

biologists) and new collaborators. A consensus has yet to emerge about the appropriate balance of priorities within realistic funding expectations.

On the positive side, interagency and multi-institutional collaboration continues to grow in several areas, including model frameworks, numerical methods, and the management of large volumes of model-generated output. It is anticipated that the agencies and the science community will continue to devise innovative and novel solutions to problems, as such solutions are valued by the Administration and Congress to meet fiscal and management goals and objectives. The example of CCSM helps make the case.

For additional information about the CCSM project, see the Web site: <http://www.ccsm.ucar.edu>.

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NEWS

Geohazards Graduate Study With the U.S. Peace Corps

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A unique, new educational program that focuses on geological natural hazards, U.S. Peace Corps field work, and on-campus study has begun its second year at Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Michigan.

While "Masters International" programs that combine Peace Corps service with a graduate degree program are available at 49 different universities in a variety of fields, the program at Michigan Tech is the only one with a natural hazards focus offering geological degree programs.

During the three-year master of science degree study plan for this Masters International program, students initially spend two semesters on campus. They then attend a Peace Corps training session of eight weeks followed by a two-year-long field assignment, afterwards returning to campus for their thesis or report defense. All students in the program must be accepted by the Peace Corps as well as by Michigan Tech.

In the field assignment, students work among communities primarily as part of Peace Corps efforts in environmental education, community development, agroforestry, public health, and other designated Peace Corps priority areas. They also conduct M.S. research devoted to the mitigation of geological natural hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, floods, and droughts. The M.S. degrees may be granted in geology, geophysics, geological engineering, or civil engineering.

The Peace Corps supports the new program through the field costs of its volunteers. It approved this new program with the hope of attracting well-qualified and highly motivated volunteers to serve. The program was initiated as a pilot project because natural hazards does not fit neatly into the main Peace Corps training programs.

At Michigan Tech are two other Masters International programs, in agroforestry and environmental engineering. The three programs are integrated to create a more robust interna-



Fig. 1. John Lyons with Guatemalan field volcanologist Gustavo Chigna at the Santiaguito Volcano Observatory, Guatemala. Photo by John Lyons.

tional Peace Corps academic experience on campus. The idea for this new program came from the authors with encouragement from the Peace Corps and the other Masters International programs at Michigan Tech.

The first group of five students (Table 1) has completed coursework at Michigan Tech, and the students are beginning their field assignments. These field assignments must meet Peace Corps goals that reflect the needs of the host countries. Michigan Tech faculty have worked with the Peace Corps to identify hazard zones in four Latin American countries where linkages with government agencies, local universities, engineers, and nongovernmental organizations can be established. Specific placement is determined by the Peace Corps.

The students' field sites are a potential resource for the geohazards community. The students will send monthly reports from their field sites, and information will be shared through a newsletter. The students have Web pages that describe their interests and preliminary plans. It is hoped that researchers interested in hazard zone studies will use this network and communicate with the students to develop possible hazards research collabora-

Table 1. The First Group of Michigan Tech Students in the Natural Hazards Masters International Program (August 2005).

Student	Country	Location	M.S. Study Objective	Start Date
John Lyons	Guatemala	Panimaché	volcanic hazards of Fuego	5/2005
Ellen Engberg	Ecuador	Latacunga	volcanic hazards of Cotopaxi	6/2005
Essa Gross	Nicaragua	To be determined	hydrological studies	8/2005
Armeda Van Dam	El Salvador	To be determined	geothermal hazards	9/2005
York Lewis	El Salvador	To be determined	landslides	9/2005

rations, including research equipment loans, surveys of risk perception or vulnerability, oral history, and community risk mapping.

Key funding to cover the campus costs of this new graduate program has come from the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) Division of Earth Sciences, through a Small Grant for Exploratory Research. Significant future support is approved from NSF's Office of International Science and Engineering. Seven

more students will have field assignments determined in the next year, and at capacity there will be up to 30 students in Peace Corps field sites doing hazard studies.

The program seeks ideas from the scientific community about the kinds of studies that can be successfully done with a two-year field season. The program also seeks highly motivated students with strong and varied backgrounds in the geological and environmental sciences,

environmental education, geophysics, and social science fields.

The program's Web site is <http://www.geohazards.mtu.edu>.

—WILLIAM I. ROSE and GREGG J.S. BLUTH,
Michigan Technological University, Houghton

In Brief

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Commerce report could limit fundamental research A controversial recommendation by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Inspector General (IG) to tighten controls on "deemed" exports used in the course of university research has prompted more than 300 comments. The comments to the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, RIN 0694-AD29, "Revision and Clarification of Deemed Export Related Regulatory Requirements," were posted to the department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Web site (<http://www.bis.doc.gov>) on 11 August.

A March 2004 IG report that preceded the revision and clarification notes that, according to the BIS-administered Export Administration Regulations, any release to a foreign national of technology or software subject to the regulations is deemed to be an export to the home country of the foreign national.

A number of respondents noted that the recommendations, intended as national security measures, could negatively affect fundamental research and economic competitiveness.

A 16 June comment from the U.S. National Academies stressed that the rule changes and interpretations of existing regulations "will serve to weaken both national security and the economic competitiveness of the United States."

The U.S. National Science Foundation, in a 24 June comment, noted that the BIS is interpreting the National Policy on the Transfer of Scientific, Technical and Engineering Information so narrowly that even without implementing proposed changes, "BIS is reducing the scope of protection offered to fundamental research." The NSF letter further noted that "Implementation of the proposed changes would not move this country's deemed exports program toward an approach compatible with an open research environment."

—RANDY SHOWSTACK, Managing Editor

ABOUT AGU

Cheaper Electronic Journals for Libraries

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Production of the print version of journals adds substantially to the expense of publication. Since 2002 the institutional subscribers to AGU journals have shared equally these extra fixed costs no matter which format they purchased. Fixed costs are the expenses incurred regardless of number of copies produced. The fixed cost for print includes creating the printing plates from electronic files and setting up the presses and the bindery and mailing equipment.

For equity among all subscribers, rates for 2006 have been set to better reflect the cost of the service being provided. Only the institutions subscribing to the print version will be charged for its printing, paper, and mailing.

The effect of this change in pricing is a reduction in the institutional electronic subscription rates for most journals. For example, the rate for the entire JGR has gone down 10%. Where the institutional electronic

rates for 2006 have not gone down, there has been significant growth in the size of the journal.

Another effect of the rebalancing of expense and pricing is a marked increase in the rates for print versions. This will be most evident in the rate for the "print add-on," which is the discounted rate for the print version available to subscribers to the electronic journal. In the past, subscription rates for print add-on covered almost none of the fixed costs of printing.

The difference between pre-2006 rates and what is needed to cover all costs of producing and distributing print is too great a one-year adjustment in prices for library budgets to accommodate. Until the full costs of print are covered, institutional subscribers can expect to see rates for print increase more rapidly than inflation and growth in articles.

The Publications Committee and staff foresee a time when it will no longer be economically viable to offer print. As the number

of subscribers to the print version declines, there will be fewer to share the expense, and thus prices are likely to reach levels that will be unacceptable. Staff have been charged to investigate whether alternative services could be offered. Of course, the journal of record is the electronic version, not the print version. As more authors take advantage of the multimedia options available in all AGU journals, the differences between the print version and the journal of record will increase.

For many years, member rates have been based on incremental costs; that is, fixed costs are not included in costs that member rates are expected to cover. Anticipated growth in the number of articles for 2006 has resulted in increases in the member rates for most journals.

This brief explanation of pricing is being presented so that you can be better prepared to assist in making choices at your institution. The prices and terms are posted on AGU's Web site at http://www.agu.org/pubs/Institution_Rates_2006.pdf; questions can be sent to pubmatters@agu.org.

—TERRY E. TULLIS, General Secretary; JUDY C. HOLOVIK, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Publications