

February 2013 News Notes

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New AGU award honors Prof Emeritus Ivan I. Mueller

The American Geophysical Union has established the Ivan I. Mueller Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership.

The award honors AGU Fellow and Waldo E. Smith medalist, Ivan I. Mueller for his major contribution to international programs that advanced geodesy over the past half century.

Mueller is a professor emeritus of geodesy with the OSU School of Earth Sciences.

For more information, please see the full story at www.agu.org/

Prof Lonnie Thompson featured in National Geographic

The January 2013 issue of *National Geographic* ran a story entitled “Risk Takers”, by Pat Walters, with photographs by Marco Grob. The article features professional risk-takers, from kayakers, to snake hunters, and included Prof Lonnie Thompson. From the article:

LONNIE THOMPSON has been climbing to mountaintop glaciers from Peru to China for the past 38 years, pulling crucial climate data from deep inside the ice. A glacier that’s hundreds of feet thick can contain thousands of years of information: layers of snow and dry-season dust. Some say Thompson has spent more time above 18,000 feet than anyone alive—1,099 days, at last count.

You can read the entire article at www.nationalgeographic.com.

For the print version of the story, see: *National Geographic*, Why We Explore and The New Age of Exploration. Risk Takers, January, 2013, pgs. 62-63.



Professor Panero featured in Columbus Dispatch

SES Professor Wendy Panero, OSU astronomer Jennifer Johnson and SES graduate student Cayman Unterborn were featured in the January 27, 2013 edition of the Columbus Dispatch.

Their research involving searching for Earth-like planets and the methodology utilized, are topics in the Dispatch article.

Dispatch Article: [Search for Planets Goes Radioactive](#)

Congratulations to Wendy, Jennifer and Cayman!

New geophysics track in the undergraduate B.S. degree proves popular

With Ohio State's change to the semester calendar in Summer 2012, the School of Earth Sciences seized the opportunity of converting our classes from quarters to semesters to add more options to the baccalaureate degree. Students can choose among four subprograms or "tracks" in the B.S. major. The four tracks now available to the students are Geological Sciences, Earth System Science, Geophysics, and Petroleum Geology and Geophysics. Applied Geophysics (Earth Sciences 4560) is a core course in the Geophysics track and it is being taught in Spring 2013 by Drs. Wendy Panero and Ann Cook. The class is full with 25 students enrolled. The students recently completed (on January 24, 2013) a laboratory in Applied Geophysics which took advantage of the new open stacks in Thompson Library and used the considerable elevation change available there to determine the free-air correction for gravity measurements. Left: Natasha Lewis (2014) & Sean O'Brien (2014). Right, above: Abby Crock (2013). Right, below: Group photo.



SES undergraduate researchers report from Antarctica

Two SES undergraduates working with Prof & Chair Berry Lyons have spent time recently in Antarctica, doing undergraduate research in connection with an NSF Office of Polar Programs grant focused on Garwood Valley.

Kelsey Bisson, senior major in Earth Sciences (top photo), who expects to receive her B.S. degree with Honors Research Distinction in spring 2013, reports from Antarctica:

“I’m working with team B-509-M to collect and analyze stream samples from the Dry Valleys in Antarctica, as part of the National Science Foundation’s Long Term Ecological Research project. My main lab duty is to analyze samples for their total organic carbon content, but I’ve traveled to Miers and Taylor Valley by helicopter to conduct field work.”

Alex Rytel, senior major in Earth Sciences (bottom) is working on a shallow EM induction conductivity probe, which involved a lot of hiking and a lot of heavy lifting, not to mention a little bit of trouble-shooting a new piece of technology on the fly. Of his Antarctica experience, Alex jokes: “In terms of number of helicopter rides and the amount of free food, no other experience compares.”

