



*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 (Saffir-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 *Landslides 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

### **Geo-Tech Explorations** A Division of Boart Longyear Company

#### **Providing Professional Drilling Services Since 1981**

**Hollow Stem Auger / Mud Rotary / Air Rotary  
Geoprobe / CPT / Bucket Auger / Cable Tool  
Reverse Circulation / Pump Services  
Well Rehabilitation**



**Construction Dewatering Wells  
Environmental Investigations  
Large Diameter Water Wells  
Geotechnical Investigations  
Construction Borings  
Aquifer Tests**

**Phone: 800-275-3885 or 503-692-6400  
Fax: 503-692-4759**

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OREGON AEG!

AMEC  
Columbia Geotechnical  
Cornforth Consultants  
DOGAMI  
Geo-Tech Explorations  
GRI  
Kuper Consulting  
Northwest Geophysical  
Assoc.

Oregon Department of  
Forestry  
PBS Engineering and  
Environmental  
PSI  
Portland State University  
Portland District COE

OREGON SECTION AEG NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Oregon Section or other Sections, and other interested people who have requested and paid a local subscription fee of \$10.00. E-mail subscriptions are free.

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; 1/4 page \$30/mo, \$200/yr; 1/2 page \$35/mo, \$350/yr.

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

# PSU AEG STUDENT CHAPTER

## 2006 Officers

Marina Drazba, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_, Brown Bag Coordinator

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.

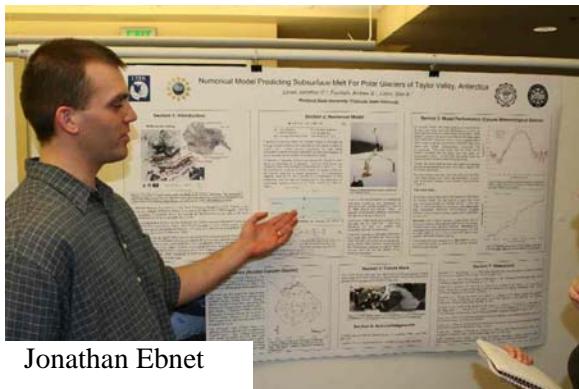
**Best Scientific: Jonathan Ebnet**, Numerical Model Predicting Subsurface Melt for Polar Glaciers of Taylor Valley, Antarctica

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

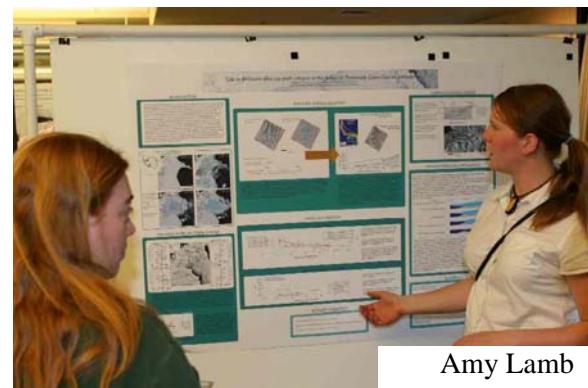
**Best Graphics: Marina C Drazba and Audra Inglish**, Mapping Landslide Thresholds, Using LIDAR in the West Hills of Portland, Oregon



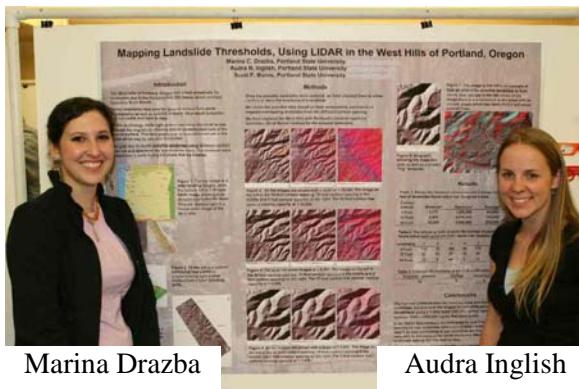
Mary Dietrich



Jonathan Ebnet

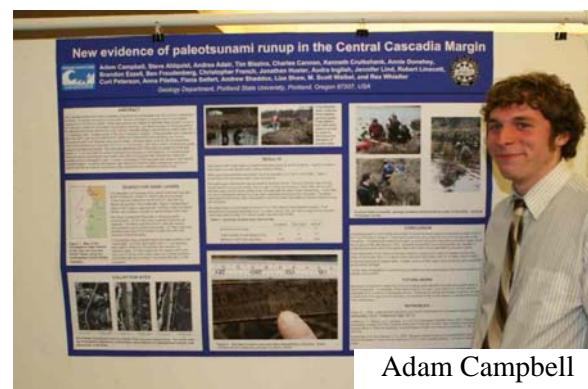


Amy Lamb



Marina Drazba

Audra Inglish



Adam Campbell

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

# OREGON SECTION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**Chair:** **Brent Black**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503)452-1100, [bblack@cornforthconsultants.com](mailto:bblack@cornforthconsultants.com)



**Chair-Elect:** **Michael Zimmerman**, GRI, Inc., (503)641-3478, [mzimmerman@gri.com](mailto:mzimmerman@gri.com)



**Secretary:** **Matt Brunengo**, (503)534-0414, [mbrunengo@aol.com](mailto:mbrunengo@aol.com)



**Treasurer:** **Jason Hinkle**, (503)945-7406, [jhinkle@odf.state.or.us](mailto:jhinkle@odf.state.or.us)



**Past-Chair:** **Rowland French**, Northwest Geophysical Associates, Inc., (541)757-7231, [rowland@nga.com](mailto:rowland@nga.com)

**Program Co-Chair:** **Lisa Glonek**, AMEC, [lisa.glonek@amec.com](mailto:lisa.glonek@amec.com)



**Program Co-Chair:** **Bill Burns**, DOGAMI, [bburns@dogami.state.or.us](mailto:bburns@dogami.state.or.us)



**PSU Student Chapter President:** **Marina Drazba**, [mcdrazba@pdx.edu](mailto:mcdrazba@pdx.edu)

**Membership Chair:** **Ruth Wilmoth**, Columbia Geotechnical, Inc., (360)513-2692, [ruthwilmoth@comcast.net](mailto:ruthwilmoth@comcast.net)



**Field Trip Chair:** **Dave Scofield**, Portland District COE, (503) 808-4867, [scofield@onemain.com](mailto:scofield@onemain.com)

**History Chair:** **George Freitag**, GRI, Inc., (503) 641-3478, [gfreitag@gri.com](mailto:gfreitag@gri.com)



**Newsletter Editor:** **Charlie Hammond**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503) 452-1100, [or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com](mailto:or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com)



**Assistant Newsletter Editor:** **Darren Beckstrand**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503) 452-1100, [dbeckstrand@cornforthconsultants.com](mailto:dbeckstrand@cornforthconsultants.com)



**Legislature Chair:** **Dorian Kuper**, Kuper Consulting, Inc., (503)638-9722, [dkuper@cybcon.com](mailto:dkuper@cybcon.com)

**Continuing Ed. Liaison:** **Andrew Harvey**, PBS Engineering and Environmental, [andrew\\_harvey@pbsenv.com](mailto:andrew_harvey@pbsenv.com)

«City», «State» «PostalCode»  
«Address»  
«OrganizationName»  
«FirstName» «LastName»