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**** SUBMIT YOUR FALL AGU NEAR SURFACE GEOPHYSICS (NS) SESSION PROPOSAL**** The June 13 deadline for proposing special sessions at the 2007 Fall Meeting (December 10-14, San Francisco) is fast approaching. Please consider proposing a Near Surface (NS) session. A strong set of sessions will help us build on our momentum from recent meetings, and establish NS as a significant presence at the Fall Meeting! It is also the perfect meeting to organize co-sponsored sessions with other disciplines that are so well-attended at Fall AGU: Tectonophysics, Seismology, Volcanology, Mineral & Rock Physics, Biogeosciences, Cryosphere, Geodesy, Geomag & Paleomag, Education, Hydrology, etc. Submitting a session proposal is easy – just requiring a short abstract and the contact details of a minimum of two conveners. The web site is <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm07/program.html>. Many thanks from the Near Surface Executive Committee.

REPORT ON NS AT SPRING AGU – ACAPULCO

NS convened eight special sessions at Spring AGU in Acapulco spread over three days, with a total of ~80 papers presented. There was significant participation by members of the Central American geophysical community and a notable turnout from our European colleagues. The sessions were generally very well attended, particularly the poster sessions.

Twenty-two NS papers were delivered by student first authors. The NS sessions interfaced smoothly with the Hydrology Section sessions on Hydrogeophysics organized by the Hydrogeophysics Committee. The town of Acapulco provided an interesting environment for socializing and catching up with NS colleagues.

Lee Slater, Vice-Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR AGU FELLOWS

Think you know someone in the NS Community deserving of nomination as an AGU Fellow? "To be elected a Fellow of AGU is a special tribute for those who have made exceptional scientific contributions". The deadline for nominations is July 15 and full details of the procedure are at <http://www.agu.org/inside/fellguides.html>

NOTES FROM THE NS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE 2007 JOINT ASSEMBLY IN ACAPULCO

Present

NS Executive Committee Members: Estella Atekwana, Mark Everett, Rhett Herman, Lee Slater (Vice-Chair) AGU Liaison: Stan Brinkley (Director of Finances) on behalf of Fred Spilhaus Invitees: Bruce Smith (Board Member, Environmental & Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS)), Eliot Atekwana; Esben Auken; Michel Chouteau; Dush Jayawickrene; Mijka Looms; Louise Pellerin; Guy Senechal

1. Notes from Stan Brinkley (AGU Liaison):

As of 05/25/07 the AGU Focus Group has 1,601 members. Stan commented that this is an encouraging growth rate in 17 months of existence. We need to start encouraging members to make a donation to NS at the time of membership renewal in order to build up an NS Focus Group expense account that could be used to sponsor activities of interest to the focus group.

2. Fall AGU Session proposals: AGU call for session proposals is open with a June 13 deadline. A discussion of suitable session topics followed. These included Biogeophysics, Geohazards, Induced Polarization, Inversion, Airborne EM, Magnetic Resonance Sounding, and a session that would link into the current International Polar Year (IPY) and would appeal to the Cryosphere community. It is important to get fresh faces within the community, particularly students, convening sessions. A suggestion was made to target good speakers from Fall 06 AGU as Session Chairs for the Fall 07 AGU.

3. Communication and collaboration with Environmental & Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) Bruce Smith described his position on the board of EEGS which includes developing inter-societal collaborations.

Possible collaborations between EEGS and NS were discussed. It was proposed that Bruce talk with Brenda Weaver (AGU Director of Meetings) about previous AGU-EEGS collaborations and new opportunities given the formation of the NS focus group. The use of the NS newsletters and webpage for announcing EEGS activities (such as the annual SAGEEP meeting) was discussed. There was some discussion about the broad geophysical community regarding who attends which meetings and why.

4. Updates on the NS webpage. Rhett Herman introduced the new NS webpage that is now operational and ready for use as a mode of contact with the NS community. The webpage is accessed from the AGU website under the link 'Inside AGU'. Suggested uses of the webpage included:

announcement on meetings of interest to the NS community, announcement on academic job opportunities in NS, providing a concise site for linking to available freeware/open access codes within the community.

5. Changing of the guard at NS. Slater explained that the current NS Leadership terms expire June 30, 2008. The opportunity to replace existing members of the NS Executive Committee was discussed. A need for student representation on the Executive Committee was noted.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral/Senior Researcher Position

The Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group at ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) has an immediate opening for a gifted young geophysicist at the post-doctoral or senior researcher level. The appointment will be for an initial period of two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two-year period. Preference will be given to applicants with

expertise and interest in reflection seismology. The successful candidate will be expected to: (i) initiate and conduct his/her own research projects, (ii) co-supervise undergraduate- and graduate-level thesis projects, and (iii) contribute to the teaching of applied, engineering and environmental geophysics courses. Furthermore, he/she will participate in the teaching of a recently launched joint MSc degree in Applied Geophysics with colleagues at the Technical University of Delft (TUD) and the Aachen University of Technology (RWTH). Good knowledge of English is essential and it would be an advantage, although not essential, to have a working understanding of German. At the time of appointment, the successful candidate must have a doctoral degree in geophysics or a related subject.

To apply please post or email your resume together with the names, telephone numbers and e mail addresses of two referees to Professor Alan G. Green, Institute of Geophysics, ETH-Zürich, CH-8093, Zürich, Switzerland, green@aug.ig.erdw.ethz.ch. Deadline for receipt of applications is July 31, 2007.

MEETING/SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please consider submitting an abstract to GSA Annual Meeting Topical Session T42: "Remote Sensing and Geophysical Approaches for Regional Aquifer Characterization and Monitoring." This year's GSA meeting will be held in Denver, from October 28-31. The deadline for abstract submission is July 10. We expect this session will bring together scientists from the NS geophysics, hydrology, and remote-sensing communities.

T42 Session description:

Applications of remote sensing and geophysical technologies for regional groundwater hydrology have escalated in recent years because of improved accuracies of sensor data and greatly increased computer processing speeds. Remote sensing and geophysical approaches both provides spatial and temporal information to measure important hydrologic parameters such as water-level changes, soil-moisture content, surface deformations and temperatures, groundwater recharge and discharge zones, evapotranspiration, aquifer thickness, soil type, and lithology. Remotely sensed data typically fall into three categories: radiometric, gravitational, and magnetic; each has important and powerful applications for regional groundwater investigations. Radiometric techniques include LIDAR, GPS, InSAR and PSInSAR (permanent scatterer InSAR) and are used to measure deformations occurring at the earth's surface at a high level of spatial detail and high degree of measurement resolution. The data provided by these methods can yield areal variations in aquifer-system compaction or subsidence and rebound at regional scales. Monitored stress-strain response can yield valuable information about aquifer properties including recoverable and nonrecoverable specific storage and hydraulic diffusivity. Basin-wide InSAR or LIDAR data can reveal zones of differential subsidence that provide valuable insight on the nature of aquifer-system due to these imposed stresses such as hydraulic or mechanical boundaries or barriers.

These data have revealed the role of faults and other structural or lithologic changes in the aquifer system. GPS has been used in conjunction with aquifer tests to monitor vertical and horizontal deformations that have provided detailed understanding of aquifer characteristics including hydraulic anisotropy, specific storage, compressibility, and hydraulic conductivity.

Geophysical approaches useful for regional-scale hydrologic investigations involve a variety of airborne, land-based, and water-borne systems. Airborne measurements, conducted from fixed-wing or helicopter platforms, include time-domain electromagnetic (TEM) sounding, electromagnetic (EM) surveys, and aeromagnetic surveys. Land-based approaches include audio magneto tellurics (AMT), controlled-source audio magneto tellurics (CSAMT), and magneto tellurics (MT); these approaches are useful for imaging subsurface electrical conductivity structure to depths of several kilometers. Electromagnetic and MT/AMT/CSAMT methods have been used to map aquifer materials and saltwater intrusion. Seismic reflection and gravity measurements also can provide information about aquifer structure; moreover, time-lapse gravity has been used to infer aquifer recharge/discharge. This topical session is aimed at attracting researchers who are using remote sensing and geophysical techniques in novel and innovative ways at the regional scale to better understand, characterize, and monitor aquifer systems. We are especially interested in highlighting (1) advances in instrumentation; (2) regional-scale applications, especially InSAR, PsInSAR, LIDAR, airborne EM, and CSAMT/AMT; and (3) integration of remote sensing and geophysical data.

Convenors: Fred Day-Lewis, USGS (daylewis@usgs.gov), Thomas Burbey (U. of Vermont)

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Lee Slater
Associate Professor
Earth & Environmental Sciences
Rutgers-Newark
101 Warren St.
Newark
NJ 07102

Tel: 973-353-5109
Fax: 973-353-1965