In Geoscience Newsletters throughout the year, we will profile one of our geo-science graduate students or post-doc’s, so that we can learn more about them!

Olivier Braissant is a post-doc scholar from Switzerland, who will be doing research with the Center for Integrative Geosciences through January of 2007, and possibly longer. Olivier received his MS degree in biology in 2001, from the University of Lausanne. His concentration was microbiology, mycology, zoology, and biology of organisms and populations.

Olivier comes to us at UConn directly from receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, where his thesis concentrated on geo-microbiology.

Olivier has training in classical and molecular biology techniques including: PCR, DNA extraction, and gel electrophoresis. Additionally, he has specific training in chemistry techniques such as Ion chromatography and HPLC (using Dionex DX120, DX500 and Perkin Elmer chromatographs), thin layer chromatography (TLC and HP-TLC), spectrophotometry, extraction and titration of selected compounds (mainly oxalic acid and other organic acids).

During Olivier’s Ph. D. thesis, he spent time in Africa (Cameroon and Ivory Coast) and really appreciated living in such a different country.

Olivier has presented in meetings of the Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM), and has had published papers in journals such as Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Naturwissenschaften, and the Journal of Sedimentary Research.

One of the things Olivier enjoys doing in his spare time is hiking—especially when combined with the visits to caves. Also, Olivier likes to spend time working on 3D illustrations, and is skilled in animations.

EPA Jobs Website

The EPA Summer Opportunities for Students website is now up and running. The site provides a central Web portal through which students may enter to learn about EPA offices and summer employment opportunities. Having a central portal makes it easier for students to find information about specific areas in which they would like to work. They also will be able to submit a job application directly to the EPA location that has a vacancy.

The EPA Jobs Web site is located at: http://www.epa.gov/careers.

Summer Student Employment Opportunities Web site is http://www.epa.gov/ohr/stu dent.

The Summer Student Employment Opportunities Web site will be available until May 15, 2006. The EPA Summer Opportunities for Students Web site is a hiring tool that will be useful for students looking for summer work and for EPA offices that have summer vacancies to fill.

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In the News for Geosciences:

- Until recently, Lake Vostok, with its surface area of 14,000 square kilometers, held claim to being the only defined large lake under Antarctic ice. The subglacial lake may harbor forms of life that evolved, isolated from the elements, for more than tens of millions of years — long before the Antarctic ice sheets first formed more than 30 million years ago. Now, however, geologists say that Vostok is not alone. Two “great lakes,” each more than 1,000 square kilometers in area and buried deep under the Antarctic ice, are giving scientists a new view of the continent and how such large lakes formed there.
Faculty Contributions on Publications:
In addition to informing us of all your publications and providing us with hard copies, we encourage all students and faculty that submit publications for peer review to include in CiG contribution number. This can typically be done in the acknowledgments: “This is contribution #XX of UConn’s Center for Integrative Geosciences”, or alternatively, do this in a footnote, depending on the journal guidelines. Once the publication is accepted, Abi can provide you with an actual number. Two of the reasons for doing this are: it gives us visibility and is “free” advertisement, and it helps us build a case for our (transdisciplinary) existence as the breadth and depth of these publications can help us demonstrate our viability.

As a reminder, copies of these pubs are located in the 207 office, in a blue binder on the front counter, for anyone who would like to take a look or make copies!

Conference / Symposia Activities:
Faculty and students, if you’ve been invited to attend meetings or are presenting something at a meeting, please let Abi know and we’ll include it in upcoming newsletters!

NASA ABSCICON Conference 2006
Astrobiology Conference! March 26-30th in Washington DC. February 26th is registration deadline. Find out more: http://abscicon2006.arc.nasa.gov/


The workshop page has links to the workshop overview and application form. This workshop is designed specifically for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who are interested in pursuing academic careers.

GeoScienceWorld:
UConn's site license for GeoScienceWorld is now activated. Go to http://www.geoscienceworld.org/. This is also the portal to GeoRef. This is a great resource, and easy to use!

Scholars Day 2006!
The thirteenth annual University of Connecticut Scholars Day will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. Ceremony beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. A reception will be held at 3:00 p.m.

New Spring 2007 course offering!
Melinda Daniels (GEOG) will be offering GEOG 230—Fluvial Geomorphology in Spring of 2007.

Forum: Carbon Sequestration—Is It Feasible?
Forum at Yale University. 2pm Friday April 7th to 5pm Saturday April 8th. No fee to attend! But you should register by emailing Peter Schrader: schrader@yale.edu —Yale University Environmental Science Center, New Haven CT. Sponsored by Yale’s Center for the Study of Global Change.

New Bulletin Boards!
The 2nd floor of Beach Hall has some new bulletin boards on it to be able to display more posters, announcements, and other items of use to geoscience students!

Announcements, Awards, Publications, etc.

Integrating Ocean Drilling Program:
The next deadline for ocean drilling proposals is April 1. Information about the Integrating Ocean Drilling Program and proposal submission guidelines can be found at: http://www.iopd.org/drilling-proposals/


Job Opportunities

Jobs open with HydroSource Associates (Ashland NH). Consulting and groundwater exploration firm, with projects throughout the US.

Hydrogeologist: Seeking applicants with MS degree in geology or hydrology. Must have good writing skills and be able to function in and operate ArcView and/or ArcGIS. Will be expected to perform and participate in various hydrogeologic investigations including: well logging; conduct of step and long-term pumping tests. Possibility of becoming project manager. Responsibilities primarily include data collection/input/integration/output under direction of a manager.

Entry-Level Geologist: Responsibilities primarily include hydrogeologic data input/integration/output under the direction of a project manager, with opportunities to participate in field work also available. Experience with ArcView and/or ArcGIS desirable.

Interested? View their website for more information!
http://www.teamhydrosource.com
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!

- Weather.com—climate averages and temperatures. This site quickly produces line graphs comparing average monthly high/low temperatures, monthly average precipitation, and short descriptions of climatic records between any two reporting stations. [http://www.weather.com/weather/wxclimatology/compare/10034?sfld1=10977&sfld2=65532]

- GoogleEarth real-time stream gauges. 3D viewer that seamlessly zooms from a global scale down to less than a meter in many urban areas. To display USGS stream gages, download one of the files on this site and open it in Google Earth. [http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/kml.html]

- The Pompeii Worm, this page from Microbial Life Education Resources highlights a fascinating example of marine symbiosis. There is explanatory information about the worm (Alvinella pompejana) and its bacterial companions and the extreme environment of the hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor where they live. [http://serc.carleton.edu/microbelife/topics/marinesymbiosis/pompeii.html]

- MILAGRO—this is an exciting event taking place in Mexico City during March 2006. Scientists from around the world will be joining forces with Mexican colleagues to study pollution originating in Mexico City. [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/milagro/milagro_intro.html]

More to come in the next edition!

Upcoming Events


- **Thursday, March 23rd**, ENVS Seminar presents John Mullaney, USGS. ‘The Effects of Road Salt on Ground Water and Surface Water in the Glaciated Northern US’. 6:00pm, Beach Hall 233.

- **Thursday March 23rd**, Geography Seminar. Dr. B.L. Turner, Clark University. Title TBA. 11am CLAS 247.

- **Friday, March 24th**, Engineering Seminar. Dr. Charlie Harvey, MIT. ‘Factors Controlling the Net Methylation of Mercury in Aquatic Systems’. CAST 212, 12 noon.

- **Tuesday, March 28th**, Geoscience Seminar Series Presents Olivier Braissant, Post Doc with Geosciences. Title TBA. Refreshments served! 3:30pm Beach Hall 233.


- **Thursday, March 30th**, ENVS Movie Series presents ‘Forces of Nature’. National Geographic film. 6:30pm in Beach Hall 233.

- **Friday March 31st**, Ph.D. Dissertation Defense of Geology candidate Mark Busa. Title: ‘The External Morphology and Internal Fabric of Staurolite from the Bolton Syncline, Eastern Connecticut: Implications for the Interpretation of Inclusion Trails in Porphyroblasts’. 10:00am in Beach Hall 233 (Reading Room)

- **Friday March 31st**, Physics Colloquium presents Robert Lieberman (SUNY Stony Brook), ‘Sound Velocities in Minerals Under Mantle Conditions’. P38, 4:00pm.

- **Tuesday, April 4th**, Geoscience Seminar Series Speaker:: Vernon Cormier, Geosciences. Refreshments served! 3:30pm Beach Hall 233.


- **Tuesday, April 11th**, Geoscience Seminar Series Presents: David Skelly, Yale School of Forestry. Title: TBA. Refreshments served! 3:30pm Beach Hall 233.

Earth Science Picture of the Day

EPOD from 3/6/2006—San Andreas Offset: Just northwest of San Juan Bautista, California, the San Andreas Fault runs across the driveway of a local ranch. The slow shifting of the fault has offset one stretch of the fence relative to the other. The far side (looking southwest in the picture) is moving northwest (right) relative to the near side. This section of the fault is famous for its many fault features. A prominent scarp of the San Andreas Fault runs through San Juan Bautista, and the historic Mission San Juan Bautista sits squarely on it. A few miles northwest of town is Anzar Lake, a sag pond formed by a slight left-hand bend in the fault. Immediately north of the lake is a granite quarry that’s excavating Salinian Granite, rock that has been carried hundreds of miles northwest from southern California by the fault.

Photo by David Lynch
Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI), located in Washington, D.C., is seeking qualified U.S. applicants for a one-year internship beginning in summer 2006. JOI is a consortium of 20 premier oceanographic research institutions that serves the U.S. scientific community by leading large-scale, global research programs in scientific ocean drilling and ocean observing. For more than 25 years, JOI has helped facilitate discovery and advance global understanding of the Earth and its oceans through excellence in program management. For more information about JOI and the science programs JOI manages, see www.joiscience.org.

Responsibilities
During the year in Washington, the intern will gain insight into exciting international science programs and management procedures that make them successful by:

- Providing general office support as needed
- Supporting JOI staff in program management activities, particularly those involving the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program and the Ocean Research Interactive Observatory Networks program (ORION)
- Participating in JOI education and communication activities, such as staffing public information booths and assisting in the development of brochures, newsletters and classroom activities

The intern must be available to travel to scientific meetings and will have the opportunity to participate in a research cruise.

Eligibility
The successful candidate will be a recent college graduate interested in the intersection of science, management, education and outreach. Candidates must have the ability and interests to handle multiple tasks in a fast-paced office environment. Demonstrated communication skills—both written and verbal—are required; strong people skills and a positive attitude are necessary.

Interested candidates should prepare an application package consisting of a cover letter, resume, the names of three references, and a short writing sample from academic work (limited to 2 pages) and submit electronically to Susan Boa (sboa@joiscience.org).

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2006

Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., 1201 New York Ave NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005
Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms

The second edition, containing 28,500 terms, incorporates the technological developments and environmental regulations that have changed the minerals industry so dramatically. It is the culmination of a 5-year effort incorporating not only standard mining-related terms but also terms in peripheral areas, such as the environment, marine mining, leaching, pollution, automation, health and safety. Many of these terms now have a legal definition based on law or regulation.

Special offer for students! $24.95 discount price -- offer valid through December 31, 2006. (Normal price is $49.95!)

To order: See Abi in main office for order sheet, or go online to http://www.agiweb.org/pubs

Scholarships and Grant Opportunities

**Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts Foundation Grants** for graduate research. For grad’s pursuing a degree program related to oil, gas, or other mineral formation evaluation. Grants available for grads as well as faculty members to support research and educational projects related to formation evaluation, and are awarded on a competitive basis.

*April 1 is deadline for 2006-2007 school year! http://www.spwla.org or spwla@spwla.org for more details!

**Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts Foundation Scholarships** to eligible and qualified recipients pursuing an undergraduate degree in geosciences. Should be focused on oil, gas, or other mineral formation evaluation. Academic achievement, career objectives, and financial need are all taken into account for these awards. Awards are $1000+ each!

*April 1 is deadline for 2006-2007 school year! http://www.spwla.org or spwla@spwla.org for more details!

**Quantitative Environmental Analysis, LLC Scholarship:** QEA is a national environmental engineering and science consulting firm. In an effort to foster the education of future professionals, QEA has founded a scholarship fund to financially assist graduate students in obtaining their graduate level degree. $500-$2000 awards to help with supplies and/or tuition is awarded. Interested students can apply by going on line: http://www.qeallc.com Applications are due by June 1, 2006.

A basalt flow that stopped at the foot of Arizona’s Sunset Crater.

Read about Hazards, Policy, and Trends in the Earth Sciences!
Test your geology knowledge with ‘Where on Earth’!

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Special student pricing! Go to website: http://www.geotimes.org and click on ‘special offers’ Enter promo code: GEOPOSTER.
Jobs for New Grads

Post your resume at:

http://www.geosearch.com

They also have a special job search program just for new college graduates!

GeoSearch, Inc.
PO Box 60789
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
719-575-9100
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!

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) was established on March 3, 1879, just a few hours before the mandatory close of the final session of the 45th Congress, when President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the bill appropriating money for sundry civil expenses of the Federal Government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1879. The sundry civil expenses bill included a brief section establishing a new agency, the United States Geological Survey, placing it in the Department of the Interior, and charging it with a unique combination of responsibilities: “classification of the public lands, and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain.” The legislation stemmed from a report of the National Academy of Sciences, which in June 1878 had been asked by Congress to provide a plan for surveying the Territories of the United States that would secure the best possible results at the least possible cost. Its roots, however, went far back into the Nation’s history.

The first duty enjoined upon the Geological Survey by the Congress, the classification of the public lands, originated in the Land Ordinance of 1785. The original public lands were the lands west of the Allegheny Mountains claimed by some of the colonies, which became a source of contention in writing the Articles of Confederation until 1781 when the States agreed to cede their western lands to Congress. The extent of the public lands was enormously increased by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and later territorial acquisitions. Clarence King was the USGS’s first director from 1879—1881.

Now many years into its second century, the Geological Survey continues to fulfill its original mission of classification of the public lands and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain. It continues to conduct research both on the cutting edge of science and with reference to economic and other issues of national concern, to develop and apply innovative means of solving problems in resource management. It looks forward to a continuing challenge to advance the earth sciences in the service of the public. The USGS is one of only a very few Federal agencies to survive for over 100 years with its original name and mission unchanged during that time.