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Recent announcements of interest to the NS community (conferences, academic positions, graduate student opportunities etc.) can be found at the AGU NS-Focus Group Web Page: <http://nsg.agu.org>

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1. Change in Leadership of the Near-Surface Geophysics Focus Group.

Rosemary Knight, Past-Chair

It's time for a change! Our focus group was formed in December 2005, and since then I have been the Chair of the focus group, working with Vice-Chair Lee Slater and Secretary Sarah Kruse. As of July 2008, the new Executive is: Chair Lee Slater, Vice-Chair Louise Pellerin, Secretary and Newsletter Editor George Tsoflias. And Rhett Herman is continuing as our NS webmaster. Many thanks to these four.

On the NS website, there is a new section called Annual Reports. You can find there our first annual report that describes some of the history of our formation and summarizes activities over the past 2+ years. We have grown to a total membership of 2210, with 538 of those selecting NS as their primary affiliation. We are now an established part of the AGU Fall Meeting and the Spring Joint Assembly with representatives on the program committee (thanks Sarah Kruse and Chet Weiss) and a great set of sessions, talks, posters - and social events - at every meeting. As we move forward into the next two years, it's important to always remember why we were formed, so I will finish off with a section taken from a document written back when we were trying to define who we were:

NS was created to provide a home for those people who describe themselves as near-surface geophysicists: studying and advancing the use of geophysics for near-surface applications. The formation of NS thus addresses two needs: 1) fosters communication within the NS geophysics community, the primary goal being to advance the science of NS geophysics as an end in itself; 2) promotes the awareness of NS in other fields and advances the use of NS where the primary science goals/questions are in other areas of science. Near-surface applications addressed by NS researchers include, but are not limited to, studies in archaeology, biogeochemistry, coastal processes and climate change, ecology, hydrology, tectonics, volcanology. A full description of the focus group is given in the following article in EOS: Slater, L., Knight, R., Singha, K., Binley, A., and Atekwana, E., Near-Surface Geophysics: A New Focus Group, Eos Trans. AGU, 87(25), 249, 2006

Thanks to all NS members for your enthusiasm and support for our focus group and our science; and best of luck to the new executive. See you all at AGU! – Rosemary

2. Message from Elliot Grunewald, NS Student Representative

Hello NS student members!

I was recently appointed to serve as 'Student Representative' to the AGU NS Focus Group for the next two years. As mentioned in the August newsletter, this is a new appointment which will help the group better serve the needs and interests of its student members. I wanted to briefly introduce myself and let you know what I will be up to as Student Rep this term.

I am currently finishing my third year as a PhD student in the Geophysics Department at Stanford University. My research focuses on using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance techniques to estimate hydrogeologic properties of aquifer materials, but I have a more general interest in using geophysics to address groundwater problems. I have really enjoyed getting to meet other scientists in the NS community at past AGU meetings and workshops and am looking forward to becoming better acquainted with the group over the coming years.

As Student Rep, I will be acting as a liaison between student members and the group's executive committee. We will work together to ensure that members are informed of upcoming opportunities relevant to students and current student activities. I also hope to improve communication among students by organizing more social events at annual meetings and boosting student membership. Above all, I hope to provide an effective and convenient way for student members to have their opinions heard by the rest of the NS group. The best way to be successful in this respect is to solicit and receive feedback from student members, so expect to hear from me periodically over the next couple years. And please, feel free to email me (elliottg@stanford.edu) anytime with suggestions, concerns or questions regarding the NS group.

I look forward to working with you. Elliot

3. AGU Chapman Conference on Biogeophysics. September 08 registration deadline

The AGU Chapman Conference on Biogeophysics, October 13-16, promises to be a unique, workshop-environment meeting of microbiologists and geophysicists to discuss opportunities within this emerging interdisciplinary field. The meeting will include over ~50 presentations, including plenary talks by three highly distinguished biogeochemists, and evening poster sessions spread over 3.5 days. Full details of the plenary talks and invited speakers for the four topical oral sessions can be found at the website <http://www.agu.org/meetings/chapman/2008/fcall/>. With ~60 presenting attendees interfacing microbiology, biogeochemistry and near surface geophysics, we anticipate lively workshop-environment discussion on the following topics: (1) What are the direct geophysical signatures of microbial cells and biofilms? (2) How do microbe-mineral transformations generate geophysical signatures as a result of changes to the physicochemical properties of the grain-fluid interface? (3) What geophysical signatures are associated with the generation of microbial-driven redox chemistry? (4) How can Biogeophysics be used to improve understanding of biogeochemical processes in natural and anthropogenic environments? (5) Could Biogeophysics ultimately contribute to exploration of microbial activity in extreme environments such as the deep ocean?

Register at the conference webpage

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/chapman/2008/fcall/>)

4. 2008 Fall AGU Meeting, 15-19 December, San Francisco, CA

Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 September 2359 UT

(<http://submissions3.agu.org/submission/entrance.asp>)

Housing and Pre-registration Deadline: 14 November 2008 For complete information see www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/

4.1 Near Surface Sessions

NS01 Near Surface Geophysics: General Contributions

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=14>)

NS02 Geoscientific Data for the Revitalization of Afghanistan

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=121>)

NS03 Geophysical Characterization of Flow in Dual Porosity Media: From fractures to karst and glaciers

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=370>)

NS04 Stratigraphic Applications of Near Surface Geophysics

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=479>)

NS05 Application of Joint Inverse Methods for Improved Characterization and Assessment of Ground-Water, Mineral, and Petroleum Resources

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=581>)

NS06 Monitoring Techniques and Interpretation Methods for Coupled Thermo-Hydro-Mechanical Processes in the Earth Crust

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=416>)

4.2 Hydrogeophysics Sessions

H15: Recent Innovations in Environmental Sensing, Cyberinfrastructure and Observatories

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=446>)

H19 Hydrogeophysics: Methods, Models, and Applications

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=36>)

H28 Joint Inversion Methods in Hydrogeophysics

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=104>)

H30 Innovative Methods for Integrating Hydrological, Geophysical, and Biochemical Methods for Subsurface Characterization and Remediation

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=132>)

4.3 NS co-sponsored sessions

IN08 Provenance Management for Large Scale Scientific Datasets

IN23 Uncertainty in Geophysical Data Interpretation: Implications and Developments P10 The Dynamic Lunar Environment

PA02: Increasing Societal Impact of Geophysics

S05 Advances in the Theory, Modeling, and Observation of Anelastic Seismic Wave Propagation - Recent Anelastic Models of the Earth

S16 Crust and Upper Mantle Structural Models Beneath the Central US

S19 Active-Source Seismic Imaging - Characterizing the Subsurface

4.4 Public Affairs session: PA02: Increasing Societal Impact of Geophysics

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/index.php/Program/SessionSearch/?show=detail&sessid=91>)

Conveners: Roel Snieder, Colorado School of Mines; Louise Pellerin, Green Engineering Inc.

Geophysics is a field that benefits society in numerous ways that include the exploration and production of resources, the prediction and mitigation of natural hazards, the characterization of hydrological systems, and a better quantitative understanding of the way in which our environment works. In this session we present various initiatives that aim at increasing the societal impact of geophysics. There are an impressive number of initiatives within the geoscience community that have the goal to use geophysics for solving environmental, geotechnical and hydrological problems, or that help manage natural hazards and resources in impoverished regions. By presenting such initiatives we hope to engage more geophysicists in humanitarian activities."

Session

PA02 will bring together a group of dedicated, interesting people. We hope that you will join this group, and encourage you to submit an abstract to this session.

Note that normally one can submit only one abstracts as first author to the AGU meeting, but one may submit an additional abstract as first author to a Public Affairs session or Education session.

5. Seeking your suggestions for NS activities at the 2009 Spring Joint Assembly

The NS Executive Committee is seeking proposals/suggestions for new ways to use the Spring AGU Joint Assembly meetings to promote activities in Near Surface Geophysics. These meetings are considerably smaller than the Fall Meeting and provide opportunities for novel activities that are not possible at the AGU Fall Meeting due to space/time constraints. For example, at the 2008 Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, one session convened by Mark Grasmueck and Remke Van Dam was run as a mini-workshop demonstrating new geophysical tools and software on the grounds outside of the convention center

(http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja08/ja08-sessions/ja08_NS34A.html). Mark Grasmueck and his team had their 3D GPR unit imaging the sidewalk, Fred Day-Lewis and Roy Henderson had fiber optic distributed temperature sensors in the fountain outside the conference center, and Remke Van Dam showed us how to fabricate inexpensive multi-electrode resistivity cables. It was a very interesting and informative two hours that received very positive feedback from NS attendees of the meeting. Anyone who has been to the Fall Meeting knows that such activities are simply not possible.

The NS Exec Committee is therefore keen to solicit other innovative ideas for how to make use of the Spring Meetings. One possibility is to have thematic meetings, focusing on a particular technology, application or specific area of NS research, that would attract a subgroup of our membership to come together in more of a workshop/working group environment. We would welcome suggestions for hot topics in NS that could be promoted via this avenue. Discussions at the 2008 Joint Assembly at Fort Lauderdale (led by former Chair Rosemary Knight) resulted in suggestions to use the Joint Assemblies to focus on geophysics basics e.g. inversion methods, rock physics relationships, in a workshop environment with a flavor akin to a Chapman Conference meeting. Other suggestions for how to optimize the Joint Assembly meetings are equally welcome. Given that the 2009 Joint Assembly will return to Canada (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja09/>) we are very interested in ideas that would reach out to our Canadian colleagues.

Please direct suggestions to Chester Weiss (cjweiss@vt.edu) and Rosemary Knight (rknight@stanford.edu).

6 SAGGEP 2009 conference. Abstract submission deadline September 19, 2008

SAGEEP 2009 will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, March 29-April 2.

Abstracts not to exceed 200 words are due September 19, 2008 and may be submitted electronically at www.eegs.org. Abstracts that focus on recent developments in near-surface geophysical methods, innovative uses of geophysics for challenging engineering and environmental problems, and case histories are welcome.

Upon acceptance of the abstract, expanded proceedings papers (recommended length about four pages) will be due December 12, 2008.

7. SEG Near-Surface Seismology Short Course in November 2008

Gregory S. Baker, Instructor (gbaker@tennessee.edu)

Who: Open to anyone interested in learning more about near-surface seismic techniques

What: Practical aspects (acquisition, processing, interpretation) of near-surface seismic reflection, refraction, and surface wave methods

Where: Pre-meeting course for SEG 78th Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, Mandalay Bay Convention Center (meeting registration not required)

When*: *11/08/2008 and 11/09/2008

Event Contact: cmartin@seg.org

How: Early registration is encouraged. Register by 15 September to avoid the US\$35 late fee. No registrations will be accepted after 22 October For More Information: Contact the instructor or go to www.seg.org and look under "Education"

8. Positions:

8.1 Staff Geophysicist, University of Lausanne

The Institute of Geophysics of the Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment at the University of Lausanne is looking for A Geophysicist or Engineer in Applied Geophysics Research and teaching activities at the Institute of Geophysics focus on near-surface applications through measurements and analysis of physical properties. Application areas include hydrology, civil engineering, and quaternary geology. The Institute of Geophysics has a large instrument pool and its effective use necessitates a thorough knowledge of instrument design and geophysical methods in general.

Position responsibilities: assure the functioning of all geophysical instruments as well as the timely repair of faulty pieces; provide assistance and sometimes take responsibility during geophysical field courses and field campaigns; order and delivery of new instruments; participate in the organization and realization of geophysical field campaigns for scientific purposes in Switzerland and abroad; actively contribute to and participate in scientific research projects.

Qualifications: geophysicist or engineer with a specialization in applied geophysics or equivalent formation; PhD degree is a distinct advantage; good knowledge of and experience in geophysical field work using different types of geophysical measurements, such as seismics, gravity, resistivity, borehole logging, etc; ability to transfer your knowledge to others; motivation to perform field work; interest in scientific research; the working languages are French and English, and it is expected that you can speak and write well in both languages shortly after the appointment; ability to take initiatives; valid driving licence.

The position is a fixed appointment at 100% with a classification of Géologue B ou C based on the classification of the Canton of Vaud. The salary will depend on educational background and experience.

Starting date: immediate or upon agreement

The application should include: CV, university diplomas, work certificates and letter of motivation directed to Université de Lausanne, Service RH, Château de Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne (Switzerland), or by e-mail to contact-rh-sciencesexactes@unil.ch; the job reference is 1155.

Questions can be directed to Prof. François Marillier, Phone: +41 21 692 44 02, Francois.Marillier@unil.ch

8.2 Research Hydrogeophysicist (NMR), Vista Clara Inc.

Vista Clara is seeking a highly motivated, research-oriented individual to develop and commercialize advanced applications of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) for groundwater and environmental investigations. This position provides an exciting mix of laboratory R&D, field operations and business development, including opportunities to: perform innovative applied research under existing federally-funded grants; lead on-site scientific and commercial groundwater investigations; and participate in the growth of a dynamic and focused environmental technology firm.

Qualifications: Ph.D. (preferred) or M.S. in Geophysics, Hydrogeology, Hydrology or related field. Previous research or applied experience in NMR geophysics. Proficient with Matlab. Outstanding verbal and written communications skills. Demonstrated ability to write successful proposals for research funding and/or commercial geophysical/groundwater investigations.

This is a full-time position. Extensive, interstate and international travel is required. This position requires the physical ability to perform strenuous field work associated with geophysical surveys (includes lifting greater than 50 lbs), and the ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions.

Please mail, fax or email a resume and a brief letter stating your interest in this position to: Vista Clara Inc., 2615 W Casino Road, Suite 4-JK Everett, WA 98204. Fax: (707) 982-1799 Email: davewalsh@vista-clara.com <<mailto:davewalsh@vista-clara.com>>

8.3 PhD studentship in Hydrogeophysics Université catholique de Louvain

The Department of Environmental Sciences and Land Use Planning of the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium) has openings for two PhD students in the field of Applied Hydrogeophysics and Ground Penetrating Radar, in the frame of the EU FP7 research project DIGISOIL ("Integrated system of data collection technologies for mapping soil properties", involving 10 European partners).

The PhD students will contribute to the development and application of advanced ground penetrating radar (GPR) and electromagnetic induction (EMI) techniques for high-resolution, three-dimensional imaging of the soil hydrogeophysical properties at the field scale (digital soil mapping). The appointment will be for a period of three years. The candidate should have a MSc Degree in Civil or Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Applied Geophysics, Physics, or related disciplines including Soil Sciences and Hydrology. Good knowledge of Electromagnetics is welcome.

To apply please email your CV together with the names of two referees to Professor Sébastien Lambot (sebastien.lambot@uclouvain.be). Deadline for receipt of applications is September 15, 2008.

To contribute material to the NS-letter e-mail to:

George Tsoflias tsoflias@ku.edu

DEADLINE: Material must be received 2 full business days prior to the first of each month.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the NS community. Please keep messages brief and provide contact information and (if available) a hyperlink for additional information. AGU requests formatting of e-mail messages to be as simple as possible (no bold

characters (use ALL CAPS instead), no color font, or other special formatting of text and paragraphs). Do not submit e-mail attachments for distribution.