

GEST is a consortium of scientists and engineers, led by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), to conduct scientific research in Earth and information sciences and related technologies in collaboration with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). The consortium members of GEST include UMBC, Hampton University, Howard University, Caelum Research Corporation, and Northrop Grumman Corporation.

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GEST's Summer 2009 Student Programs

GEST hosted students from near and far for another successful summer of research with mentors as they investigated various research topics through the Graduate Student Summer Program and the Summer Institute in Earth Sciences. Eight graduate students participated in the GSSP (top photo), and nine students made up the Summer Institute of Earth Sciences (bottom photo). The GSSP students' papers can be viewed at the following website: http://gest.umbc.edu/student_opp/2009_gssp_reports.html, and http://gest.umbc.edu/student_opp/2009_sies_reports.html is where you can find the SIES students' papers. Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Student Summer programs; please visit the GEST website for more information.



photos courtesy of Valerie Buxton, Program Coordinator Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS!

GEST congratulates **Shin-Chan Han** on being honored with AGU's Geodesy Section Award at the 2009 AGU Conference held in San Francisco, CA. This award honors young members (40 years of age or younger) who show potential to become AGU Fellows in the future. Dr. Han was recognized for innovative studies of satellite gravity measurements with wide-ranging applications to hydrology, seismology, and oceanography. According to AGU, "Geodesy is a branch of geophysics that studies the geometrical, structural, and gravitational properties of the Earth, their time evolution, and the dynamic interactions of the solid Earth with other physical components of the Earth system (atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, and the core), at a wide range of temporal and spatial scales. Geodesists also study the corresponding topics for other planets in the solar system." To view a highlight of Dr. Han's research, please visit <http://www.agu.org/sections/geodesy/index.php>.

Closer to home, in late September, the 2009 Robert H. Goddard (RHG) Honor Awards were distributed at GSFC. Among the recipients of Exceptional Achievement Awards were **Shin-Chan Han** of Code 698.0 and **Nickolay Krotkov** of Code 613.3. **Wayne Kasprzak** of Code 699 was also honored with a Merit Award. Additionally, **Andrea Molod** and **Hailan Wang**, both of Code 610.1, received GMAO Peer Awards in late November 2009: Dr. Molod for her outstanding contributions to the GEOS-5 model development, and Dr. Wang for work in the production and analysis of the post-war extension of the 2-degree reanalysis used for the MERRA Scout run.

GODDARD'S BEST OF '09 FILM FEST

In December 2009, NASA Goddard's Office of Public Affairs presented the second annual Film Fest. Videos fell into the following categories: Best Mission Video, Best Promo, Most Creative, and Best Science. The videos were presented within retrospective cut-ins from NASA Goddard's earlier days, juxtaposing the past with the present and future. **Silvia Stoyanova**, **Ryan Fitzgibbons**, **Jen Shoemaker**, **Stefanie Misztal**, and **Scott Weissinger** (all of Code 130) were all contenders in the competition. Congratulations goes to the Scientific Visualization Studio, which won for Best Science as well as Best in Show, an overall winner, for "Sentinels of the Heliosphere". Congratulations also to former GEST member Chris Smith who won for Most Creative. All of Goddard's videos can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/NASAexplorer>, or you can visit the Scientific Visualization Studio's website: <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/filmfest09/>.

NASA GSFC OUTREACH

NASA GSFC's first outreach with the Appalachian Nation Cherokees took place this past fall in Sterling, VA. Goddard Center for Astrobiology (GCA) scientists **Avi Mandell** and **Inge ten Kate** conducted fun science experiments that attracted families with young children. GCA EPO lead **Cynthia Cheung** coordinated the booth activities, and GCA videos and animations were presented. **Benita Bell** of the Minority Institute Astrobiology Collaborative (MIAC) and members of the Goddard Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) also provided support.

STAFFING NEWS

GEST welcomed an additional Business Specialist to its staff in September: **Katie Nguyen**. She is working with several GEST and JCET faculty members. Katie has a background in banking and a degree in Business Administration from Towson University; also, she is completing coursework in Photography from the Washington School of Photography.

With the restructuring of GEST's staff comes a shift in responsibilities. For GEST faculty members, **Margo Young** is now responsible for authorizing travel requests, receiving timesheets, and reviewing equipment requests, as well as the usual duties of preparing financial reports, assisting with proposal routing, and managing grant and task funds. An updated Organization Chart is available on the GEST website.

GEST also wishes **Anne Kramer**, **Maria Frostic**, **Yasuko Yoshida**, and **Manfredo Tabacniks** all the best in their future endeavors.