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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: www.agu.org/focus_group/nsg/

AGU NS Membership as of June 2009: Primary affiliation 635 members; Secondary 2107 members

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1. 2009 Fall AGU Meeting, December 14-18 in San Francisco, California, USA

Housing and discounted online registration deadline 12 November 2009. Online meeting registration by 25 November 2009. For complete information see [\(http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/\)](http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/)

- 1.1 Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group Luncheon, 12:30 on Tuesday December 15

The NS luncheon at the Fall AGU meeting will be held from 12:30-13:30 on Tuesday December 15 at the Intercontinental Hotel (Union Square Room). This event is the opportunity to learn about NS activities, engage with the NS leadership and provide feedback on how the focus group can further support the needs of the NS community. The NS Chair, Lee Slater, will summarize the membership and focus group activities over the last year, along with plans for the next year. Other focus group officers will report on specific issues relating to their appointment duties. Elliot Grunewald, NS student representative, will speak about student related issues to what is expected to be a strong student turnout (resulting from generous sponsorship detailed below). Lee Slater and Estella Atekwana will report on their meeting with National Science Foundation (NSF) program managers to discuss funding opportunities for the near surface geophysics community within the NSF programs.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Student members of NS: Please see the announcement below for free lunch tickets.

All others: This is a ticketed event (\$35) and we strongly encourage you to purchase lunch tickets in advance when you register online for the meeting [\(http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/\)](http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/). AGU will have a small number of tickets available for purchase on-site for a limited, first-come-first-served basis.

- 1.2 Joint Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group/Hydrogeophysics Social Event, 6:30 pm on Wednesday December 16

Continuing a well-established tradition, NS will couple with the Hydrogeophysics Committee of the Hydrology Section to hold a joint NS/Hydrogeophysics social event at The Hotel Utah (500 4th Street at Bryant - 4 blocks south along 4th Street from the conference center, <http://www.thehotelutahsaloon.com/contact.html#map>). This social event will begin at 6:30 pm on Wednesday December 16. This is a great opportunity to mingle with fellow near surface and hydrogeophysics colleagues in an informal setting.

1.3 Fall AGU news for students (from Elliot Grunewald, NS student representative)

1.3.1 NS Focus Group Fall Meeting Lunch FREE tickets for students

Following the initial announcement to student members, a few tickets are still available -- Reserve now!

A total of 30 FREE tickets were made available to students for the Fall AGU Meeting NS Focus Group Luncheon thanks to the generosity of our new sponsors. We are keen to let you know about all the exciting events/activities occurring within the NS Focus Group - you will hear how to enhance your involvement with the focus group and benefit from its activities. More importantly we want to hear from the future of our growing community about how the NS focus group may better serve your interests. The luncheon is a great opportunity to engage with the NS leadership and its members, including other students.

Geometrics (<http://www.geometrics.com/>), Green Engineering (<http://www.greeninc.us/>), Iris Instruments (<http://www.iris-instruments.com/>), Sensors & Software (<http://www.sensoft.ca/>) and Zonge Engineering & Research Organization (<http://www.zonge.com/>) are generously supporting students to attend this luncheon at no cost.

The NS luncheon will be held on Tuesday December 15th at 12:30. Tickets will be available on a first come-first served basis to NS Focus Group students in good standing, with priority given to those students who have NS as their primary affiliation. To secure a ticket, e-mail Elliot Grunewald (elliotg@stanford.edu) prior to November 6.

Official confirmation will be sent out on November 10. Check the NS Student Wiki for up-to-date information on ticket availability.

1.3.2 NS Student Evening Social Event -- Thursday 12/17

Come join your fellow NS students for a casual evening out on Thursday 12/17. A location is still in the works, but all the bar/restaurants being considered are just a short walk from Moscone and will serve food in addition to drinks. This is a great opportunity to meet other students and to get a sense of the incredibly eclectic membership within the NS Focus Group. Further details will be posted soon on the NS Student Wiki and will be announced in the December Newsletter. Stay tuned!

1.3.3 New Idea: Impromptu Lunch Outings

This year at AGU, we would like to try out a simple idea to encourage casual interactions between students in NS -- impromptu lunch outings. We will arrange a meeting spot in one of the Moscone buildings where students can gather any day of the week after the morning sessions end. Students interested in meeting new people, or catching up with old friends in the NS community can join up as a group and head out to lunch together. Some days, maybe most days, you won't have time or will have other things planned, but hopefully we can end up with a small group every day that can enjoy a quick bite together. Stay tuned to the NS Student Wiki and December newsletter for more information about a specific time and meeting point, as well as a list of a few cheap lunch spots near Moscone.

1.4 Fall AGU Near-Surface Sessions [MS = Moscone South; MW = Moscone West]

NS13A: Urban Geophysics I, Posters, MS, Mon, Dec 14 - 1:40 PM

NS22A: Urban Geophysics II, Oral, MW 3005, Tue, Dec 15 - 10:20 AM

NS23A: Near-Surface Geophysics General Contributions I, Posters, MS, Tue, Dec 15 - 1:40 PM

NS31A: Advanced Inverse Strategies for Improved Characterization and Assessment of Groundwater, Mineral, and Petroleum Resources I, Posters, MS, Wed, Dec 16 - 8:00 AM

NS31B: Back to Basics: Measurement of Electrical Properties of Rocks and Sediments I, Posters, MS, Wed, Dec 16 - 8:00 AM

NS33A: Near-Surface Geophysics General Contributions II, Oral, MW 2016, Wed, Dec 16 - 1:40 PM

NS41A: Advanced Inverse Strategies for Improved Characterization and Assessment of Groundwater, Mineral, and Petroleum Resources II, Oral, MW 2016, Thu, Dec 17 - 8:00 AM

NS42A: Back to Basics: Measurement of Electrical Properties of Rocks and Sediments II, Oral, MW 2016, Thu, Dec 17 - 10:20 AM

NS44A: Near-Surface Geophysics General Contributions III, Oral, MW 2002, Thu, Dec 17 - 4:00 PM

1.5 Hydrogeophysics Sessions [MS = Moscone South; MW = Moscone West]

H33A: Characterization of Soil Moisture Dynamics and Plant/Soil Water Interactions I Posters, Wed, Dec 16 - 1:40 PM

H41H: Characterization of Soil Moisture Dynamics and Plant/Soil Water Interactions II, Oral, MW 3007, Thu, Dec 17 - 8:00 AM

H42A: Characterization of Soil Moisture Dynamics and Plant/Soil Water Interactions III, Oral, MW 3007, Thu, Dec 17 - 10:20 AM

H43C: Innovative Field and Theoretical Methods for Hydrogeophysical Characterization of Aquifers I, Posters, MS, Thu, Dec 17 - 1:40 PM

H51F: Remote Sensing and Hydrogeophysics Applications for Modeling of Land Surface Hydrological Processes I, Posters, MS, Fri, Dec 18 - 8:00 AM

H51K: General Hydrogeophysics I, Oral, MW 3011, Fri, Dec 18 - 8:00 AM

H52B: General Hydrogeophysics II, Oral, MW 3011, Fri, Dec 18 - 10:20 AM

H53B: General Hydrogeophysics III, Posters, MS, Fri, Dec 18 - 1:40 PM

H53J: Innovative Field and Theoretical Methods for Hydrogeophysical Characterization of Aquifers II, Oral, MW 2003, Fri, Dec 18 - 1:40 PM

H53L: Remote Sensing and Hydrogeophysics Applications for Modeling of Land Surface Hydrological Processes II, Oral, MW 3009, Fri, Dec 18 - 1:40 PM

H54D: Remote Sensing and Hydrogeophysics Applications for Modeling of Land Surface Hydrological Processes III, Oral, MW 3009, Fri, Dec 18 - 4:00 PM

1.6 Fall AGU Town Hall Meeting "Google Earth in Geoscience Education"

NS is pleased to cosponsor the AGU Town Hall Meeting "Google Earth in Geoscience Education: A Meeting of Programmers, Publishers, and Professors" to be held in Moscone West Room 2003 on Monday 14 December, 1945h-2045h. This town hall meeting about Google Earth in geoscience education will bring together professors, teaching assistants, Google engineers, program directors, bloggers, publishers, pedagogists, etc, for a virtual round-table discussion on issues relating to the effective use of Google Earth as an instrument for learning and research in the Earth Sciences. Topics include classroom experiences- what works/what doesn't?; the geoscience education APP versus the API; introducing geoscience education into existing labs and texts; KML best practices; dynamic KML; and requests for new features. Questions texted and tweeted to panel members will be posted along with the panel response on a scrolling display with interactive audience polling via flashcards and/or clickers.

2. Call for Session Proposals: 2010 Joint Assembly Meeting of the Americas, 08-13 August, Foz do Iguassu, Brazil (from Juan Lorenzo gllore@lsu.edu, JA 2010 NS Program Representative)

Dear Colleagues:

Please start submitting proposals for sessions at the JA of the Meeting of the Americas, 2010 <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/>. The deadline for submitting sessions is 31 December, 2009 11.59 ET. Now is the time to contact a colleague to organize a session with a north-south counterpoint. Students are encouraged to collaborate and develop sessions.

The Near Surface Focus Group (NSFG) is a new and dynamic division of AGU that investigates the complex nature of near-surface geosystems. The Spring Joint Assembly (JA) has always been an exciting meeting for the NSFG. In 2010 the JA will be the Meeting of the Americas to be held in Foz do Iguassu, 08-13 August 2010, Brazil. Join us in this wonderful opportunity to tap the great diversity of experience of the American continents and develop professional collaboration with neighbors. It is also an excellent opportunity to travel to a beautiful, friendly part of the world and visit the Iguazu National Park and the Iguassu Falls.

Estimados Colegas:

Les hacemos saber que ya se han abierto las inscripciones para las sesiones especiales para la “Reunión de las Américas” (AGU) con fecha límite el 31 de diciembre, 2009. Les rogamos vean <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/> para más información. Por supuesto los jóvenes estudiantes forman parte integral de nuestro grupo profesional y por ello también quedan incluidos dentro de esta invitación.

De nuevo les recordamos que los participantes de nuestra joven y dinámica asociación, “Near Surface Focus Group” (NSFG) perteneciente al “AGU”-- nos dedicamos a la investigación de geosistemas someros, altamente dinámicos y complejos de la Tierra.. Es por ello que estamos convencidos que nuestro grupo abarca uno de los campos de la geociencia con mayor capacidad para contribuir al bienestar de la sociedad en un futuro próximo. Quiero extender a todos la oportunidad de participar el próximo año en la “Reunión de las Américas” que tendrá lugar en Foç do Iguaçú, Brasil, entre los días 8 y 13 de agosto del 2010-- Foç do Iguaçú se encuentra muy cerca de las espectaculares Cataratas del Iguazú, consideradas Patrimonio Natural de la Humanidad. Les pido por favor tomen en cuenta esta gran ocasión que se nos presenta, en la que sin dudas podremos mejorar la colaboración científica entre los americanos, mostrando nuestras contribuciones científicas individuales o en grupo, en esta reunión de renombre internacional.

3. Call for Seismic and GPR abstracts: EGU meeting, Vienna, Austria, May 2 to May 7, 2010

We would like to draw your attention to session SM5.5 "Imaging the shallow subsurface with seismic and GPR methods" at the EGU meeting held in Vienna, Austria from May 2 to May 7, 2010.

Session description: Seismic and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) methods are widely applied in high-resolution geophysical investigations of the shallow subsurface. Technological progress with regard to data acquisition and processing and methodological developments in forward and inverse modeling for interpreting seismic and GPR data continuously improve and offer new possibilities for resolving fine-scale heterogeneities. We invite you to submit both methodological papers and case studies, which demonstrate the applicability of these methods.

Conveners: Lars Nielsen (University of Copenhagen), Klaus Holliger (University of Lausanne) and Hansruedi Maurer (ETH Zurich)

Abstract deadline is January 18. The scientific programme and other practical information can be found on the meeting homepage: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/>

On behalf of the conveners,

Lars Nielsen

4. Call for papers for the Special Issue of Environmental Geosciences Journal: Environmental Geophysics in the Oilfield (from Jeff Paine)

Geophysics has long been a staple in hydrocarbon exploration. Over the last 20 years, geophysics has been increasingly employed in the shallow subsurface to better understand the environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration and production activities over the last century. Many geophysical methods, including seismic reflection, resistivity, electromagnetic induction, microgravity, and magnetics, have helped provide context for subsurface data, noninvasively focus subsequent investigations, and quantify areas and depths of impact. In recognition of the potential value of these investigations, Environmental Geosciences journal is seeking papers on this general topic for a special issue scheduled for publication in 2010. Authors interested in having a previously unpublished manuscript considered for this issue should provide a title and a few sentences describing the content to special issue editors Jeffrey G. Paine (jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu) or Bruce D. Smith (bsmith@usgs.gov) by November 30, 2009. Manuscripts will be due by January 31, 2010.

Environmental Geosciences is a peer-reviewed journal published since 1995 by the Division of Environmental Geosciences of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. James W. Castle is the Editor-in-Chief. Visit <http://deg.aapg.org/journal.cfm> for more information about the journal and instructions for authors.

5. Announcing OPEN EM.org (from Louise Pellerin)

OpenEM is a new community resource for electromagnetic geophysics that will include several continuously evolving resources:

- a repository for community-supported open source software for EM data analysis, forward and inverse modeling and interpretation
- links to data management centers with unrestricted EM data sets and derived data products
- tools for requesting access to shared EM instruments
- a forum for free exchange of technical information
- support for special interest groups (SIGs) within EM geophysics
- collaborative tools to promote multi-institutional experiment planning and execution
- hosted “webinars” on EM geophysics
- academic-industry showcase of EM geophysics products and services
- EM geophysics job postings, studentships, postdoctoral opportunities

Open to everyone, OpenEM is dedicated to free exchange of information, to establishing and promoting open standards for software interoperability, data exchange, and model definition, and to make EM geophysics accessible as widely as possible. The OpenEM virtual institute spans the full range of terrestrial, airborne and marine EM geophysics, including DC resistivity, induced polarization methods, passive and controlled-source EM, transient/time domain EM, magnetotellurics including CSAMT, AMT and RFMT, geomagnetic depth sounding, and related methods.

6. PhD position in Geophysics, ETH Zurich

The Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group of ETH Zurich has an immediate opening for a fully funded PhD project in hydrogeophysics. The primary objectives of the project are to: (i) complete the processing of an exceptionally high quality airborne electromagnetic data set recorded across the entire Okavango Delta in Botswana, (ii) collect a variety of ground-based geophysical data at one or more target locations in the Okavango Delta, (iii) process the ground-based data, and (iv) produce an integrated hydrogeophysical interpretation of all data sets. Specialists at the University Aarhus in Denmark will cosupervise the processing of the airborne electromagnetic data, colleagues at the Geological Survey of Botswana will provide assistance during the field survey, and researchers in the ETH hydrology group will co-supervise the hydrogeological aspects of the research. We are seeking a well-qualified and motivated student with a masters degree in geophysics, physics, geology or hydrology. We are a dynamic international research group working on a wide variety of high-profile topics in applied and computational geophysics. The working languages in our group are English or German.

Interested candidates should send by email their Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of three referees by December 1, 2009 to Professor Alan Green at alan@aug.ig.erdw.ethz.ch. More information on the ETH Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group can be obtained at <http://www.aug.geophys.ethz.ch>

To contribute material to the NS-letter send an 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 web address 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). E-mail attachments cannot be distributed.