



What's Up?

The EAS Weekly News

August 28, 2006

THE HEAD'S PERSPECTIVE

Three new professors have joined the faculty of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences this semester. They are Assistant Professors Michael Baldwin and Hersh Gilbert, and Associate Professor Eric Riggs. If you haven't met Mike, Hersh or Eric yet, please introduce yourself. There is a short bio for Mike Baldwin below. In the next two newsletters, we will provide information on Hersh and Eric. We welcome Mike, Hersh and Eric to the department!

Mike Baldwin is a new assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. A native Hoosier, Mike grew up in nearby Frankfort, Indiana where major weather events, such as the January blizzards of 1977 and 1978, spurred his interest in meteorology. Mike will expand the department's capabilities in synoptic-scale weather processes as part of the departmental focus on Climate and Extreme Weather (CLEW). Mike comes to Purdue from the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma where he spent several years researching improvements in weather analysis and forecasting methods. Mike obtained his PhD from the University of Oklahoma in 2003. Mike also spent several years developing and improving numerical weather prediction models at the Environmental Modeling Center (a part of the National Weather Service) in Camp Springs, Maryland. Mike plans to examine the connections between weather and climate and determine if global climate change can be observed in the changing characteristics of weather systems. He is also interested in developing more meaningful ways of measuring the quality of weather forecasts. His primary professional goal is to improve the understanding and prediction of the behavior of extreme weather and climate events.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, August 28

- Primary Promotions Meeting, CIVL 3201 (11:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, August 29

- Recruiting and Outreach Meeting, CIVL 3214 (1:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, August 30

- Staff Meeting, CIVL 2173 (8:30 a.m.)
- 40th Anniversary Committee, CIVL 3201 (3:30 p.m.)

Friday, September 1

- Graduate Committee, CIVL 2173 (11:30 a.m.)
-

SEMINARS

Thursday, August 31, at 3:30 p.m. in CIVL 1252: "Characterizing the Earth's Atmosphere Using GPS Occultation Measurements." Feiquin Xie, EAS Post-doc, Purdue University (Refreshments at 3 p.m. in CIVL 2173.)

OUR RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Baldwin, M. E. and J. S. Kain, 2006: Sensitivity of several performance measures to displacement error, bias, and event frequency. *Wea. Forecasting*, **21**, 636-648.

CLEW TEA

Faculty, staff, and graduate students interested in the Climate and Extreme Weather (CLEW) initiative will meet this semester on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., in CIVL 4251. Each tea time will begin with a brief presentation, followed by further discussion. The next tea will be held on September 8.

AEG NEWS

Terry West attended the Executive Council meeting for the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) on August 9 to 14, 2006 in Anchorage, Alaska. Serving as Vice President-President Elect of AEG, he participated in the business meeting on August 10 and Strategic

Planning sessions over the weekend. AEG plans to hold their annual meeting in Anchorage in September 2011.

Following the meeting, Terry West and Spencer Fairfax, M.S. graduate student in EAS, traveled to Valdez, Alaska returning to Indiana on August 19. In Valdez they performed a rock slope stability field evaluation at the VMT, Valdez Marine Terminal, the pipeline terminal and tanker loading facility site of the Alyeska 800-mile pipeline from Prudoe Bay on the north slope of Alaska. Valdez is the northern most ice free port in North America.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Our department will be involved with many outreach events throughout the year. September's Outreach events include:

September 5th (6-9 p.m.) We will be instructing an Indiana Master Naturalist Class on a variety of weather topics. The participants will be 30 adults.

September 16th (all day) Paleontology Day at the Marion Library. For this event we will do a simulated paleontology dig with bones and mulch and do a small paleontology presentation. We will also be doing the paleontology puzzle activity and briefly discussing Paleoecology.

September 21st (all day) Make a Splash with Project Wet and Tippecanoe County Parks Department. This event will not be far from campus, out at Ross Park. We will do activities for students in groups, exploring the physical properties of water.

If you are interested in helping with one of these activities, contact our k-12 Outreach Coordinator, Steven Smith mrsmith@purdue.edu.

EXXONMOBIL INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2006

ExxonMobil will interview students interested in petroleum geoscience-related careers in areas associated with Exploration, Production, and Research. Applicants are required to fill out an online application and post a copy of their resume on their website at least one week prior to interviewing. They will no longer accept hard copy applications. **[Important: They cannot consider you for any position without you first completing an on-line application.]** Copies of transcripts and a

resume should be brought to the interview. At this stage of the process, "unofficial" school versions of transcripts will be accepted as attachments to the online submittal.

The ExxonMobil website is:
www.exxonmobil.com/apply

Additional information may be found in CIVL 2169D along with the interview sign-up sheet.

Candidates for Regular Employment: ExxonMobil will be interviewing graduate students receiving an M.S. or a Ph.D. degree in geology or geophysics. Preference will be given to those candidates who complete their degree and will report to work during 2006 or 2007. On-site interviews will be held in Houston and begin in September 2006.

Candidates for Internships: ExxonMobil will be interviewing students who meet the following requirements: a) will be completing their M.S. or Ph.D. degree program within a year after their internship, and b) have the ability to work approximately three months. Internships are available throughout the year starting in February 2007. Although preference will be given to students graduating in 2006 or 2007, ExxonMobil will be happy to discuss career opportunities with other students as the interview schedule permits.

Recruiter Brian West will also present an ExxonMobil overview. More information on this to follow. All interested faculty and students are invited to attend.

A NOTE FROM OUR ACADEMIC COUNSELOR Calendar

Wednesday, **August 30** – Study Abroad Fair, Memorial Mall, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Check out where you can go and what it's like.

Friday, **September 1** – Last day to drop a class without it appearing on your academic record.

Monday, **September 4** – Labor Day – No Classes.

Research

Go to <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/> and look at the section of "Highlights" for faculty looking for undergraduate students to participate in research.

Nancy