

April 2011 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

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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>

AGU NS Membership as of April 2011:

Primary affiliation: 740 members; Secondary: 2591 members

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1. Key deadlines for the 2011 AGU Fall Meeting

The AGU Fall Meeting is the largest worldwide conference in the geophysical sciences, attracting nearly 20,000 Earth and space scientists, educators, students, and policy makers. This meeting showcases current scientific theory focused on discoveries that will benefit humanity and ensure a sustainable future for our planet. The 2011 AGU Fall Meeting is scheduled for 5-9 December • San Francisco, California, USA

1.1. Session Proposals due April 20 (from Chester Weiss)

The deadline for session proposals for the 2011 AGU Fall Meeting is quickly approaching this coming April 20. The Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group is planning on several sessions and is looking for students interested in getting involved with helping convening some of these sessions. Any students interested please email Chester Weiss ([cjweiss@vt.edu](mailto:cjweiss@vt.edu))

1.2. Abstract Submission and Keynote Speakers

Abstract Submission: Opens 8 June, 2011; Closes 4 August, 2011

New for 2011! Suggest a [keynote speaker](#) for the Fall Meeting. Ideal candidates are well-known individuals with a compelling presentation style, and who have a unique perspective about the geophysical sciences.

Visit [www.agu.org/meetings](http://www.agu.org/meetings) for more information about the 2011 Fall Meeting.

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2. News from the AGU NSFG Student Section: We are now on Facebook

Remember, the AGU near surface focus group is now on facebook. Please feel free to post NSFG related activities, conference information/details, and student opportunities when you see them.

Contact Seth Campbell with any questions ([seth.campbell@umit.maine.edu](mailto:seth.campbell@umit.maine.edu))

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3. Soil Science Society of America Meeting, Oct 16-19, San Antonio, Texas: Special Session on Large-

Scale Soil Moisture Monitoring (from Tyson Ochsner)

Abstract submission deadline is April 26, 2011

Division: S01 Soil Physics

Oct. 16-19, 2011, San Antonio, Texas

Title: Advances In Large-Scale Soil Moisture Monitoring: Methods and Applications

Organizers: Tyson Ochsner and Brian Hornbuckle

Description: The science of large-scale soil moisture monitoring is rapidly advancing, and in situ monitoring networks operated by Federal and State agencies are steadily expanding. New satellites and techniques are also becoming available: e.g. European (SMOS) and US (SMAP) satellites, cosmic-ray neutron detection (COSMOS), distributed temperature sensing, and GPS multi-path. This session aims to engage the soil science community in these transformative areas of hydrologic science. Presentations are sought that describe innovative applications of large-scale soil moisture monitoring in hydrology and climatology, that examine accuracy and precision of emerging methods, or that highlight research needs for these large-scale monitoring methods.

More information at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/poster-oral-papers>

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#### 4. USDA/ARS Sponsors Students at SAGEEP 2011 Workshop

SAGEEP organizers announce USDA/ARS Student Sponsorship to attend SAGEEP Agricultural Workshop

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) chief scientific research agency, is sponsoring the agricultural workshop at the upcoming symposium and has made provision for a limited number of students to attend the SAGEEP workshop gratis. The workshop, "Application of Geophysical Technologies to Agro-ecosystems" is being held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 from 8:30 am-4:30 pm in Charleston, South Carolina. Students interested in attending the workshop are urged to contact SAGEEP staff by email [staff@eegs.org](mailto:staff@eegs.org). The sponsorship opportunities are limited, so please contact the EEGS offices as soon as possible for details.

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#### 5 Announcement: AGU-Education Special Interest Group (ESIG): Topics (from Pranoti Asher)

Dear Colleagues,

The current issue of the ESIG email has two items for your consideration.

##### 5.1. Looking for information about the recent earthquake in Japan? Check out this item from AGU's Blogosphere

AGU's recently launched community of Earth and space science blogs offers multiple resources everyone! Read more about the recent earthquake in Japan at <http://blogs.agu.org> Would you like to blog? Ideas for posts? Other suggestions? Email [mjvinas@agu.org](mailto:mjvinas@agu.org)

##### 5.2. A professional development opportunity for graduate students and post-docs.

The Center for Astronomy Education (CAE) Is Sponsoring a Teaching and Learning Retreat in Hawai'i this Summer for Earth and Space Science Graduate Students and Postdocs: Travel support available! The Center for Astronomy Education (CAE) is presenting a 2-day professional development retreat, on the Big Island of Hawai'i, for Earth and Space Science graduate students and postdocs (this includes astrophysics, astronomy, planetary science, geosciences, etc.)-and through funding from the NSF, we'll be able to pay the travel expenses for many of you to come be a part of this very special experience!

The purpose of this retreat is to prepare Earth and Space Science graduate students and postdocs for their future roles as science educators. This CAE Legacy Workshop retreat will train you to effectively implement proven, classroom-ready, interactive learning strategies into your current and/or future classrooms. Over the course of the intensive two day workshop experience, you will be actively engaged in learning key teaching strategies and implementation techniques shown to help instructors become more effective in their classrooms and improve students' learning. This workshop will help you be prepared and feel more confident when it comes time to demonstrate your teaching ability for a job interview or when you are teaching your first class.

The dynamic and interactive nature of this workshop will lead to collaborations and friendships that that we hope will last you a lifetime. And through this experience we hope that participants will want to take the time together to explore the man-made and naturally occurring astronomical and geological wonders of the Mauna Kea Observatories and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

We at CAE believe that Earth and Space Science graduate students and postdocs are a critically underserved population who are destined to play a vital role in increasing the participation in, and diversity of, the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce and in improving our nation's science literacy. Because of this, we would like to be able to provide every participant with travel support, but our funding is limited. Therefore, travel support will be awarded to approximately 30 participants on a competitive basis. These participants will receive travel support towards their airfare to Kona, we will also transport you to and from the hotel, pay for your hotel room, and feed you breakfast and lunch. For those that we regrettably won't be able to provide with travel support, we still strongly encourage you to attend this very special event.

For additional workshop information visit our workshop webpage:

<http://astronomy101.jpl.nasa.gov/workshopdetails/index.cfm?workshopID=89> Applying for participation in this workshop and travel support: Send to Gina Brissenden ([gbrissenden@as.arizona.edu](mailto:gbrissenden@as.arizona.edu)<<mailto:gbrissenden@as.arizona.edu>>) 1) a one-page statement describing why you want to attend this CAE Legacy Workshop retreat including what you hope to gain from this experience that will benefit you and your future students, and 2) your teaching history. Applicants who have not attended a CAE Tier I workshop will receive priority selection, but we encourage past-participants to also apply. Application due by 20 April 2011.

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#### 6. Announcement: Recent changes at the Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (from Rhett Herman)

Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (BASC) would like to make sure that people knows that NSF proposal writers could specifically state that their logistical funds are included in their proposal budget. This is similar to normal NSF proposal processes and is allowed in proposals to the Office of Polar Programs. It's best to call BASC for specific details if you would like to get a cost estimate to use in your budget. Projects can work through BASC under a Project Cost Agreement (PCA). Universities use their internal Purchase Order process to get funds from their grants to BASC

This provides BASC the opportunity to provide services on many different levels, from just renting vehicles to lodging, radios, bear guards and many other services. BASC doors are open and will remain open. With the NSF removed from a number of daily activities BASC will have more time to focus on other organizations. BASC still has all the familiar equipment in place just as before. BASC continues to provide assistance to NSF projects that have included logistics funds in their grant budgets.

UIC is the main landlord of all of BASC's space in Barrow. However BASC has options to provide additional space in town for projects coming to Barrow.

The BASC website at <http://www.arcticscience.org/> has a section on their main page titled "Attention prospective researchers in northern Alaska or Russia" with helpful information.

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

Xavier Comas [xcomas@fau.edu](mailto:xcomas@fau.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