



The Official

Newsletter

of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater Geology

MAY 2006 SECTION MEETING

GUEST: DARREL W. SCHMITZ, PH.D., P.G., PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

PRESENTATION: KATRINA: GEOLOGIC, DISASTER, AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

Katrina was “born” on August 24 as the twelfth storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. After raking southern Florida she became an extraordinary large category 5 (Safer-Simpson scale) storm covering about half of the Gulf of Mexico. Katrina made a second landfall, the first in the northern Gulf, as a category 4 at Burris, Louisiana. She then made an additional landfall near the Louisiana-Mississippi state line. The large size and prior strength, coupled with the geography of the shoreline, resulted in a record high storm surge. The storm surge affected coastal areas from Louisiana to Florida while spawning tornadoes in Georgia. Katrina’s impacts were disastrous. In addition to the devastation by the storm surge, coastal landforms were altered. Some offshore islands are nearly gone, while new sediment has been deposited in other areas. Landform also appears to have limited the inland distance of the storm surge in some areas. Debris deposited by Katrina’s storm surge was found inland to the first marine terrace in coastal Mississippi. Having witnessed the second and most destructive to date hurricane landfall

along the Mississippi coast, there are many direct and personal impacts – astounding, amazing, miraculous, and horrendous. Hurricane Camille in 1969 destroyed the Mississippi coast, but even worse destruction occurred from Katrina. Many structures which survived Camille were destroyed by Katrina, primarily due to Katrina’s higher storm surge – about thirty feet in western Mississippi. The initial impact along the Mississippi coast was total destruction. Several towns no longer exist. The impact on New Orleans came later from flooding as a result of failed flood walls, that could not withstand the

surge forces from Lake Pontchartrain. In northern Mississippi the direct impacts were trivial, compared to those at the coast, but there was damage and power outages over 250 miles from the coast. However, many at Mississippi State had personal impacts. One of our student’s parents swam to safety from a top story window – in the storm surge. Another student lost his entire family in Gulfport. Most considered the legend of Camille as the ultimate possible hurricane in terms of its destruction along the Mississippi coast. Katrina has now replaced that legend.

This Month’s Meeting is on Tuesday May 16

**McMenamins Kennedy School,
5736 NE 33rd
Portland, OR**

6:00 pm Social
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Presentation

Taco Buffet
\$___.00 dinner (\$___ for students).

E-mail <glenda.christman@amec.com> with “AEG Reservations” in the subject line, or call 503-639-3400, by 4 pm Thurs. May 11. There is a \$2.00 surcharge for those who do not reserve by the deadline.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to thank everyone who attended both of our meetings this past month. The turnout was great for both events, especially when you consider they were held on back to back nights. We had a great student turnout, including a group from Western Oregon University. I believe a student from there won the copy of Dr. Derek Cornforth's new book titled *Land-slides in Practice*, which we gave away as a door prize.

I would like to congratulate all the students who presented posters at student night. Each year I'm impressed by the quality of their presentations and appreciate their dedication. Cheers to Mary Dietrich and Amie Lamb from Portland State University. They were the winners

of the scholarship funds awarded by our section. The amazing thing is that they are both undergraduates. That's not a knock on the graduate students, I think it just demonstrates what an extraordinary group of students we have in our area.

I would like to thank, this year's Jahns Lecturer, Dr. Jerry Higgins (Colorado School of Mines) for his interesting presentation on rockfall analysis and mitigation. A special thanks to Greg McInnis and the lads from Geo-Tech Explorations for hosting the bar at the event.

Stay tuned for more details about a field trip to the Columbia River Jetties our section is trying to put together. We are still trying to workout the details. I trust at least a few of you sent in an abstract for

AEG's 2006 Annual Meeting in Boston (they were due on May 1). Hopefully, our section will have another good showing of presenters for our annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting where our presenter is Dr. Darrel Schmitz. As you probably know, Darrel is our AEG President. It would be nice to have a big turnout for his talk so he can brag about us to the other sections. We will be trying out a new venue for his talk. As the Oregon Section Chair, finding suitable venues for our meetings is a constant struggle. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know. Thank you and take care.

Brent Black

AEG Oregon Section Chair

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News items are invited and should be sent to: Charlie Hammond, OR Section AEG Newsletter Editor, Cornforth Consultants, 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Portland, OR 97223, e-mail: <or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com>, phone (503) 452-1100. Electronic media is preferred. Deadline for submittal is Friday three weeks before each meeting.

Advertising: business card \$10/mo, \$100/yr; ¼ page \$30/mo, \$200/yr; ½ page \$35/mo, \$350/yr.

Please notify Charlie if you have a change to your email or mailing address.

PSU AEG STUDENT CHAPTER

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____, Secretary

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Dr. Scott Burns, Adviser

5th Annual Student Night

Many thanks to the presenters at the PSU Student Night. Special congratulations to the award winners.

Best Overall (\$300): Mary Dietrich, Presence of Diatoms in Geothermal Springs, Mickey Hot Springs, Southeastern Oregon: Implications for Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction

2nd Best Overall (\$200): Amie Lamb, Glacier Behavior After Ice Shelf Collapse in Crane Glacier, Antarctic Peninsula.

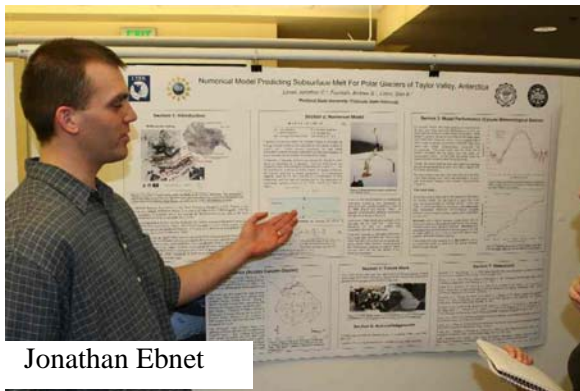
Best Scientific: Jonathan Ebnet, Numerical Model Predicting Subsurface Melt for Polar Glaciers of Taylor Valley, Antarctica

Best Undergrade: Adam Campbell, New Evidence of Paleotsunami Runup in the Central Cascadia Margin

Best Graphics: Marina C Drazba and Audra English, Mapping Landslide Thresholds, Using LIDAR in the West Hills or Portland, Oregon



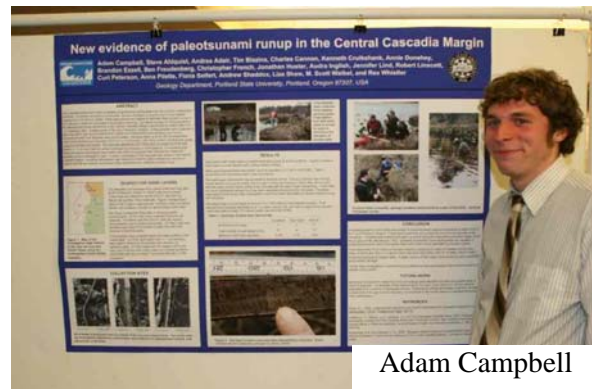
Mary Dietrich



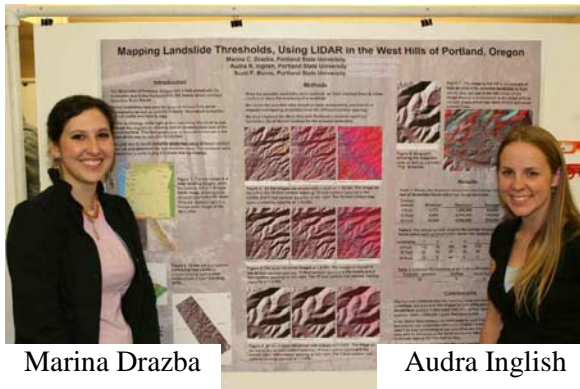
Jonathan Ebnet



Amy Lamb



Adam Campbell



Marina Drazba

Audra English

Thanks also to the judges: Brent Black, Rowland French and Michael Zimmerman.

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