



# DOWN TO EARTH



Newsletter of the Department of Earth Sciences, U.W.O.

Friday, November 23, 2007

## Joint Planetary Science Presentation of the Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Earth Sciences

**Dr. Alain Berinstain**  
Director of Space Exploration,  
Canadian Space Agency

“Canada’s planetary exploration  
program: Past, present and future”

**Date: Wed. November 28, 2007**

**Time: 1.30 pm**

**Place: Physics & Astronomy Bldg.**

**Room 123**

**>All Welcome<**

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## Geology-Geophysics 580-680 Symposium

R. Flemming

Faculty are invited to attend this year’s 580-680 Symposium on Saturday November 24, 2007, 9.00 a.m.-2 p.m. in B&G room 116. Eleven graduate students will be presenting 15 minute talks on a variety of subjects having broad interest and relevance in the geosciences.

### Speakers:

- 9.00 a.m.**     **Andrea Prentice** - *Evidence of past El Niño events during the Holocene on the coast of Peru;*
- 9.20 a.m.**     **Elizabeth Ross** - *Oceans on Mars: Evidence for past existence in the Northern Lowlands;*
- 9.40 a.m.**     **Caitlin Latimer** - *Seeing through the ice: Applying ground-penetrating radar to glaciers and permafrost;*
- 10.00 a.m.**    **Arslan Akhmetov** - *Structure of orthoboric acid at ambient conditions and its behavior under compression;*
- 10.20 a.m.**    **Coffee Break**

- 10.40 a.m.**    **Samson Girma Mengistu** - *Scale and scaling issues in hydrologic modeling;*
- 11.00 a.m.**    **Simon Auclair** - *Did life appear in a cold or warm pond?*
- 11.20 a.m.**    **Ivan Barker** - *Shocked metamorphosed zircons, U-Pb geochronology and the Chicxulub Crater;*
- 11.40 a.m.**    **Laura Donkervoort** - *Genesis of diamond: Evidence from mineral and fluid inclusions;*
- 12 noon**                 **Lunch Break**
- 1.00 p.m.**     **Nelson Cho** - *A review on earthquake forecast methods;*
- 1.20 p.m.**     **Ruikun Liu** - *A brief review of Middle Crust deformation in the Southern Omineca Belt, Canadian Cordillera;*
- 1.40 p.m.**     **Ian Foster** - *Biology of the Extremophiles: Diversity, habitat, and physiochemical adaptive mechanisms;*

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## Congratulations ...

to Sam Russell and Ian Power on their awards of Environment and Sustainability Scholarships.

Sam has also been awarded a Travel Award from the Graduate Program in Environment and Sustainability.

Great news!

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## Congratulations also ...

to Deana Schwarz on being presented with this year’s Graduate Outreach Award for outstanding contributions to geoscience outreach.

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## M.Sc. Public Lecture

**James G. Masters**

“**Depositional History of the Kipalu Iron Formation: Belcher Islands, Nunavut, Canada**”

**Date: Thursday November 29, 2007, 1.30 p.m.**

**Place: Chemistry Bldg. room 9**

**>All Welcome<**

Oral defence to take place the same day in B&G rm. 1015B



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commencing at 2.30 p.m.

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### Faculty Mentor Program

#### Fifth Workshop/Information Session

Thursday December 6, 2007

Place: Teaching Support Centre

Room 122 D.B. Weldon Library, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

“Tenure and Promotion under the Collective Agreement, How the process works”

Please register online - see Upcoming events at <http://www.uwo.ca/tsc>

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### Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award 2008

**Reminder:**

Call for Applications *deadline: December 15, 2007.*

**Eligibility:** Fulltime graduate students attending a Canadian university, undertaking a Canadian geoscience thesis that has a focus on field mapping (e.g. bedrock or surficial geology, geochemistry, geophysics) are eligible; the student must have active student status until at least the last day of April 2008. Previous recipients of this award are ineligible to apply.

**Value:** \$3,000 price, a certificate and an opportunity to attend the annual meeting of either the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada or the Geological Association of Canada.

For more information and application procedures and forms , please see the following websites:

1. [www.pdac.ca/pdac/programs/awards/index.html#Mary-Claire](http://www.pdac.ca/pdac/programs/awards/index.html#Mary-Claire)
2. [www.gac.ca/awards/maryclaire.php](http://www.gac.ca/awards/maryclaire.php)

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### CFI New Round: Information Session

There is an information session for Faculty of Science researchers:

Date: Tuesday November 27, 2007, 1.30-2.30 pm

Where: Physics & Astronomy Bldg. room 233

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### Work/Life Balance Workshop for Graduate Students

**Thursday December 6, 2007, 1.30 p.m., UCC room 211.** This workshop includes stress management techniques, ways to balance persona, work and family demands.



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## Christmas Appeal for Needy Families

*We (Marie, Katherine and Mary) invite you all* to be part of the sharing and caring Christmas Spirit this year. Many families in the City of London are in need of basic food and clothing; extra things such as gifts for children or a “Christmas meal” at Christmas time will not be available to them.

*We have undertaken to provide items for a “Christmas box”* for a family who have four daughters ranging in age from 6-21, one of whom suffers from autism, who are in need, and to help with provision of gifts to the children.

1 -age 21: size: medium, interests: electronics

2 -age 19, size XL; interests: Christian music CD

3 -age 15, size small/extra small;  
interests: electronics

4 -age 6: has autism: size 6-6x; interests: changes quickly but likes puzzles, sensory type toys, computer games, TVO kids (shows) - *she does not play with most toys.*

Parents: both size medium; father likes tools, mom is going to school and sells tupperware in her spare time. The parents would like to be able to obtain a flat screen monitor for their home computer for the family.

*We invite all members of the Department to contribute to our effort;* Mary will accept any monetary donations, or if you wish to provide a food donation, that will also be very much appreciated (please take it to Mary’s office). A list is given below as a guide for you, with regard to items needed:

Turkey, Potatoes

Canned corn, peas, beans, Soup

Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar, flour

Hot and cold cereal, Crackers, Brown beans

Peanut Butter, Jam, Canned fruit

Stove top stuffing, Kraft dinner

Spaghetti sauce and noodles

Candy, Baked goods

Cranberries, either fresh or canned

Pudding cups, Applesauce

Fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, bread

***Thank you for your help!***

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