

February 2012 News Notes

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Field work in Guatemala

Prof. Anne Carey is currently in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala conducting field work with her graduate student, Brandon McAdams and undergraduate Andrea Portier. The NSF sponsored research is to study the role of landslides in mobilizing organic carbon in watersheds of Las Sierras de las Minas. The work is being conducted jointly with forest ecologist, Dr. Carla Restrepo of the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras and her students. Restrepo is focusing on the terrestrial environment and Carey on the fluvial environment.



Andrea Portier at an outcrop along the trail to Rio Raxon, Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala.



Brandon McAdams with samples and sampling gear at Quebrada Chajonja (Dancing Water Stream in Q'etchi), north slope of Las Sierras de las Minas, Guatemala.



Gauging Rio Samilja.

Recent Mini-Symposium and SES Visitors

In late October, 2011, Prof. Frank Schwartz's group held a mini-symposium and field trip that focused on the hydrology of prairie pothole lakes and urban hydrology and geochemistry. Our special guest was Dr. Chris Wright from South Dakota State University, a natural resource specialist who we work with on ecological networks. He presented a talk to the School entitled "Russia Browning: The 2010 Heat Wave Was Not an Isolated Event". Our research has also benefitted from international scholars Dr. Xiaoping Qiao from Chang'an University, China and Dr. Yongje Kim from KIGAM in Korea who have been working with us during their year-long leaves of absence. They have been working closely with our post-docs Ganming Liu and Utku Solpuker, and M.S. student Guangdong Liu.



Left to right are Yongje Kim, Ganming Liu, Guangdong Liu, Frank Schwartz and Chris Wright. Guangdong is explaining the operation of a recording rain gage at site in Dry Run watershed in west Columbus.



Left to right are Xiaoping Qiao, Ganming Liu, Frank Schwartz and Chris Wright

New SES Faculty: Prof. Ann Cook

Dr. Ann Cook began as an Assistant Professor at SES in January. Prof. Cook's research focuses on gas hydrates. Much is unknown about natural gas hydrates. Her current research focuses on understanding the dimensions, features, and overall potential of the gas hydrate reservoir. Primarily, she uses borehole logs and images to study gas hydrates. Ann integrates logging data with seismic surveys and core data. Ann is also interested in geologic CO₂ sequestration, geothermal energy and the energy industry. Ann was formerly a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, with the Borehole Research Group. She received the B.S. in geophysics from the University of Tulsa in 2004, and did her graduate work at Columbia University, receiving the Ph. D. in 2010. Welcome Ann!

Howat Group News

- Santiago de la Pena arrived from the Univ of Edinburgh to join our group as a BPRC postdoc fellow. He received his phd at U. C. Boulder and spent two years in Edinburgh as a postdoc on the new Cryosat satellite science team. He studies SAR altimetry of ice sheets.
- Ph.D. student Ellyn Enderlin presented her work on modeling marine-terminating glaciers at the NASA program for arctic regional climate assessment (PARCA) conference in Washington D. C. this month.

New Research Funding

Prof. David Cole's research group has received additional A. P. Sloan Foundation funding (beyond the original \$1.5 million for existing projects) for the project "Reduced Carbon in Earth's Crust and Mantle I: Abiogenic versus Biogenic Origins". Cole received \$350K for two years to support activities in the Deep Energy (DE) Directorate of the Sloan funded Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO). The DCO program is administered by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Prof. Cole is co-director of the DE along with Chris Ballentine at Manchester University. The funds will be used to host international workshops on the origin of abiogenic versus biogenic hydrocarbons, institute data management protocols for DE project team, develop an outreach program on energy issues related to deep Earth carbon, and foster synergistic interactions among the other DCO Directorates - Deep Life, Reservoirs and Fluxes, and Physics and Chemistry of Carbon.