



DOWN TO EARTH



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

Friday, September 17, 2010

M.Sc. GEOLOGY PUBLIC LECTURE

Geoff Pearce

Supervisor: G. Osinski

**“Impact Crater Modification in
Utopia Planitia, Mars”**

Fri., Oct 1, 12:30 p.m.

Location: B&G Bldg. Room 1084

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Congratulations...

To **Ayumi Hyodo**, for her recent successful Ph.D. defense.

To **Matt Armenti, Frank Colozza, Hayley Edwards, Saralyn Horvath, Devrim Husrevoglu** and **Danylo Kolos**, for successfully completing their Accelerated M.Sc. degrees.

To **Robin Buckley**, who was awarded Best Student Poster Award for her poster “Stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Peace River Formation: Abrupt facies changes across a flexural depocentre” which was presented at the GeoCanada Conference in Calgary last May.

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A Trip Through Time: A Geotraverse of Georgian Bay

Because of generous new funding from industrial sponsors, the Department is in a position to offer a new field trip, specifically designed for Second Year Earth Sciences students. Preference will be given to those students enrolled in the Professional Programs (Geology, Geophysics, Environmental Geoscience).

The field trip will run from **Tuesday September 28th to Friday October 1st**. We will see a range of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks that will provide experience of direct relevance to the ES2200, 2201, 2206, 2260 and 2265 courses. Although this is a non-credit course, various for-credit exercises will be assigned for the 2200, 2260 and 2265 courses.

The Department will pay for travel (four minivans) and accommodation costs. Students are responsible for their meals. Accommodation is in motels in Collingwood, the French River area, and Little Current (Manitoulin Is.).

Registration is on a first-come basis with priority given to students in Professional Programs. A \$100 deposit is required to secure a place. This fee is refundable at the end of the trip, provided appropriate standards of behaviour are observed!

Trip leaders are Drs. **Guy Plint** (principal co-ordinator), **Patricia Corcoran, Jisuo Jin** and **Dazhi Jiang**.

Please see **Kevin Jordan** (Academic Program Coordinator) to register.

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Visiting University Scholar Program

The Visiting University Scholar Program is funded by the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International Relations). Faculties are invited to nominate international candidates for short-medium term visits throughout the year. A maximum award of \$3000 will be matched with funds provided by the host faculty. Applicants may apply for this program at any time during the year.

Full details can be found on the program webpage at:

http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/internal/visiting_university_scholar_program.html or by contacting **Florence Lourdes**, Internal Grants Coordinator, Research Development & Services.



Biotron Changes

To better serve the broader academic communities on campus, the Geoanalysis & S.W.A.P. Testing Lab at the Earth Sciences Module of the Biotron Research Centre was re-named to the 'Analytical Services' laboratories this summer. We expanded our analytical capacities from analyzing inorganic compositions of rocks, minerals, ores, sediments into analysis of organic contaminants (such as, pesticides/ herbicides, PCBs, Hydrocarbons) in soil, water and plants (e.g. vegetable/fruits).

The Analytical Services are equipped with four major instrumental analysis techniques:

- **X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF)** – A major analytical technique for analyzing solids, such as geological materials, glass, plastics, metals.
- **Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES)** – A general purpose method for liquid analysis,

such as waters or any compounds dissolved in solution.

- **Ion Chromatography (IC)** – A primary technique for anion analysis, such as fluoride, chloride, bromide, nitrite, nitrate, sulfate and phosphate in waters.
- **Gas Chromatography (GC)** – A general purpose method for analyzing organic compounds in solids and liquids which can be extracted into a gas phase.

The new CRC, Dr. **Brian Branfireun** is going to install his CFI funded brand new ICP-MS and HPLC systems and a series of Mercury analyzer in our Ultra-trace Analysis Section (Class 100 clean environment) of the lab. This would allow us to determine the Metal Speciations and its Isotopic Ratios.

In addition, the ICP-MS will provide ever lower detection limits (i.e. parts per billion or parts per trillion) for toxic metals in waters and soils as well as trace level rare elements concentrations in rocks and minerals.

For the request of analysis and the info of sample preparation procedures / requirement, contact **Charlie Wu** directly at ctwu@uwo.ca or at x.83791.



Colloquium Series Schedule

Sept. 17: Presentations by Earth Sciences Faculty
 Sept. 24: Soumya Mohanty (University of Texas – Brownsville): **“Imaging the Gravitational Wave Sky”**
 Oct. 1: Phil McCausland (Earth Sciences, UWO): TBA

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

