ESAs Meeting

Eight members of our Department presented papers at the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting in San Jose, CA from Aug. 5 to 10. On Aug. 2, four of them had a practice session. Both Claire Lunch and Nona Chiariello described parts of their ongoing research at the Jasper Ridge Global Change Experiment. Claire measured net ecosystem exchange of CO2 and H2O in a multi-factor change experiment. Nona has measured the interacting effects of elevated CO2, nitrogen, phosphorus & litter during two growth seasons. In addition, Chris Field gave a more general talk on the Effect of Warming on Ecosystems.

Cho-ying Huang from Asner's Group has analyzed Remote Sensing data collected over Colorado woodlands to assess biomass and woody encroachment on grasslands.

Noel Gurwick also presented a paper at the Meeting titled Plant production responses to interacting global changes in a California grassland. This was an update on the long-term data set that has been accumulating for the JRGCE since its inception in 1998. It built on the previous synthesis completed by Jeff Dukes during his tenure as a post-doc here. Other members of Asner's Group who presented research findings at the ESA Meeting were Robin Martin, Paulo Oliveira, and Greg himself.

July 15-18, Chris Field gave the keynote address at a conference in Davis, CA, on Impacts of climate change on the California wine industry.

July 18 - Aug. 3, Ken Caldeira taught a unit on carbonate chemistry and long-term geochemical cycles at the Urbino Summer School on Paleoclimatology (<http://www.unirub.it/ussp/> ), held each summer in Urbino, Italy. Urbino is known for its Palazzo Ducale. He went with Professor Simone Galleoti (U. of Urbino), Mark Pagani (Yale), and a group of students to examine rocks laid down during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM). He went to visit the site near Gubbio, Italy, where iridium was first found at the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary, providing the first indisputable evidence that a meteorite killed off the dinosaurs.

Seminars

July 18: Dr. Martin Hoffert, Prof. Emeritus, NY Univ. spoke about dealing with climate change in the Media. This was the third time that Marty has updated us on his efforts to influence the politics of research on climate change. (See Archives from Jan. & Nov., 2006) This time he spoke about the problems with coal gasification, nuclear energy, and renewable energy sources. He believes that mainly these are engineering problems that can be solved.

July 11: Sharon Robinson, Assoc. Prof. and Director, Inst. Conservation Biology & Law, Univ. Wollongong, Australia spoke on The role of the alternative oxidase in heating the floral ovens of Nelumbo nucifera (sacred lotus) & Philodendron selloum. The fact that some plants can produce heat in their flowers was news to some of us. Possibly heating helps to attract certain pollinating insects. Sharon is particularly concerned with the enzymatic mechanisms of this heat production.

Dr. Claudia Tebaldi from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO will be visiting DGE until September. She is working with Dave Lobell to connect climate model projections with impact models; such as his crop yield models.

Asner's Group

Paulo Oliveira, Greg Asner, Dave Knapp, Rebecca Raybin, and Angelica Almeyda published a paper in Science showing that conservation lands protect the rainforest in Peru, but that timber concessions invite forest destruction.

Greg Asner and Robin Martin presented research findings from the CAO program at the Hawaii Conservation Conference in Honolulu. Eben Broadbent and Angelica Almeyda are working in Peru and Bolivia to understand how soils contribute to land-use decision making in tropical forests and clearings.

Matt Jones is departing on August 31 for a new position with NOAA in Santa Cruz, CA.

Masahira Negishi (Hiro) returned to Japan to work again at ImageOne on Aug. 23.

Aug. 29: A farewell party for Mark Gessner was held in Stanford's Biology Dept. Mark attended many DGE lab. meetings and seminars and left us the following message: Overall my sabbatical has been extremely rewarding. Thank you to all who made my stay interesting and enjoyable. I hope to see some of you at another occasion. Don't hesitate to get in touch should you come to Switzerland. It would be a pleasure to welcome you there. My new contact address is below.

All the best, Mark

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