

AGU logo
Earth and Planetary Surface Processes
Focus Group Newsletter: June 2016

Dear Colleagues,

In this month's issue of the Earth and Planetary Surface Processes (EPSP) newsletter:

1. Please consider contributing to EPSP!
2. Congratulations to the 2016 Luna B. Leopold Young Scientist Award and G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes winners!
3. Fall Meeting abstract submission site now open!
4. Contribute to a survey on a potential national near-surface and critical zone geophysics facility (from Dr. Steven Holbrook).

Best regards,

Jim Pizzuto

President, AGU Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Focus Group

Please Consider Contributing to EPSP

Our budget is used primarily to support students (travel awards, the annual social gathering at the Fall Meeting, Outstanding Student Paper Awards, etc.) and to a lesser extent, our annual evening reception at the Fall Meeting. The percentage of our members contributing is among the lowest of all the sections and focus groups of AGU—we can do better. If enough contributions greater than \$50 are received, AGU will match your gift!

Congratulations to the 2016 EPSP Award Winners!

Dr. Chris Paola (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota) is the winner of the 2016 G.K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes.

Dr. Alison Duvall (Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington) is the winner of the 2016 Luna B. Leopold Young Scientist Award, and she will present the Sharp Lecture at the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting.

Join us to recognize these outstanding scientists, and to listen to the Sharp Lecture, Thursday afternoon during the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting (followed immediately by our annual evening reception).

The 2016 Fall Meeting Abstract Submission Site Is Now Open

Submit your abstract to one of the 52 sessions sponsored or cosponsored by the EPSP focus group!

Contribute to a Survey for a National Near-Surface and Critical Zone Geophysics Facility (from Dr. Steven Holbrook)

We would like your input in a short survey on the demand, rationale, and needs for a potential national facility for near-surface and “critical zone” geophysics. The survey should take only ~10–15 minutes to complete. You can do so anonymously, or identify yourself if you’d like to be included in future discussions. **NOTE: This survey is not just for geophysicists!** We are especially interested in hearing from those students and researchers who are not expert geophysicists but would like to have access to near-surface geophysical instrumentation, software, and expertise. Some context on the survey is included below, but if you prefer to go straight to the survey, you can find it [online](#).

The [University of Wyoming/Wyoming Center for Environmental Hydrology and Geophysics \(WyCEHG\)](#) will be part of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS; <http://www.iris.edu>) team that is writing a proposal in response to the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) solicitation for management and operation of the National Geophysical Observatory for Geoscience (NGEO) ([see solicitation online](#)). The solicitation specifically mentions “near-surface and critical zone geophysics” as a “frontier capability” of interest. **We believe that this solicitation, and the partnership with IRIS, represents a major opportunity to expand access to, and use of, near-surface geophysics in a broad range of Earth science disciplines.** A partnership between University of Wyoming and IRIS can leverage an existing facility of near-surface geophysical instrumentation recently established by a Research Infrastructure Improvement grant from the NSF Environmental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). A list of the current instrumentation in the WyCEHG facility can be found [here](#).

If a national facility comes to fruition, our goals are to make it widely available and responsive to the needs of the user community, including not only near-surface geophysicists but also, importantly, users in allied disciplines, from soil science to hydrology. Though many details remain to be worked out, we expect that the facility will be governed by a steering committee drawn from representatives of these fields.

With this survey we hope to assess demand for the instrumentation and services that might be provided by a national facility for near-surface geophysics. Your answers will help guide planning efforts for such a facility. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your ideas—if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

Thanks,

Steve Holbrook