



APECS August 2009 Newsletter

"We know very little, and yet it is astonishing that we know so much, and still more astonishing that so little knowledge can give us so much power."
Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, social reformer, and pacifist

Now is the height of the boreal summer and a busy time for field studies for our northern-inclined members. As much as field researchers would hope to the contrary, the rest of the world continues to race along, and we would like to share some of the activities and opportunities happening within APECS and within the broader polar research community.

- Benjamin Beall, APECS Vice-President

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APECS News and Updates

APECS panel discussion in Auckland a success

APECS organised a panel discussion on effective science communication in conjunction with the Annual Antarctic Conference from 1-3 July 2009 in Auckland, New Zealand. This event was sponsored by Antarctica New Zealand and the Royal Society of New Zealand and was a full success with more than 60 conference participants registered. The panel discussion was voice-recorded and summary of this recording is available through the APECS website:

http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=344:apecs-panel-discussion-in-auckland-a-success&catid=21:news&Itemid=69

APECS Literature Discussion Live

Polar Literature Discussion Webpage is a new feature on the APECS website where we all can read, post and discuss newly sighted literature (including newspaper articles, etc.) with a polar-focus. You will be able to find literature from your field of research, although the discussions are encouraged to focus on interdisciplinary polar research.

Please take a look at the Literature Discussion and contribute - comments on posted papers, new papers that catch your eye (or your ire), or popular media stories on polar research and activities. We think the literature discussion could be a hub for sharing ideas and building collaborations, as well as a good place to spend a coffee break.

http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php?option=com_jreviews&Itemid=131

APECS Executive Committee Elections for 2009 – 2010

Please consider applying for the new APECS Executive Committee.

APECS is now a world respected association and is considered one of the major legacies of the International Polar Year. This was achieved through the continuous brilliant work of its members, particularly those of the APECS Executive committee and APECS council. To maintain this high level of success, and bring new visions and ideas to APECS, it is truly important for YOU to be active in this election.

Now YOU get the chance to influence the future of polar research!

How to apply? Simple. Provide basic biographical information about YOU (Name, Institution, research theme) and a statement on how you would like to contribute to APECS to Jose Xavier (jccx@cantab.net). There is an outline of what we are specifically hoping you address in your statement as well as details on the application procedures please go to

http://apecs.is/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22:how-do-i-become-a-member-of-the-apecs-executive-committee&catid=11:executive-committee&Itemid=49

For more information on what the APECS Executive Committee does, please see attached, and go to www.apecs.is/excom

The 2009-2010 APECS Executive Committee timeline for nomination and election is as follows:

End of July Announcement of APECS Executive Committee Elections

1 August – 10 September Period for Accepting Nominations

12 – 21 September Review Period / On-line Question and Answer Period

21 – 27 September Online Voting Period

28 – 30 September Final tally and review of votes by current Executive Committee

1 October Announcement of 2009-2010 APECS Executive Committee

Any queries, do not hesitate to contact Jose Xavier (jccx@cantab.net).

APECS at MOCO-09

Invited talk during IPY session

Liz Thomas was invited to give an APECS talk as part of the IPY session during MOCA-09, chaired by Karen Haywood and Ian Allison. The talk was well attended and provided an overview of how APECS was founded, our goals and achievements to date, including education and outreach, research activities and career development, and information on future events. The presentation was concluded with a movie from the recent APECS field school.

APECS Polar Careers Panel Discussion

On the evening of July 21st, 45-50 graduate students and early career polar scientists attended a panel discussion on Polar careers during the MOCA-09 conference "Our changing Planet" in Montreal, Canada. The four invited panelists came from four different countries (Ian Allison from Australia, Claude Labine from Canada, Karen Heywood from England, and Marika Holland from the USA), and are experts in different fields, ranging from Antarctic Research over Arctic monitoring to Polar Physical Oceanography and sea-ice modelling. They openly shared their different career paths and experiences with the early career scientists in the audience, before engaging in a lively and interesting discussion with the audience about polar careers.

Despite their different backgrounds and areas of expertise, the emerging advice was quite similar: Be open for new idea and techniques, show enthusiasm, talk about your research often and early, do your homework before interviews, learn to communicate well, learn so say no, and last but not least, take advantage of opportunities that come your way. Especially this last point seemed to be the key to a successful career, as shown by their careers, as well as the careers of many other successful people. All the other skills form the indispensable basis for a successful career, but one has to be able to recognize a good opportunity if it comes along, and act on it.

APECS at IACS and plenary

The International Association of Cryospheric Science (IACS) invited APECS vice-president Liz Thomas to join their bureau meeting in Montreal last week, as part of the MOCA-09 conference. IACS is the newest association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and is a sister organization to long established associations such as those for Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) and Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO). Both the first IACS president, Georg Kaser, and the new president, Ian Allison, have been extremely supportive of APECS activities and we thank them for their encouragement and look forward to working with them in the future.

The meeting began with a welcome address from Ian Allison, IACS president, followed by Tom Beers (president of IUGG), who acknowledged the work of APECS and highlighted our involvement in the YES congress. Ian provided an update on IACS activities and goals including the need to link with biological associations and confirming that IACS intend to allocate funding to support young and early career researchers in IACS activities.

Representatives for sister associations and collaborators provided updates including IAPSO, IAHS, World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI), International permafrost association (IPA), International Glaciological Society (IGS), Climate and Cryosphere (CliC), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and APECS.

APECS was very well received in this meeting, and were praised for our enthusiasm and achievements. Volker Rachold (IASC Executive Secretary) described us as the most important outcome of IPY! The full meeting minutes will be available on the IACS website shortly however here are some areas of interest to APECS members:

- IGS publication "Annals of glaciology" has always been peer reviewed but previously only for papers presented at conferences. This has now changed (so that it can be ICI ranked) and is now a thematic journal. IGS invited contributions of IPY papers and suggestions for future journal themes.
- IACS is developing proposed sessions for next IUGG assembly in Melbourne 2010 and will be requesting suggestions soon (needs to be ready for IUGG meeting in October)
- Glacier mass balance terminology has been compiled by Graham Cogley and the draft is now open for public discussion and comment until 10th September (available via IACS website).

There was also an open meeting during the conference where several members requested IACS focus on educational activities, such as cryospheric courses for undergraduates and summer schools. They all agreed that they should be working with APECS, either through new initiatives or ongoing activities within APECS such as the field schools.

APECS on the Students on Ice Expedition

The Students on Ice IPY Arctic Youth Expedition is taking 65 students, aged 14 - 19 by ship through the eastern Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The expedition will take students on shore landings, hikes, community visits, workshops, and give them the opportunity to interact with 45 researchers, polar experts, writers, artists, and environmentalists. APECS' Director Jenny Baeseman is one of the leaders selected to join the expedition and will be sharing her passion and fascinating for the polar regions with the next generation of polar researchers.

Please visit the Students on Ice blog at www.studentsonice.com/arctic2009.

Want to get more involved in APECS? Join Our Membership-Wide Council Calls

As you know, the APECS Executive Committee has initiated monthly conference calls as a way to keep everyone better connected, share new ideas, get in touch with the advisory committee, national committees, and get to know each other better. These calls are open to all members interested in what is going on and how to get more involved.

- Tuesday, 11 August, 1900 GMT - Chaired by APECS Vice-President Ben Beall
- Thursday, 17 September, 1900 GMT - Chaired by APECS Director Jenny Baeseman (Meet the Applicants for the 2009-2010 APECS Executive Committee)
- Monday, 12 October, 1800 GMT - Chaired by APECS Director Jenny Baeseman (Results of the ExCom Elections and initial ideas for 2009-2010)

If you would like to join one of these calls, just let us know at APECSinfo@gmail.com

Message from the Director – Summer in Northern Norway

I have to admit that living in the land of the midnight sun has been great. Last week the sun finally dipped below the horizon again, which makes it easier to sleep, but also tells us to enjoy the nice weather as long as well can because it will be getting dark again.

After returning from beautiful Svalbard for the IPY Polar Field School, I felt inspired to do some exploring around Tromsø and Northern Norway. I have been lucky that a few APECS folks have been stopping through Tromsø on their way to Svalbard for research expeditions, so together we have been able to do some exploring during this fabulous summer. Fellow APECS member Susanne and I embarked on a bus journey through the Lyngen Alps, spending some time at the beautiful small village of Lyngseidet before continuing to Skjervøy where we boarded the coastal steamer and headed back to Tromsø. The steamer is operated by Hurtigruten – a large Norwegian cruise company that has tours in Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland, Antarctica, Norway and more, visit www.hurtigruten.no for more information. The 4-hour cruise home to Tromsø was through some of the most beautiful coastal landscapes I have ever seen.

Here in Tromsø, I had the pleasure of hanging out with Alexey, the APECS Marine Geosciences Coordinator, by the University fountain where we tried to avoid getting attacked by seagulls protecting their young. With APECS member Anja, who is here working for a few months in the Geology Department, I finally took the cable car up to Mount Storsteinen, the most beautiful look out point around! On our walk back, we stopped at the Arctic Cathedral for a midnight concert, before exploring some of the local nightlife. For more of the great things to see and do around Tromsø in the summer, visit www.visit troms.no.

My next adventure will take me on the Students on Ice Arctic 2009 Expedition. We will be exploring the Canadian Arctic from a ship and stopping at Kuujuaq, Hantzch Island, Kekerten Island and many other fabulous places on the way to Iqaluit. I won't have email for 3 weeks during this trip, so I hope I will make it. You can follow our voyage as well as learn more about Students on Ice at www.studentsonice.org.

Important news from APECS partners

Call for nominations: The Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica

The “Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica” is a US\$ 100,000 unrestricted award presented to an individual in the fields of Antarctic science or policy that has demonstrated potential for sustained and significant contributions that will enhance the understanding and/or preservation of Antarctica. The Prize is inspired by Martha T. Muse’s passion for Antarctica and is intended to be a legacy of the International Polar Year 2007-2008.

The prize-winner can be from any country and work in any field of Antarctic science or policy. The goal is to provide recognition of the important work being done by the individual and to call attention to the significance of understanding Antarctica in a time of change. A web site with further details, including the process of nomination and selection of the Prize recipients is available at <http://www.museprize.org>.

The Prize is awarded by the Tinker Foundation and administered by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

Latest Climate and the Cryosphere “Ice and Climate News” June 2009 Issue Available

The WCRP/SCAR/IASC Climate and Cryosphere Newsletter is now available (the link can be found on the APECS website at the address below).

The Climate and the Cryosphere (CliC) Project was initiated by the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) in 2000. Its goal is to stimulate, support and coordinate research that focuses on processes by which the cryosphere interacts with the rest of the climate system.

http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=382:latest-climate-and-the-cryosphere-qice-and-climate-newsq-june-2009-issue-available&catid=21:news&Itemid=69

Call for Nominations: Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee

The Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC), a committee of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), is currently seeking applications for several new members willing to serve the arctic scientific community for a three-year term, beginning in late 2009. Applicants need not be U.S. citizens, but must be employed at an institution situated within the U.S.

http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=353:call-for-nominations-arctic-icebreaker-coordinating-committee&catid=21:news&Itemid=69

<http://www.unols.org/committees/aicc>

Call for Proposals: European Centre for Arctic Environmental Research (Ny-Ålesund RI), Svalbard, Norway

European research teams are offered free access (including travel) to the Ny-Ålesund Research Infrastructure in Svalbard, Norway. This is part of the Transnational Access Programme of the European Community FP6.

We invite scientific research proposals within all fields of Arctic environmental research, specifically within the following disciplines:

- Geodesy and space geodesy
- Climate research in the troposphere and stratosphere
- Surface phenomena, snow and ice
- Air quality research and arctic pollution
- Marine and terrestrial biology
- Multidisciplinary environmental sciences

Please go to the programme’s website at <http://arcfac.npolar.no/> for details (eligibility criteria, application forms, deadlines, content of scientific project proposals, terms of access and funding etc.). Proposals should be submitted directly via the website (preferable) or by e-mail (arcfac@npolar.no).

Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences

For all meetings related to polar research, visit: <http://www.apecs.is/meetings>

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you know of a conference coming up and would like to organize an APECS meeting, we are happy to help you, just let us know (apecsinfo@gmail.com). Organizing a meeting is a great way to gain experience, and meet senior researchers that can help you in the next steps of your career.

ACE Symposium Drilling Workshop

12 to 13 September 2009

Location: Granada, Spain

You are invited to participate in a 'future drilling' workshop at the Antarctic Climate Evolution Symposium in Granada, Spain. The workshop will establish a framework for future Antarctic margin drilling for sedimentary records of paleoclimate - 2013-2023 (in-line with INVEST). This framework will be developed into a full Science and Operations Plan/Strategy by a working group/committee to be proposed as an ACE sub-committee.

The workshop will provide the Antarctic climate and paleoclimate community with an overview of proposed and developing drilling projects and will highlight each projects alignment with research priorities that can only be addressed from the Antarctic margin.

Please email Richard Levy (r.levy@gns.cri.nz), Laura De Santis (ldesantis@ogs.trieste.it), or Tim Naish (timothy.naish@vuw.ac.nz) to express your interest in participating in this workshop.

Symposium on the Politics of Antarctica

8 to 10 July 2010

Location: University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Website: http://www.saps.canterbury.ac.nz/Symposium_on_the_Politics_of_Antarctica.shtml

This symposium shall encourage the discussion of challenges and controversies with regard to the politics of Antarctica and will look at questions such as:

- Will the Antarctic Treaty be able to last another 50 years?
- Will the emergence of new actors in Antarctica upset the current system?
- Does Antarctic governance need to democratise?

Yukon River in Transition: Water and Climate Change in Southern Yukon

21 to 23 August 2009

Location: Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada

- Do you want to understand the connection between climate change, Yukon's water supply, and its people?
- Do you want to explore that Yukon River and surrounding landscapes?
- Do you want to learn about the past and future, while examining the present state of Southern Yukon's water?

The Arctic and sub-Arctic will likely experience greater climate warming in the future than other parts of the world. Over the past several decades, temperatures in these areas have increased at twice the rate of the rest of the planet. Manifestations of this warming in Yukon include retreat of many glaciers and variable flow rates of many river systems. What do these changes mean to the people of the Yukon, their energy infrastructure, and their way of life?

The Yukon River has been an integral element to the changing Yukon landscape and its people. From traditional Aboriginal connections to the land; to the fervour of the Klondike Gold Rush; to the establishment of a hydro-electric generating facility to supply the Territory's electricity needs, the Yukon River has always played a central role. This workshop will focus on climate change and its effects on the Yukon River and surrounding watersheds which contribute to this river's flow.

http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=336:yukon-river-in-transition-water-a-climate-change-in-southern-yukon&catid=21:news&Itemid=69

UKPN Cryospheric Science Workshop

4 to 6 November 2009

Location: University of Sheffield, UK

The UK Polar Network (UK branch of APECS) is proud to present the 3rd workshop in the UKPN Career Skills Workshop series. The workshop is aimed at early career scientists such as master students, Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers. It will provide a fantastic opportunity for peer-to-peer networking and include a poster session and a workshop dinner. The event is free for all members of the UK Polar Network and you do not need to be based in the UK to join the UKPN or to participate in the workshop.

Use the online form (<http://www.polarnetwork.org/machform/view.php?id=14>) to register your interest and state your preferences for sessions.

To become a member of the UK Polar Network, or if you need any more information please go to our website (<http://www.polarnetwork.org>) or email cryoworkshop@polarnetwork.org.

Arctic Science Summit Week 2010

15 to 19 April 2010

Location: Nuuk, Greenland

Website: <http://www.assw2010.org/>

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB), the European Polar Board (EPB), the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) and the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO) announce Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2010. ASSW 2010 will take place in Nuuk, Greenland, 15-19 April 2010. International arctic science and research support organizations will hold their business meetings, exchange expertise, and explore new opportunities of cooperation.

Arctic in Rapid Transition (ART) Workshop

7 to 9 November 2009

Location: IARC at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

Website: <http://www.aosb.org/art.html>

The ART Initiative is a proposed integrative, multi-disciplinary, long-term pan-Arctic program to study changes and feedbacks with respect to physical characteristics and biogeochemical cycles of the Arctic Ocean and its biological productive capacity. Background information on the ART Initiative can be found by clicking here. ART will focus on integrating data on past and present transitional states of the Arctic Ocean that can be used synergistically with ongoing monitoring, observing and modeling efforts, to better assess future changes. An ART White Paper has been developed by early career scientists and aims to compile scientific expertise across disciplines, national borders, and career stage to identify and formulate future key questions for integrated research on Arctic Ocean system studies. The workshop is endorsed and sponsored by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) under the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) / Marine System.

Registration is open until September 30, 2009 at <http://www.aosb.org/art.html>.

Some funding will be available through the ART program itself.

DISCCRS V: Interdisciplinary Climate Change Research Symposium

12 – 20 March 2010

Location: Saguaro Lake Ranch, Arizona, USA

Website: <http://disccrs.org/>

The Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS, pronounced discourse), connects natural and social scientists engaged in research related to climate change, impacts and solutions. The goal is to broaden perspectives and establish a collegial peer network to address climate challenges at the interface of science and society.

During the week-long symposium -- held in the Tonto National Forest near Phoenix, Arizona -- participants will present and discuss their research, hone interdisciplinary communication and team skills, and discuss emerging research, societal and professional issues with each other and with established researchers invited to serve as mentors. Confirmed mentors include Julia E. Cole (University of Arizona), Jonathan T. Overpeck (University of Arizona), Billie L. Turner (Arizona State University), and David A. Randall (Colorado State University).

IPY International Early Career Researcher Symposium

A Career Development workshop sponsored by IPY Canada/APECS/ArcticNet/NRF

04.12.2009 - 08.12.2009

Location: Victoria, BC, Canada – interdisciplinary

Note: The ArcticNet Conference is being held 8-11 December in Victoria, B.C.

Website: <http://www.apecs.is/victoria09>

Objective: To bring early career Arctic and Antarctic researchers together for a series of career development training sessions to develop professional skill, work with senior mentors, and develop international and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Session Themes are:

- Community Based Research – Lead by Amy Witta
- Funding your ideas – Lead by Gerlis Fugmann and Laura McKinnon
- Working with Policy Makers – Lead by Harry Borlase, Alex Taylor and Gerlis Fugmann
- Communicating your Science – Lead by Jenny Baeseman and Dave Carlson
- How Do I Get Started in Science? – Lead by Alex Taylor, Harry Borlase and Kim Jochum
- Data management – Lead by Ben Beall
- Time Management and Work/Life Balance – Lead by Laura McKinnon and Nadja Steiner

Jobs/Opportunities

Many other job opportunities listed at the website:

<http://apecs.arcticportal.org/index.php/jobs.html>

Latest jobs

Type: **Postdoctoral Researcher**

Interest areas: Biology/Ecology, Chemistry, Glaciology

Location: Colorado, USA

Closing date: Review of applications begins 15 August 2009

A full-time, NSF-funded, postdoctoral position is available to conduct research as part of a recently funded interdisciplinary project focusing on production and transformation of labile and refractory DOM generated by the growth of algae and bacteria in a supra-glacial stream ecosystem in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica.

Type: **Graduate Assistantship**

Interest areas: Biology/Ecology, Environmental Science

Location: Alaska, USA

Closing date: Open until filled

A M.S. or Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship is available in the Department of Biological Sciences to work on a large interdisciplinary project at Toolik Lake Arctic Research Station (<http://www.uaf.edu/toolik/>). The student's research interests should focus on plant ecophysiology, ecosystem physiology, or plant ecology. The project will focus on developing a comprehensive understanding of winter physiological processes for two tundra ecosystems.

Type: **Graduate Assistantship**

Interest areas: Biology/Ecology, Environmental Science

Location: Georgia, USA

Closing date: Open until filled

A Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship is available in the Department of Biological Sciences to work on a large interdisciplinary project at Jones Ecological Research Center. The student's research interests should focus on one of the following plant ecophysiology, ecosystem physiology, fire ecology, forest productivity, or plant ecology. The project will focus on developing a comprehensive understanding of fire's impact on ecosystem carbon dynamic along a natural moisture gradient of long leaf pine systems.