 102 lab	4.7
Dibyajyoti Tripathy	EAS 111 labs	4.5 and 5.0
Patrick Kennedy	EAS 111 lab	4.5
Piotr Przybylski	EAS 111 lab	4.7
Spencer Fairfax	EAS 112 labs	5.0 and 4.9
Ruben van Hooidonk	EAS 230 lab	4.6
Andy Cyr	EAS 312 labs	4.7 and 5.0
Nathan Hitchens	EAS 432 lab	4.6

THE STATE OF IT IN EAS

Now that summer is upon us, the IT staff are working hard to prepare for the coming year. One major change that will impact a lot of users is the upgrade of EAS Linux computers from Fedora Core 1 to Red Hat Enterprise 4. We have assembled a team of faculty and graduate students who are working on testing software to ensure that research and teaching needs will be met. Over half of the computers subject to the upgrade have been successfully completed and the remainder will be done in the coming weeks.

Another change coming down the line is that Office 2007 will be installed in TLT labs this summer. As a result, Office 2007 will be made available on EAS Windows computers sometime later this summer. We do not have a date yet. Some areas of campus may begin using Office 2007 sooner than others. This, unfortunately, may lead to confusion, since Office 2007 documents cannot be read by previous versions of Office. To resolve this issue, a compatibility pack has been pushed. The compatibility pack allows current versions of Office to open Office 2007 documents. If you need to make use of this, you can install it from "Run Advertised Programs."

This past year has seen a renewed focus on providing a higher level of service to you, our users. While we have made significant strides, there is still much to be done. One project is to improve the IT website. Answers to many common questions about the EAS computing environment can be found at <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/resources/it>. The site is there for your benefit, if you have suggestions for improvement, please do not hesitate to send them to eas-webmaster@purdue.edu.

As always, please continue sending support requests to eas-itap@purdue.edu. However, if you have concerns or questions, the IT staff are always happy to meet with you. Our goal is to make the department successful, and your feedback is critical to that goal.

AEG NEWS

Terry West, President of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, continued on his tour of the AEG Sections throughout the United States. On May 23 he visited the Intermountain Section in Salt Lake City and on May 24 he visited the Basin and Range Section in Reno, Nevada. He presented the same talk at both meetings, "Rock Slope Stability, Classification and Analysis." He also met with several graduate students in the Geological Engineering program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Twenty five to thirty practicing engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers attended the two presentations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Tricia Brook – June 5
Melissa Guinn – June 5
Scott King – June 7
Hersh Gilbert – June 16
Jennifer Haase – June 18



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/). 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.

