



Change in the Swiss Guard for Geosciences

After two years as a post-doc at the Center, we say goodbye to Dr. Olivier Braissant, who is returning to Neuchatel in Switzerland.

Olivier carried out research in the Bahamas on the role of exopolymeric substances in precipitating carbonate minerals. After dabbling in the marine and hypersaline environments, which are unknown to the Swiss landscape, he will focus again on continental biomineralization processes.

Olivier mentored students in Geosciences and Marine Sciences, where

he also team taught. While at the Center, he gave seminars in Geosciences, at (inter)national meetings and as a visiting professor, at the University of Puerto Rico. He first-authored one Center publication, has one submitted and four others on the drawing board in various stages of completion. It has been very productive and great having Olivier here. We hope to see him back in the future.

Olivier's departure coincides with Dr. Christophe Dupraz' arrival, earlier this month. Dr. Dupraz is the new sedimentology faculty in the Center,

home department Marine Sciences. His profile will be featured in the next issue of our newsletter. *PV*

Olivier, in his longer hair days!



CT Conference on Natural Resources

Monday March 10th, 2008.
10am-3pm
UConn Student Ballroom

The 2nd Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources (CCNR) is a multidisciplinary conference bringing together individuals working with natural resource and environmental management in Connecticut to share research, information, and ideas. The conference features a mix of professional and informal forums to promote

information exchange, networking, a sense of community regarding Connecticut's natural resources, and recognize achievements of dedicated individuals and groups. The conference is for all those working with the environment and natural resources through state and federal government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the engaged public. Call for papers is still going on! Deadline for submission is January 31, 2008

For more information, visit their website at :

<http://www.ccnr.uconn.edu>
Plenary Speaker: Dr. Gary Yohe, Wesleyan University. - Woodhouse/Sysco Professor of Economics and senior member, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Talk title: "*Climate Change in Connecticut: Global Perspectives and Local Vulnerabilities*"

Inside this issue:

Faculty News etc.	2
Upcoming Events	3
Websites of Interest	3
Earth Science Picture of the Day	4
2008 GSA Joint Meeting	6

In the News for Geosciences:

- *New evidence from the Blue Nile and other locations in Africa suggests that the main formation of the East African Rift Valley coincided with major turns in human evolution, suggesting that tectonics played a major role in evolution.*

Announcements, Awards, Publications, etc.

Jean Crespi was recently elected chair of the Northeastern section for GSA. Congrats Jean! (Reminder, NE GSA is in Buffalo NY this year—registration deadline is Feb. 25!)

New Course for 2008: GEOL 290W Geoscience and Society

Second semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: GEOL 103 or 105 and ENGL 110, 111, or 250; or consent of instructor. Open to juniors or higher. Application of fundamental geological principles to issues of concern to society such as global climate change; wildfires; drought and water resources; earthquake, volcano, and tsunami hazards; medical geology; energy resources; sustainability; and coastal processes. This course will be offered during the spring semester only. It is the new capstone course in the major in integrative geoscience. If you are planning to major in integrative geoscience through the individualized major program and if you are planning to graduate in May 2008 or December 2008, you should enroll in this course this semester.

Grad Student Announcements:

~**AAPG Grants-In-Aid program!** The 2008 AAPG Foundation Grants-in-Aid Program is available to geoscience graduate students who may require funding for their research project.

Grants are based on merit, and in part, on the financial needs of the applicant. The program focuses on support of qualified candidates for masters or equivalent degrees. Qualified doctoral candidates are also encouraged to apply. Monetary

awards up to a maximum amount of \$2000. Grants are to be applied to expenses directly related to the student's thesis work, such as fieldwork, laboratory analyses, etc. Applicants are required to submit official academic transcripts by mail before the deadline. **The deadline for the 2008 program closes on January 31, 2008. Applications are available online through**

<http://foundation.aapg.org/gia/index.cfm>

~**CLAS Graduate Summer Fellowships:** Looking for some summer money, check out the CLAS site for summer fellowships! The Covenant Ins. Co. scholarship is specifically for grads in CLAS:

http://clas.uconn.edu/studentresources/cclas_scholarships.html

~**Apply for a GSA graduate student research grant today!** Applications and advisor appraisals are due 1 February 2008.

http://www.geosociety.org/GSA_Connection/0712/stuResGrants.asp

~**Geosciences now has a WIKI page!**

<http://uconn.collegewikis.com/index.php?title=Geosciences> Thanks to Januka for setting this up—visit and feel free to add to it!

Undergraduate Internships with IRIS:

Interested in working on seismological research? Interns get paid a weekly stipend, and conduct research using state of the art equipment with leading research-

ers in the field! Also covered: travel expenses, and travel to a professional meeting to present the results of your research over the summer—usually the AGU meeting in the fall. Find out more about IRIS internships here:

<http://www.iris.edu/internship/apply/intern#downloads>

REU Undergrad Research Experience

Programs: Interested in digital mapping in Maine? How about Landscape Evolution in Colorado? Or maybe working for the Smithsonian Natural History Museum? The Research Experience for Undergrads has this and many more opportunities for students in the Earth Sciences. Find out more about REU's here: <http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/>

Find out what's available for 2008 here:

http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_reuult.cfm?unitid=5050

Free Water Career Seminar: CT Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section presents "Careers in Drinking Water" A 1/2 day forum. April 23rd, 2008. 9:00am-1:15pm at the Farmington Club, Farmington CT. Panel discussions and hands on demos! Questions can be directed to Vicky Carrier—vicky.carrier@ct.gov

Geoscience 'Currents' Launched

The American Geological Institute (AGI) Workforce Program has initiated Geoscience Currents, a new series covering geosciences workforce and educational data snapshots, that are expected to be released on a near-weekly basis.

To subscribe to these free data snapshots, go to <http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/> and click "Register."

From the latest edition— Geoscience Salaries: *Geoscience starting salaries were competitive with other science and engineering fields in 2007. Bachelors geosciences graduates, generally employed in the environmental and hydrology industry, earned an average of \$31,366 p.a. compared to \$31,258 for life scientists and \$32,500 for chemistry students.*

Recent Masters recipients saw the highest starting salaries in the Oil and Gas industry, with an average of \$81,300 p.a., ac-

ording to a new study of recent geoscience graduates by AGI and the American Geophysical Union. This salary level is significantly higher than the average starting salary of all science Masters degree recipients, who earned an average of \$46,873 p.a.

New doctorate recipients in all fields of science earned an average of \$62,059 p.a. in the private sector, while new geosciences doctorates commanded an average of \$72,600.

Geoscience Websites of Interest

For each newsletter that comes out, we will try to feature a few great sites related to geosciences that may be of interest to students and faculty associated with the Center. Please feel free to send any sites you find along to Abi, to be included in this section in future editions!



ogy of National Parks 3-D Web site. The site features 3-D and 2-D images of scenes in 14 different national parks, with more to come.

<http://3dparks.wr.usgs.gov/>

- **ONE GEOLOGY**—Perhaps no one knows better than geologists how national boundaries conflict with science. So in partnership with the U.N. International Year of Planet Earth, geologists around the world are coming together to form a world geological map, accessible to all on the Internet. The project is called OneGeology.

<http://www.onegeology.org/>

- **WHAT IS BIOGEOSCIENCES?**—The first thing a visitor wandering onto the Biogeosciences Web site might wonder is what exactly “biogeosciences” means. Luckily, this new site from the Geological Society of America tells you right away. This Web site brings the emerging field to a broader public through its explanations of the history of the field, descriptions of scientists doing the work and simple definitions of projects.

<http://www.biogeosciences.org>

- **3-D NATIONAL PARKS**—For a new view of some of the West’s most impressive scenery, check out the Geol-

More to come in the next edition!



Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday February 5th—Geoscience Seminar Series along with EEB** Presents Dr. Robert Naiman, University of Washington. *Rainforests and Savannas: Understanding Fundamental Ecological Processes in Riverine Floodplains.* **3:30pm BSP 130.**
- **Thursday February 7th—Teale Lecture Series** presents Ivette Perfecto, UMI, “*Brewing biodiversity: the ecology of coffee farms in Chiapas, Mexico*” **4:00pm Dodd Center.**
- **Tuesday February 19th—Geoscience Seminar Series** Presents Dr. Daniel Civco, UConn NRME. Title TBA. **3:30pm Beach Hall 233. Refreshments served!**
- **Tuesday March 4th—Geosciences Seminar Series** Presents Dr. Dana Royer, Wesleyan University. Title TBA. **3:30pm Beach Hall 233. Refreshments served!**
- **Thursday March 20th—Teale Lecture Series** presents Dr. Roger Gottlieb, WPI, “*Hope in a Dark Time: The Promises of Religious Environmentalism*” **4:00pm Dodd Center.**
- **Tuesday March 25th—Geosciences Seminar Series** Presents Dr. Heidi Dierssen, UConn MARN. Title TBA. **3:30pm Beach Hall 233. Refreshments served!**
- **Tuesday April 1st—Geoscience Seminar Series** presents Dr. Peter Schultz, Brown University. Title TBA. **3:30pm Beach Hall 233. Refreshments served!**
- **Tuesday April 8th—Geosciences Seminar Series** Presents Dr. Penny Vlahos, UConn MARN. Title TBA. **3:30pm Beach Hall 233. Refreshments served!**
- **Thursday April 10th—Teale Lecture Series** Presents Joseph Bruchac, Storyteller, “*This Earth, Our Mother*” **4:00pm Dodd Center.**

Earth Science Picture of the Day



EPOD from 1/8/2008— The photo above showing a handful of penguins resting on a rapidly melting iceberg was taken in the Ross Sea in early January, several years ago. The sun is always up during January in Antarctica since it's mid-summer in the Southern Hemisphere. This picture was actually shot well before 5:00 a.m. (local time). I went up to the Captain's Bridge, which is always open on expedition ships, and was chatting with the first mate when we both noticed these blue iceberg remnants with a small gathering of penguins. Penguins often use icebergs to rest or for protection from predators such as killer whales. The blue coloration of the "bergs" is attributable to ice particles more effectively absorbing the longer wavelengths (reds and yellows) of light than the shorter wavelengths (blues and greens). If the light travels a longer path, as in the compact ice of a glacier, then the ice appears bluer. The blueness of ice can be an indicator of its age and strength.

Photo taken by Mila Zinkova

2008 Appalachian Tectonics Studies Group Field Trip

Active Tectonics, Erosion, and Appalachian Landscape Evolution.

This year the ATSG field trip will lie along the interface of structural geology and geomorphology. If you are interested in rock uplift, river incision, active tectonics, or the geodynamics of passive margins, consider participating in this field trip.

“Join us in early May for a trip that covers familiar ATSG territory, but with a major thematic twist. We will visit the lower Susquehanna River basin with the intent of building a story of rock uplift, river incision,

active tectonics, and the geodynamics of passive margins. The story we will develop is mature and has been vetted in several publications; however, new data continue to reshape our thinking. Among the more intriguing possibilities that we will explore is what are the long-term geodynamic implications (if any) of the Chesapeake Bay impact structure.”

The trip, which will take place in the lower Susquehanna River basin, will occur on 10-11 May 2008 and will be led by Frank Pazzaglia of Lehigh University.

See <http://www.lehigh.edu/~fjp3/atsg/index.html> for more information.

There is no registration fee for ATSG field trips. Students are especially encouraged to attend.

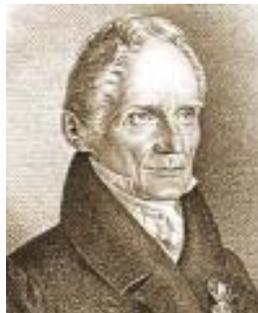


Did You Know?

A feature for our Geoscience Newsletter that reminds us of past Earth events and milestones that occurred around the time our newsletter comes out!

- ⇒ **Happy Birthday! January 17, 1706**—Benjamin Franklin is born.
- ⇒ **Did you Know? January 17, 1994**—Northridge Earthquake strikes Los Angeles area (Magnitude 6.7).
- ⇒ **Did you know? January 18, 1933**—White Sands National

Monument is proclaimed. World’s largest gypsum dune field.



Drawing of Friedrich Mohs, circa 1832.

- ⇒ **Happy Birthday! January 23, 1857**—Andrija Mohorovicic is born. Namesake of the base of the Earth’s crust, known as the “Moho”.
- ⇒ **Happy Birthday! January 29, 1773**—Friedrich Mohs is born. Creator of the Scale of Mineral Hardness.

GeoTrivia!

Fun with Geoscience Trivia

1. What is the common term used for pelecypods (see photo)?
2. What term is used for soils that have not developed normal soil

profiles and resemble the parent material?

3. What name is given to a fold that is convex upwards?

Check your answers:

http://www.geosociety.org/GSA_Connection/0801/trivia.htm

Hint for question 1: a pelecypod.





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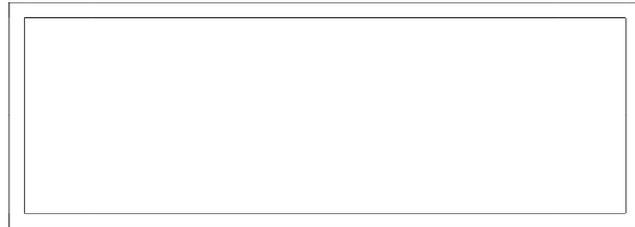
Fax: 860-486-1383

E-mail: geology@uconn.edu

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The Center for Integrative Geosciences mission is to offer transdisciplinary programs of instruction and research that advance understanding of the interaction of biological, chemical, geological, and physical processes, including feedback mechanisms, at all spatial and temporal scales that have shaped Earth through geologic time, continue to shape the environment today, and which provide the basis for understanding the present and future impact of human activity on this planet.

We will be issuing these newsletters monthly throughout the academic year to keep associated students, staff, alumni, and faculty up-to-date on the Center's activities!



2008 GSA Joint Meeting

GSA 2008 will be a different kind of meeting for geoscientists. Instead of the traditional GSA meeting, this year it will be a joint meeting between The Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS). Their vision is to highlight and stimulate discussions in areas of common interest across the diversity of disciplines and organizations represented.

Shared involvement in Energy, Water Resources, Education, and Earth Systems, to name a few, will foster a program comprised of thousands of scientific papers, hundreds of exhibits, and a myriad of distinguished lectures and

special events, to engage students and professionals across the earth sciences and in every employment sector.

Joint Session Categories Include

- Climate Change through Time: Evidence in the Geologic Record
- The Impending Global Water Crisis: Geology, Soils, Agronomy, and International Security
- Energy Budgets and the Global Market
- Globalization of Biogeochemical Cycles
- Wetland and River Restoration: Environmental Saviors or Scientific Failure?
- Coastal Impacts: Can Massive Environmental Restoration and Coastal Engineering Protect the Gulf Coast from Future Hurricane Impacts and Rising Sea Levels?
- Geobiology and Biomineralization:

From the Origins of Life to the Origins of Cities

- Emerging Trace Contaminants in Surface and Ground Water generated from Waste Water and Solid Waste Application
- Carbon Sequestration: Methods, Markets and Policy
- Human Influences on the Stratigraphic Record

Abstract submission will begin January 21st.

Meeting dates: October 5-9 Houston Texas.

Keep up to date on the meeting website:
<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>