

AGS Tech Conference 2012 Student Poster Award Winners

The Alaska Geological Society 2012 Technical Conference was held at UAF on September 22 and 23. Jeff Freymueller (Geophysical Institute and UAF Dept. of Geology & Geophysics) opened the conference with a very well received keynote presentation: *Measuring Active Tectonics, Hydrology, and the Cryosphere using Geodesy*. A lively poster session followed, and the afternoon concluded with hors d'ouvres, a social hour, and awards. This year, AGS sponsored two \$100 prizes for the best graduate student poster presentations in geology and geophysics. Of the 19 posters in the session, 15 were presented by students, all of whom are enrolled at UAF. Seven geology posters and eight geophysics posters were evaluated by panels of three judges: professional geologists and UAF faculty whose students were not presenting. The judges universally praised the quality of the students' research and found it very difficult to select a single winner from each division. They also noted that second-year students were at a disadvantage competing against students with multiple years of data and analyses. Therefore, in addition to the two prizes for best poster, the judges chose to award three honorable mentions for promising research. These are the winners:

Awards



Best Poster – Geology was awarded to MS student **Rachel Westbrooke** for her presentation *Vegetation of the Central Beringian Lowlands: Evidence of a Glacial Refugium Found in IODP Expedition 323 Sediment* co-authored by S. Fowell, N. Bigelow and S. Vanlaningham.



Best Poster – Geophysics was awarded to PhD student **Yuning Fu** for his presentation *Seasonal Hydrological Loading in Southern Alaska Inferred by GPS and GRACE, and Slow Slip Events in the Southern Central Alaska Subduction Zone* co-authored by J. Freymueller.



Honorable Mentions

Best Geology Poster by a Second-year Student was awarded to MS student **Rachel Frohman** for her presentation *Neotectonics Around Alaska: Identifying and Characterizing Active Faults* co-authored by W. Wallace and R. Koehler.



Best Geophysics Poster by a Second-year Student was awarded to MS student **Arvind Chittambakkam** for his presentation *Geothermal Exploration at Pilgrim Hot Springs, Alaska* co-authored by R. Daanen, C. Haselwimmer, A. Prakash, M. Mager and G. Holdmann.



Best Poster by an Undergraduate was awarded to BS student **Jessica Eicher** for her presentation *Layered Gabbros of the Nelchina Complex, Alaska: A Summary of Fieldwork and Lab Analyses from the Summer 2012 Field Season* co-authored by A. Kentner and E. Nadin.

On September 23, Jim Beget (UAF Dept. of Geology & Geophysics and Geophysical Institute) led a half-day field trip to two classic Quaternary loess sequences in the Fairbanks area. Trip participants enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures that reached nearly 70° while examining loess, paleosols and volcanic ash (below left) at Gold Hill (below right) and Halfway House. The universal favorite stop was the trench at Halfway House, which exposes glacial loess units interbedded with interglacial paleosols, providing a nearly continuous record of terrestrial climate from marine oxygen isotope stages 1 through 6.



Above: The distinctive ~2.02 Ma PA tephra, an important stratigraphic marker bed in the Gold Hill loess. **Right:** Gold Hill under sunny skies on Sept. 23, 2012.

