



# DOWN TO EARTH



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

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*Friday, January 28, 2011*

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## Reinterpretation of James Hutton's historic discovery

In case you have not seen the latest issue of *Geology*, I would like to draw your attention to a very important paper published by two professors in our department, Drs **Grant Young** and **Glen Caldwell**, with co-author P. Jutras:

Pierre Jutras, Grant M. Young, and W. Glen E. Caldwell, 2011. "Reinterpretation of James Hutton's historic discovery on the Isle of Arran as a double unconformity masked by a phreatic calcrete hardpan."

James Hutton's famous unconformity was at the core of the theory of modern geology with a concept of "deep time." It played a major role in Charles Lyell's *Principle of Geology* (deep time and uniformitarianism), Darwin's theory of evolution (deep time needed for speciation). The unconformity was also popularized by Stephen Jay Gould's well-known book "Time's Arrow and Time's Cycle."

All has been well until now when the authors of this paper in *Geology* demonstrated that the unconformity is actually a double unconformity, and the originally defined/intended unconformity was drawn in the wrong place! In a sense, these authors have re-written a piece of the "geological history" through their superb knowledge of structural geology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, and geochemistry.

Congratulations to Grant and Glen!  
Jin

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## GeoBall 2011

Tickets to this annual event are now available for purchase through any outcrop member!

Geoball this year should be an event to be remembered! If you're intending to come out for the night, here is some information:

Where: The Grand Ballroom of The Hilton Hotel, 300 King St.

When: Saturday March 12th, 2011 from 6pm to 1am

Cocktails will be served to start, followed by dinner and then dancing until the wee hours of the morning.

Ticket prices are:

\$45.00 for non-Outcrop members

\$40.00 for Outcrop members

For those interested, stop by the Outcrop room, B & GS 1052 for your ticket at any point in the coming weeks, or email [bnicpon@uwo.ca](mailto:bnicpon@uwo.ca) with your ticket order and we can arrange for you to pick them up.

We on Outcrop hope to see everyone there, and we promise you will have a good time!

Barrett Nicpon

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## Congratulations...

To **Alex Aubin** on his recent successful Ph.D. defense.

To **Simon Auclair** on his recent successful M.Sc. defense.

## Congratulations...

The Department would like congratulate **Ludovic Ferreire**, who was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences with Gordon Osinski from September 4, 2009 until September 30, 2010. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Ludovic will start a new position at the prestigious Museum of Natural History of Vienna (Austria) where he will be the "curator of the rock collection and of the building and decorative stones collections".

Marie Schell



## Colloquium Series Schedule

Jan. 28: Dr. Pablo Gonzalez, UWO. "What can geodesy tell us about the Canary Islands' volcanism?"

Feb. 4: Dr. Ed Cloutis, Univ. Winnipeg. "The Surface of Mars: Synergies between Geological and Biological Investigations"

The most up-to-date schedule can always be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/earth/news/colloquium.html>.

