

GEST DIGEST

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11

MARCH 2004

GEST Visiting Scientist Seminar

- Date:** April 6, 2004
- Time:** 4:00 to 5:00 pm (reception to follow)
- Location:** Goddard Space Flight Center
Bldg. 33, Room H-114
- Speaker/Home:** Institution: Virginia Garcia / University of Rio Grande
- Seminar title:** Ocean color studies in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean

Short Abstract :

Satellite color sensors allow the study of phytoplankton biomass in the oceans (through pigment detection) on a large scale. Such studies are relevant in the context of the global carbon cycle, since a significant amount of C can be absorbed by these microalgae through photosynthesis and subsequently sink in the ocean floor. Accurate estimates of these processes depend upon a reliable retrieval of phytoplankton biomass data from ocean color data through specific algorithms. The main objective of this project is to produce chlorophyll-a algorithms for these areas, for large-scale pigment mapping from ocean color data in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean, an under-sampled region of the global oceans. Surface pigment concentration (chlorophyll-a) and upwelling spectral radiance measurements were carried out between 1995 and 2004 during 15 oceanographic cruises in various water types, in the Southwestern Atlantic and Southern Oceans (1.8°-72°S and 18.5°-60°W). These included Brazilian coastal waters, open ocean waters and Antarctic waters. Empirical algorithms were produced for each region and for a combination of all dataset. Results from coastal waters under influence of the La Plata river and Antarctic Peninsula tip regions show greatest deviations from the operational global SeaWiFS algorithms. Other approaches, such as semi-analytical algorithms, will have to be attempted for these regions.

An under-sampled area from the Southwestern Atlantic (Brazil-Malvinas Confluence region) has been selected to examine the spatial and temporal chlorophyll-a variability, through ocean color data. We used 60 monthly and 230 weekly-averaged SeaWiFS images (9km x 9km resolution) which span from October 1997 to September 2002. A nonlinear model was used to fit the annual harmonic of the log chlorophyll concentration anomalies in the region. Analysis of the spatial variability of model parameters has shown the existence of a marked annual cycle (with different phases) at several locations in the region.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SEMINARS	2
SOLICITATIONS	2
UPCOMING CONF.	3-4
A LITTLE HISTORY	5-6
IMPORTANT DATES	7



Speaker's Biographical Sketch:

- PhD in Biological Oceanography at Southampton University (U.K.), 1989
- Research associate and Lecturer at University of Rio Grande (FURG), Brazil, from 1991 – to present
- Since 1991 working with the Research Group on Ecology of Phytoplankton and Marine Microorganisms and the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Physics Department at FURG.
- Main research topics:
In-situ and remote sensing phytoplankton biomass and primary production studies in the Southwestern Atlantic and Southern Ocean
Eco-Physiology of phytoplankton (especially harmful flagellate microalgae)
Culture of microalgae for aquaculture purposes

NASA RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT - NNH04-ZYS-003N**Tropical Cloud Systems and Processes (TCSP)**

release date: April 1, 2004.

This NASA Research Announcement (NRA) solicits investigations of tropical cloud systems and their environmental feedback which contribute to a unified approach to study variations in the Earth's climate system. The announcement seeks innovative investigations that utilize NASA's observational data for investigations of tropical cyclones, the impact of cirrus clouds on atmospheric cycles of water and energy, and related feedbacks on the radiative, compositional and dynamic attributes of the upper troposphere/lower stratosphere. It also seeks proposals that utilize this knowledge in facilitating the development and evaluation of models and data assimilation systems that include representations of tropical cloud processes and their impact on Earth's climate system.

This NRA is open to all scientific investigators who submit proposals that respond to the objectives of the program. Awards will be for the period of 3 years. It is anticipated that approximately \$7M per year will be available, with individual awards depending on the range of activities proposed and the total number of team members selected. Participation in the program is open to all categories of institutions, including educational, industrial, non-profit organizations, NASA centers and other US agencies.

The complete NRA will be available electronically on the release date, via the Internet at the Research Opportunities Web Page at <http://research.hq.nasa.gov> under "Office of Earth Science (Code Y)". A paper copy will be available to those who do not have access to Internet by calling (202) 358-3552 and leaving a voice mail message.

This announcement will be open through July 1, 2004, and proposals may be submitted at any time throughout this period.

Point of Contact

Name: Dr. Jeffery B. Halverson
Title: Deputy Program Scientist
Phone: (202) 358-1199
Fax: (202) 358-2770



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

*SPIE's Fourth International Asia-Pacific
Environmental Remote Sensing Symposium*

CALL FOR PAPERS

8-12 November 2004
Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort
Honolulu, Hawaii USA



Conferences · Presentations · Exhibition

- Passive Optical Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere and Clouds IV
- Lidar Remote Sensing for Industry and Environmental Monitoring V
- Microwave Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere and Environment IV
- Multispectral and Hyperspectral Remote Sensing Instruments and Applications II
- Active and Passive Remote Sensing of the Oceans
- Image Processing and Pattern Recognition in Remote Sensing II
- Applications with Weather Satellites II
- Enabling Sensor and Platform Technologies for Spaceborne Remote Sensing
- Solar and Geospace Instrumentation and Science
- Instruments and Methods for Planetary Remote Sensing
- Remote Sensing Applications of the Global Positioning System

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Conference Dates**
8–12 November 2004
- **Abstract Due Date**
26 April 2004
- **Manuscript Due:**
11 October 2004

<http://spie.org/conferences/calls/04/ae/>

UPDOMING AGU CONFERENCES - 2004

April

 26 – 30 April 2004

European Geosciences Union (EGU) 1st General Assembly

Nice, FRANCE

Sponsors: EGU, AGU

Contact: EGU Office, Max-Planck-Str. 13, 37191 Katlenburg-Lindau, GERMANY ; **Phone:** +49-5556-1440;

Fax: +49-5556-4709; **E-mail:** egu@copernicus.org; **Web Site:** www.copernicus.org/EGU/EGU.html

May

 17 – 21 May 2004

Joint Meeting: AGU, the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU), and Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)

Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

Sponsors: AGU, CGU, SEG

Contact: AGU Meetings Department, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009 USA ;

Phone: +1-202-777-7333; **Fax:** +1-202-328-0566; **E-mail:** meetinginfo@agu.org;

Web Site: www.agu.org/meetings/sm04/

Travel grants for AGU meetings are available for a limited number of students members who are first authors presenting a paper/poster and whose research is NOT supported by grant or contract. Student applicants are eligible to apply for funding of up to \$350 if studying in the U.S. and up to \$600 if studying outside the U.S. **Previous student travel grant recipients are not eligible for further awards.**

Students are encouraged to compete for an [Outstanding Student Paper Award](#). Information about these awards is available online.

UMBC'S Insights Weekly Announces

Responsible Conduct in Research Conference (4/14-15)

The Responsible Conduct in Research Conference is scheduled for April 14 and 15 at the University of Maryland College Park. This two-day event will focus on research integrity including mentoring, conflict of interest and authorship and current topics and best practices in human subjects protection. Faculty mentors and investigators, graduate program directors, student researchers and support staff are encouraged to attend. Program and registration information is available online: <http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/ORAA/workshops/faculty.html>.

A LITTLE HISTORY

April Fool's Day!

Unlike most of the other non-foolish holidays, the history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is not totally clear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it sort of evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families.

In Scotland, for example, April Fool's Day is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior region of the body. It is called Taily Day. The origin of the "kick me" sign can be traced to this observance.

Mexico's counterpart of April Fool's Day is actually observed on December 28. Originally, the day was a sad remembrance of the slaughter of the innocent children by King Herod. It eventually evolved into a lighter commemoration involving pranks and trickery.

Pranks performed on April Fool's Day range from the simple, (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied!"), to the elaborate. Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!"

Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool's Day. Sometimes, elaborate practical jokes are played on friends or relatives that last the entire day. The news media even gets involved. For instance, a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees.

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!



A Few Quote.....You Know What They Say About Fools

- But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. -- *1 Cor 1:27*
- However big the fool, there is always a bigger fool to admire him. -- *Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux*
- [Politicians] never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge. -- *Thomas Reed*
- He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks. -- *François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld*
- The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly, is to fill the world with fools. -- *Herbert Spencer*
- Sometimes one likes foolish people for their folly, better than wise people for their wisdom. -- *Elizabeth Gaskell*
- Looking foolish does the spirit good. -- *John Updike*
- Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed. -- *Mark Twain*
- A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees. -- *William Blake*
- A fool must now and then be right by chance. -- *Cowper*
- It is better to be a fool than to be dead. -- *Stevenson*
- The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year. -- *Mark Twain*

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

IMPORTANT DATES - 2004

5TH of each month

Monthly time sheets due into GEST Office

Jan. W2 received at home by Jan 31st

Feb. GEST Annual Report input due to Faculty Group Spokesperson

Mar. UMBC Faculty Annual Report (FAR) due
GEST Quarterly Faculty Meeting March 30th

Apr. **Deadline for filing Federal and State tax returns April 15th.**

May Memorial Day

June UMBC Fiscal year closes June 30th.
All expense forms due in by early June
GEST Quarterly Faculty Meeting - June 24th

July GEST Annual Research Program Plan distributed (ARPP)

Aug. No health insurance taken out of pay one cycle

GEST Faculty Quarterly Meeting - Aug. 19th

Sept. Consulting Report due to Nancy
Labor Day Holiday September 1st
NASA Fiscal Year ends Sept. 30

Oct. Columbus Day Holiday - October 14th
Open enrollment for Health Plans -

Nov. Veterans Holiday - November 11th

Thanksgiving - November 27th

Dec. All non-US citizens must file new Citizenship Status Form and W4

GEST Faculty Quarterly Meeting- Dec. 15th, GSFC

Christmas - December 25th

Moving expenses this year taxed final paycheck of year

GEST Faculty Quarterly Meetings

March 30, 2004

June 24, 2004

August 19, 2004

Dec. 15, 2004

GODDARD EARTH SCIENCES AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER



GEST

1450 South Rolling Road
Suite 3.002
Baltimore, MD 21227

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
[HTTP://GEST.UMBC.EDU/](http://gest.umbc.edu/)

Please email information for the

newsletter to

roscoe@umbc.edu

prior to the 15th of each month