

March 31, 2010

FROM THE HEAD

As the academic year winds to a close, we are seeing a number of significant events that will shape the future of the department. On March 26, the University signed a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement with the federal Department of Natural Resources (NRCan) that created a framework for enhanced collaboration with the Geological Survey of Canada. This agreement formally establishes a new entity, called the Calgary Geoscience Research Centre, that will be highly enabling for joint initiatives in areas of mutual interest such as Arctic geoscience and low-carbon energy resources. Discussions about specific projects, and even new faculty appointments, are underway.

Next month, on April 26, faculty members in the Department will be meeting for a one-day retreat to discuss, debate, plan and map out new curricula for our programs. The retreat forms part of a major initiative undertaken by the Geoscience Undergraduate and Curriculum Committee (GUCC), to fundamentally rethink our programs. We are fortunate to be joined by two external facilitators, Randy Richardson from the University of Arizona and Mary Savina from Carleton College. Both Mary and Randy bring a wealth of experience from the U.S. National Science Foundation's Building Strong Geoscience Departments project. They will be working with GUCC and the Department to design the retreat in a way that will be relevant and useful from an academic and disciplinary perspective.

The GeoCanada 2010 conference in Calgary (May 10-14) is a once-in-a-decade joint meeting of virtually every geoscientific society in Canada. It will bring together academics, students and professionals in fields that include petroleum, base and precious metals, groundwater, geophysics, bedrock and seabed mapping, geohazards, uranium or environmental remediation. The Department is highly engaged in GeoCanada 2010, from leadership of the technical program through short course offerings and

participation in the exhibit floor. Be sure to stop by the Department's display, which will be in the exhibition area May 10-12. I am also looking for volunteers to spend an hour or two staffing the display and answering general questions from the conference delegates and high school students.

All of these events take place within a backdrop of rapid change and adaptation occurring at the University. We have all heard about the tri-council audit, which is driving an overhaul of the University's financial processes. Together with the development of new integrated service models, sweeping changes are taking place that will affect all staff. The Department is doing everything within its power to provide support and keep our community informed of these changes.

I would like to close with a tip of the hat to the hard-working committees in the Department this year. Everyone's efforts have gone far beyond expectations and are deeply appreciated. In particular, the contributions of GUCC, the grad committee and the curriculum committee, not to mention our wonderful student organizations, have been instrumental in making the Department a dynamic and stimulating environment for work and study.

IN THE DEPARTMENT

Earth Ring Ceremony

March 13, 2010

This year's Earth Ring Ceremony was held on Saturday afternoon, March 13, 2010, in Exhibition Hall C of the Telus Convention Centre. There were nearly 400 people in attendance. There were 105 graduating BSc students participating and receiving their Earth Rings and certificates, as well as 20 practicing geoscientists (some of them being notable well-known members of the geoscience community in Calgary), along with about

275 guests. The roles of “Senior Ring Steward” and “Junior Ring Stewards” were filled by Ed Krebs, Charles Henderson and Masaki Hayashi, respectively. The distinguished guest speaker for the ceremony was Dr. Gordon Williams, P.Geol., and past-President of APEGGA. Dr. Len Hills was also assisting with the presentation of the rings during the ceremony. The student spokesperson was Anthony Stadnyk. BSc. Students Drew Fossen and Keegan Stoyles were very involved with the organization, as were other members of the Geophysics Undergraduate Student Society and the Rundle Club. Tracy Quinton handled the printing of the ring certificates. The ceremony was followed by a wine-and-cheese reception. The Earth Ring Ceremony was preceded by a Graduating Student Workshop in the morning. The workshop involved case studies on engineering and geoscience practice in industry. The workshop was followed by a luncheon. Staff members of APEGGA looked after the logistics of the workshop, luncheon and ring ceremony.

Ed Krebs

FATS

Will commence in September

Annual Geoscience Awards Night Wednesday, April 7

PhD Presentation/Defense

Wednesday, April 7, ES 136, 9:00 a.m.

John Millar, *Multigrid methods and the surface consistent equations of Geophysics*

MSc Presentation/Defense

Thursday, April 15, ES 636, 9:00 a.m.

Ellen Milley, *Physical Properties of Fireball-Producing Earth-Impacting Meteoroids and Orbit Determination through Shadow Calibration of the Buzzard Coulee Meteorite Fall*

MSc Presentation/Defense

Thursday, April 15, ES 136, 11:00 a.m.

Joanna Cooper, *Seismic acquisition footprint: modeling and mitigation*

People News

Masaki Hayashi and Cathy Ryan were both invited to speak at a recent watershed conference (A Water Management Conference on March 11-12, in Medicine Hat) Two of our graduates were also invited:

The speakers were: **D. Parsons** (MSc, Geoscience, supervised by Masaki Hayashi) and **K. Lorenz** (MSc, Chemistry, 2005, supervised by Cathy Ryan).

PUBLICATIONS

Clarkson, C.R., Pan, Z., Palmer, I. and Harpalani, S., (March 2010), *“Predicting Sorption-Induced Strain and Permeability Increase with Depletion for Coalbed-Methane Reservoirs”*, SPE Journal March 2010.

Lines, L.R., Daley, P.F. and Ibna-Hamid, L., 2010, The accuracy of dipole sonic logs and its implications for seismic interpretation, Journal of Seismic Exploration, v. 19, no. 1, 87-102.

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CSEG Technical Luncheon

Telus Convention Centre 8th Ave SE, Calgary, 11:30 a.m.

April 26, 2010

Patrick Connolly, Spring Distinguished Lecturer, Robust Workflows for Seismic Reservoir Characterization

CSEG Lunchbox Geophysics

Aquitaine Auditorium, +15 level of 540 - 5 Avenue SW, 12:00-12:45pm

April 20, 2010

Dr. Mostafa Naghizadeh, An Unsophisticated Look at Curvelets and How to use them for Seismic Data Processing

CSPG Technical Luncheons

Telus Convention Centre - Calgary, Alberta, 11:30 a.m.

- **Thursday, April 15, 2010**

Stephanie Schwabe, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Kentucky. *The Biogenic Hypothesis: Microbial Acids and Gas as an Explanation for the Dissolution and Forming of Pores and Caves in Limestone*

- **Tuesday, April 27**

Harris Cander, BP America (AAPG Distinguished Lecturer), *Granite to Grass Roots: Understanding the Geologic History of Unconventional Resource Basins from Bottom to Top*

The cut-off date for ticket sales is 1:00 pm, **Thursday, April 22, 2010**

- **Thursday, May 27, 2010**

Toni Simo, ExxonMobil, Upstream Research Company, Houston, Texas AAPG Distinguished

Lecturer, *Isolated Carbonate Platforms and Mounds (ICPM): Initiation, Growth and Demise*

The cut-off date for ticket sales is 1:00 pm, **Friday, May 21, 2010.**

- **Sa-Su May 8-9, 2010**

Theriak-Domino phase equilibrium modeling short course, presented by Christian de Capitani

- **M-T(-W) May 10-11(-12), 2010**

Special session: Interplay between Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Deformation in Metamorphism

- **Th-Su May 13-16, 2010**

Field trip: Barrovian and Buchan metamorphism and their tectonic juxtaposition in southeastern British Columbia

Registration commences March 1, 2010.

For more information visit:

<http://www.geocanada2010.ca/>.

CONFERENCES

GeoCanada 2010

May 8-16, 2010

'Metamorphic extravaganza', in association with the GeoCanada 2010 meeting.

The metamorphic events consist of:

**Happy
Easter**