Field & Berry Lab Groups

Sept. 4: Chris Field was elected Co-Chair of the IPCC Working Group 2. He was formerly a coordinating lead author on the 2007 IPCC report, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability to Climate Change and was one of two Americans to represent the IPCC at the 2007 Nobel Prize ceremonies. According to Chris, "In this new position, I will be working to make sure the IPCC continues with its present strengths, while also focusing on improving the coordination of the science and the effectiveness of the communication. I am especially interested in finding ways to make the assessments of the IPCC useful for a wide range of stakeholders, including not only governments but also the private sector, NGOs, and individuals."

Sept. 11: Chris made the news in Nature Vol. 455, p. 144 in an article about the IPCC Meeting in Geneva that describes those newly elected or re-elected to Chair the various Working Groups. A fine photo of Chris (one of only two Americans elected) accompanies the article.

Noel Gurwic has accepted a Science-Policy Fellowship from the AAAS to work at the State Department beginning Sept. 2. He'll be in the Bureau of Economics, Energy, and Business Affairs, Office of International Energy and Commodities Policy, working on the US-Brazil Biofuels Partnership and on Alternative Energy Technologies and climate generally.

Sept. 8: The Big Thaw by Adam Wolf was published in the Sept/Oct Issue of the Stanford Alumni Magazine. This article is a direct result of Adam's trip to the Russian Arctic described in this News Archive of Sept. 2007. As Siberia’s permafrost melts, billions of tons of carbon could escape and heat the planet. He poses the question: Do animals and plants hold a key to Earth’s thermostat? There is a related paper by Schuur et al. with Chris Field as one of the authors titled Vulnerability of Permafrost Carbon to Climate Change: Implications for the Global Carbon Cycle in Bioscience 58 #8 (2008).

Sept. 26: The Field & Berry Lab Group met at noon to discuss plans for the Fall Quarter. It was decided to continue meeting weekly at this hour with members of the group discussing their current or planned research interests. Four new graduate students were introduced. Chris Field described a Workshop on Biofuels in Germany from which he had just returned. He also described the IPCC Meeting in Geneva when he was elected Co-Chair of Working Group 2 mentioned above. The Stanford Report of Sept. 24 describes what both Stanford and Carnegie may expect from Chris’ leadership in this international organization during the next five years. His Co-Chair is Vicente Barros of Argentina.

Tasting: Four different brands of dark chocolate picked up by Chris in Germany. (Always a winner & so good for you!)

Asner Lab Group

In early September, Angela De Santis, post doc, arrived from the Univ. of Alcalá (Madrid), Spain to study California forest fires for three months.

Eben Broadbent and Angelica have been setting up his field project (a chapter of his dissertation) linking 3D forest structure from the CAO LiDAR to model forest photosynthesis along an elevation gradient in Hawaii. Currently they are doing a project for the month of September in the Nicoya Peninsula of Costa Rica to understand socioeconomic and environmental impacts of tourism on the peninsula, linking multitemporal land cover analyses from satellite imagery with detailed household economic surveys. This project is linked with Stanford's CESD (Center of Ecotourism and Sustainable Development) and groups in Costa Rica. Results will be compared to a previous study they conducted on the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica in 2005.

Caldeira Lab

Sept. 8: Ken Caldeira (shown below with sun protection) reports from Lizard Island in Australia's Great Barrier Reef where he with post-doc Jack Silverman and Tanya Rivlin of the Inter-University Institute at Eilat, Israel are measuring water properties to try to determine how coral growth rates vary with environmental conditions. The long term goal is to understand better how warming and ocean acidification will affect coral reef ecosystems.

George Ban-Weiss, who recently received a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California (Berkeley) joined the Caldeira Lab this month as a post-doctoral researcher. George will be engaged in a number of activities, but his first project will involve using climate models to investigate how changes in energy and water fluxes at Earth's surface and in the atmosphere affect climate. These studies are aimed at developing a general understanding of how things like land-cover change, soot, Milankovic cycles, and proposed climate engineering schemes affect climate.

Sept. 27: The Dept. of Plant Biology sparked a revival of the Carnegie Hog Roast after about 20 yrs. Thanks to Kathy Barton & Ted Raab who were the primary movers initially, but numerous people joined in to make it a success. Adam Wolf deserves special credit for driving across the Bay to obtain a 140 lb (on the hoof) pig dressed for roasting on a spit. Carnegie also provided beverages, but the remainder of the meal was pot-luck (always delicious) and plenty for the vegetarians in our midst. Weather was perfect. Sorry if you missed it, but hopefully there'll
be a next time.

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