

**GEOBULLETIN**  
**SEP 04<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

Geobulletin is distributed weekly, by E-mail. Contributions are requested! Anything and everything (well almost) that you want to see in print. If you have a news item, a request, an announcement etc. email it to geodept@geology.wisc.edu. or leave it at the reception desk, Room 236 by noon on Mondays.

**Welcome from the Chair**  
**Cliff Thurber**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the fall semester. I look forward to working with all of you.

You probably have noticed the change in our department's name, from Geology and Geophysics to Geoscience. To give you a bit of background, since the formation of the Department of Geology, Mining, and Metallurgy in 1870, there has been a series of ten name changes associated mainly with program divisions and mergers, leading up to the 1967 change to Department of Geology and Geophysics. The current faculty believe that "Geoscience" is a more unified and inclusive term than "Geology and Geophysics" that captures the range of subdisciplines now represented in the department, including geochemistry, geobiology, hydrogeology, geomicrobiology, astrobiology, and nanogeoscience, as well as geology and geophysics. Paraphrasing Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, we aren't just in geology and geophysics anymore. We consider Geoscience to be a forward-looking name for our department for the 21st century. Note that for now, there will be no changes to the names of our degrees: they remain Geology and Geophysics at the undergraduate level and either Geology or Geophysics at the graduate level.

A special welcome goes to the 20 new graduate students joining our department this fall:

- Meagan Bosket
- Nicolas Garibaldi
- Christopher Gellasch
- Shannon Graham
- Edward Greiner
- Heather Jordan
- Caitlin Keating-Bionti
- Matthew Kogle
- Benjamin Linzmeier
- Aaron Masters
- Daniel Murray
- Raiza Quintero
- Joshua Roberts
- Zhizhang Shen
- Sarah Siewert
- Eric Skarman
- Carolyn Streiff
- Deborah Weinstein
- Mo Zhou
- Chunxiao Zhu

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Other new members of the Weeks Hall community who are joining us this fall include post-docs Tabrez Ali (geophysics), Hun Bok Jung (nanogeoscience), Seth Kruckenberg (structural geology), and Rudraswami NG (geochemistry), and also visiting professor Yaron Katzir (geochemistry). Welcome to all, and my apologies if there is someone I have overlooked.

For those of you who are new to the department, please take the time to introduce yourselves to our excellent office and technical staff. These are the people who work hard both in visible places, like the main reception office, as well as behind the scenes, to keep our research and educational programs running smoothly.

Below is a list of staff, indicating their primary responsibilities and their contact information if you need their help.

## **Office Staff:**

Shirley Baxa (Payroll & Benefits), Rm. 221, [sbaxa@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:sbaxa@geology.wisc.edu)

Christine Damon (Secretarial, Travel), Rm. 236, [chrisk@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:chrisk@geology.wisc.edu)

Jane Fox-Anderson (Student Records), Rm. 213, [jefoxand@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:jefoxand@geology.wisc.edu)

Judy Gosse (Accounting), Rm. 217, [judy@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:judy@geology.wisc.edu)

Jansi Prabakaran (Information), Rm. 236, [jprabak@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:jprabak@geology.wisc.edu)

Michelle Szabo (Department Administrator), Rm. 225A, [michelle@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:michelle@geology.wisc.edu)

## **Technical Staff:**

Ben Abernathy (Computer), Rm. 147, [ben@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:ben@geology.wisc.edu)

Brian Beard (Radiogenic Isotope Lab), Rm. 309, [beardb@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:beardb@geology.wisc.edu)

Mary Diman, (Graphic Artist), Rm. 239, [diman@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:diman@geology.wisc.edu)

John Fournelle (Electron Microprobe), Rm. 306A, [johnf@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:johnf@geology.wisc.edu)

Brian Hess (Thin Section Lab), Rm. 206, [hess@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:hess@geology.wisc.edu)

Brian Jicha (Rare Gas Geochronology Lab) Rm. 335, [bjicha@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:bjicha@geology.wisc.edu)

Jim Kern (Ion Microprobe Lab) Rm. 130-134 [jkern@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:jkern@geology.wisc.edu)

Noriko Kita (Ion Microprobe Lab) Rm. 145, [noriko@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:noriko@geology.wisc.edu)

Patrick Kuhl (Computer), Rm. 156, [pkuhl@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:pkuhl@geology.wisc.edu)

Neal Lord (Electronics), Rm. 146, [lord@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:lord@geology.wisc.edu)

Peter Sobol (Electronics), Rm. 146, [psobol@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:psobol@geology.wisc.edu)

Mike Spicuzza (Stable Isotope Lab), Rm. 337, [spicuzza@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:spicuzza@geology.wisc.edu)

## **Librarians:**

Marie Dvorzak, Rm. 440, [mdvorzak@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:mdvorzak@geology.wisc.edu)

Toby Lathrop, Rm. 440, [alathrop@library.wisc.edu](mailto:alathrop@library.wisc.edu)

## **Building Manager:**

Michelle Szabo – Primary Building Manager, Rm. 225A, [michelle@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:michelle@geology.wisc.edu)

Brian Hess – Back up Building Manager, Rm. 206, [hess@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:hess@geology.wisc.edu)

**NEW TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SYSTEM** -- As some of you already know, the university has adopted a new on-line system for travel reimbursement. The way the new system works, we need to go

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through an internal process of review before the expense report is submitted. The procedure will be as follows:

1. The traveler fills out the draft report on-line and saves it in the system
2. The traveler prints out the draft report and provides it to the person whose funds will be covering the costs
3. That person approves or requests changes to the report and emails Christine acknowledging approval [and if the traveler is the person providing the funds, steps 2 and 3 get merged, so to speak]
4. The approved report is submitted through the system and is sent to Christine, and the trip receipts are provided to Christine
5. Christine completes the report processing

The expectation is that this system will speed up travel expense processing substantially (taking days instead of weeks), and reimbursement funds will be deposited directly to your bank account the same way paychecks are processed.

**PANDEMIC PLANNING** -- Estimates of the odds of a severe H1N1 pandemic striking the U.S. in the fall range between 1 in 4 and 1 in 2. As a result, there are significant planning efforts going on throughout the UW system for dealing with the potential consequences. A significant effort will be needed to maintain department operations, especially in terms of "social distance" teaching, if a pandemic strikes. Expect to hear more about this over the next few weeks.

**REMINDER** -- The department offices on the 2nd floor will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. They will reopen Tuesday morning.

**FACULTY/STAFF MEETINGS** -- The first faculty/staff meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 3:30 pm in the 2nd floor conference room. The remainder of the meetings for the first semester will be at the same time, same room and are scheduled as follows: October 14, November 11, and December 9. Council meetings will normally be held on the Wednesday one week or in some cases two weeks prior to the faculty/staff meeting.

**CHAIR'S PET PEEVE** -- I ask that everyone use a bit of care and courtesy when using the department printers. Please do not print on the department color printer unless your material actually uses color (and if possible, print only the color pages on the color printer if the material is mostly black-and-white/gray-scale). And try to avoid printing that multi-page PDF file on the 36" plotter! Otherwise you might be nominated for a department "OOPS" award. Once you submit your print job, try to pick the material up reasonably soon so that things don't pile up too deep on the printers, and also if something goes wrong (paper jam, spent toner, etc.) you can catch the problem sooner rather than later. Finally, when you retrieve your printed material, please treat the material printed by others with the same care you would like for your material - either just leave the material on the printer where you found it, or else neatly stack it in front of the printer. Thank you!

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## WEEKS LECTURE SCHEDULE DATES

Fall 2009

- Sept. 11 (F) - Ed Brook (SPONSOR: Anders)
- Sept. 14 (M) - Ed Medley (SPONSOR: Herb)
- Sept. 18 (F) - Mark Zoback (SPONSOR: Chuck)
- Sept. 25 (NOON F) Ian Dalziel (SPONSOR: Basil)
- Sept. 25 (3:30 F) - Stephanie Prejean (SPONSOR: Cliff)
- Oct. 2 (F) - Charlie Bacon (SPONSOR: Clark)
- Oct. 9 (F) - OPEN
- Oct. 16 (F) - OPEN
- Oct. 23 (F) - Chris Marone (SPONSOR: Harold)
- Oct. 30 (F) - Lorraine Lisiecki (SPONSOR: Anders)
- Nov. 6 (F) - Scott Tyler (SPONSOR: Herb)
- Nov. 13 (F) - Rob DeConto (SPONSOR: Anders)
- Nov. 20 (F) - OPEN
- Nov. 27 (F) - THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 4 (F) - OPEN
- Dec. 11 - Prof. Charles Geiger of Kiel University

## SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2009 SEMESTER

### GRADUATE ASSISTANT EQUITY WORKSHOPS FOR NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTS

- Section 1: Friday, September 11, 9:30-12:30 at the 21 N. Park Street, Welcome Center (Rooms 1106 and 1108)
- Section 2: Tuesday, September 15, 5-8 pm at 220 Ingraham Hall
- Section 3: Thursday, September 17, 5-8 pm at 220 Ingraham Hall
- Section 4: Monday, September 21, 5-8 pm at Memorial Union
- Section 5: Tuesday, September 22, 9-noon at Memorial Union
- Section 6: Friday, September 25, 9:30-12:30 at 21 N. Park Street, Welcome Center (Rooms 1106 and 1108)
- Section 7: Wednesday, September 30, 5-8 pm at Memorial Union
- Section 8: Monday, October 5, 5-8 pm at Memorial Union
- Section 9: Monday, October 12, 5-8 pm at Memorial Union
- Section 10: Thursday, October 15, 5-8 pm at 220 Ingraham Hall

Undergrad looking for part-time lab assistant type job.  
Please contact [tietge@wisc.edu](mailto:tietge@wisc.edu) or 218-464-3473

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **HAVE A GREAT WEEK END!** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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