

Forum

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The final challenge, and the one for which we were least prepared, was to deal with postevent publicity. While we had effectively used social media tools to organize and communicate within our own communities, the Union College event was subject to a well-organized campaign that used those same tools to discredit our efforts. (See comments at <http://www.concordy.com/article/opinions/march-7-2012/a-lords-opinion-cant-compete-with-scientific-truth/4222/>, <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/10/moncktons-schenectady-showdown/>, and <http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/20/aristotles-climate/>.) Such campaigns have been mounted against a variety of other communicators of climate science as well [e.g., *Mann*, 2012]; yet we would have been far better prepared for the postevent publicity if we had anticipated that Twitter and other Internet tools can effectively nationalize discussions that take place even at small colleges.

The time and, more important, the expertise required to mount such an organized challenge can be daunting. The need for skills in social and media communications that typically fall outside scientists' graduate training is well described [e.g., *Bowman*

et al., 2010; *Moser*, 2010; *Pidgeon and Fischhoff*, 2011]. Yet, when we faculty engage climate science deniers, we make clear to our students and the entire community that we believe that much is at stake. If we yield the argument to speakers who attempt to discredit our research and contradict what we teach in our classes, then we risk giving the impression that scientific literacy and public awareness of climate science are of little importance to us.

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What's on the Web?

Read the latest offerings from the AGU Blogosphere:

Magma Cum Laude: "Blown away by Bancroft: Part III" (<http://bit.ly/MBtkpl>)

Mountain Beltway: "101 American Geo-Sites You've Gotta See, by Albert B. Dickas" (<http://bit.ly/MK07si>)

Dan's Wild Wild Science Journal: "Forecast track for Debby: You're on your own son!" (<http://bit.ly/NCSQft>)

Georneys: "Monday geology picture: Boulder at Sea Point, Cape Town, South Africa" (<http://bit.ly/Mv4gSg>)

GeoSpace: "AGU interviews astronauts in space" (<http://bit.ly/PChzA8>)

The Landslide Blog: "Did you see a landslide?" (<http://bit.ly/MKD3dQ>)



A close look at amphibole in Bancroft, Ontario, photographed by Magma Cum Laude blogger Jessica Ball.

ABOUT AGU

Improved Time to Publication in *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres*

Timely publication of manuscripts is important to authors and readers. AGU has significantly accelerated both the review and production processes for the *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* (JGR-Atmospheres). Via a number of mechanisms

(e.g., shortening the time allotted for reviewer selection, manuscript reviews, and revisions), the mean time to first decision has been decreased from 98 days in 2007 to 50 days in 2011, and the mean time to final decision has been decreased from

132 days in 2007 to 71 days in 2011. By implementing a new content management system, adjusting the workflow for improved efficiency, requesting authors to proofread their manuscripts quicker, and improving monitoring and follow-up to author and vendor queries, the mean production time from manuscript acceptance to publication has been decreased from 128 days in 2010 to only 56 days in 2012. Thus, in the past few years the mean time to publication of JGR-Atmospheres has been cut in half. These milestones have been achieved with no loss of quality of presentation or content. In addition, online posting of "papers in

press" on JGR-Atmosphere's home page typically occurs within a few days after acceptance. JGR-Atmospheres editors thank manuscript reviewers, authors, and AGU staff who have greatly contributed to the more timely review and publication processes. This information will be updated periodically on the JGR-Atmospheres home page. A chart showing the average time from acceptance to publication for all of AGU's journals is available at http://www.agu.org/pubs/pdf/31May2012_Timeliness_Chart.pdf.

—JOOST DE GOUW, STEVEN GHAN, SARA PRYOR, YINON RUDICH, and RENYI ZHANG, Editors, JGR-Atmospheres

Enter AGU Student Contest to Win Free Fall Meeting Registration

AGU is excited to announce its first Student Video and Student T-shirt Design competitions. This is an opportunity for students to display their artistic sides and share their creativity and love of science with the world. Entries could highlight an aspect of Earth or space science in an educational and/or entertaining way or showcase a career path in geophysical sciences. Winners of these student-only competitions will be awarded

free registration to the 2012 Fall Meeting in San Francisco, Calif.

The Student Video Contest gives students the opportunity to share an original short video that will be showcased on AGU's Web site and shown at the Fall Meeting. In the videos, students can explain an aspect of Earth or space science for a nonscientific audience, showcase an interesting geophysical career path, or even perform a song or skit.

In the Student T-shirt Design Contest, students can show off their graphic design talents by creating a one-of-a-kind T-shirt with an Earth or space science theme. Designs can be humorous, educational, or both. The winning design will appear on T-shirts sold at the Fall Meeting, and proceeds will be donated to AGU's Student Travel Grants Program.

AGU is accepting submissions from 2 July to 13 August. AGU will choose five semifinalists from each competition, and then the winners will be chosen by AGU's Facebook and YouTube audiences. T-shirt designs will be posted on AGU's Facebook page, and

videos will be posted on the YouTube page. Submissions receiving the most "likes" by 10 September will be the winners.

Students who are artistic, innovative, or simply need a diversion from classes and lab reports are encouraged to apply. This is your chance to take part in a fun and creative event and win free student registration to the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting.

For more information, see <http://membership.agu.org/students/>.

—KARA SMEDLEY, Student Member Specialist, AGU; E-mail: ksmedley@agu.org

Outstanding Student Paper Awards

The following members received Outstanding Student Paper Awards at the 2011 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco, Calif. Awards for other sections and focus groups will be announced in future issues of Eos.

Atmospheric and Space Electricity (ASE)

Thomas Gjestland, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, *Are there more TGFs in the RHESSI data?*

Burcu Kosar, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, *Sprite streamer formation*

in sub-breakdown conditions from an ionospheric disturbance

Atmospheric Sciences (AS)

Alexis Attwood, University of New Hampshire, Durham, *The effects of mineral*

dust on the hygroscopic and optical properties of inorganic salt aerosols

Adriana Raudzens Bailey, University of Colorado, Boulder, *Isotopic signatures of mixing processes and cloud detrainment in the subtropics*

Shannon Capps, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, *Quantifying relative contributions of global emissions to PM_{2.5} air quality attainment in the U.S.*

Matthew Christensen, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, *Aerosol-precipitation responses deduced from ship tracks as observed by CloudSat*

Evan Couzo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *A regulatory model's ability to simulate large spatial heterogeneity in observed ozone in Houston, Texas*

Stephen Griffith, Indiana University, Bloomington, *Hydroxyl and hydroperoxy chemistry at the CalNex-LA 2010 site: Measurements and modeling*

Will Johnson, Montana State University, Bozeman, *Development of an eye-safe micro-pulse differential absorption lidar (DIAL) for carbon dioxide profilings*

Chunson Lu, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, Nanjing, China, and Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, New York, *Observational study of different entrainment-mixing mechanisms in cumulus during RACORO: An implication for parameterization*

Corey Markfort, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, *Effect of wakes on land-atmosphere fluxes*

Scot Miller, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, *Large-scale environmental drivers of North American methane emissions*

Richard Moore, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, *Volatility and hygroscopicity of Atlanta CCN during new particle formation events in summer 2009*

Harshal Parikh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *A combined kinetic and volatility basis set approach to model secondary organic aerosol from toluene and diesel exhaust/meat cooking mixtures*

Brandon Strellis, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, *The influence of light absorbing aerosols on the radiation balance over central Greenland*

Michael Zucker, University of Colorado, Boulder, *Airborne passive microwave measurements from the AMISA 2008 science campaign for modeling of Arctic sea ice heating*

Biogeosciences (B)

Kristin Bergmann, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, *The clumped isotopic record of Neoproterozoic carbonates, Sulfanate of Oman*

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AOGS - AGU (WPGM) Joint Assembly



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