



Association for Women Geoscientists

Puget Sound Chapter

September/October 2003

Editor's Comments

Greetings Everyone!

I am very sorry that it taken so long for the newsletter to get out, but we have been very busy planning October's AWG Convention "Climbing Higher into the 21st Century" in Seattle. If you have not yet registered, then please take a few minutes to visit the Convention's web site <http://www.scn.org/psawg/Convention.html>.

The early registration deadline has been extended to September 27th. Please check the convention website for the registration flyer and form. You should also be receiving these registration materials in Gaea any day now. Also, please make your hotel reservations at the Hilton Homewood Suites by Oct. 6. Rates and room availability are not guaranteed after that date. We look forward to seeing you in October in Seattle!

I would like to make everyone aware that the chapter has a new address: Puget Sound AWG, P.O. Box #4229, Kent, WA 98089. Please send all correspondence to this new address.

As is usual for this time of year, we just conducted chapter elections to vote for a new officer and re-elect serving officers. I am pleased to inform you that we received an almost unprecedented return of 10 ballots. The following officers will continue in their office: President, Marcia Knadle; Vice President, Shawn Blaesing-Thompson; and Treasurer, Carla Whittington. We have a new Secretary, Paula York. We all look forward to getting to know and serving with Paula. The election has yet to be certified and will be certified at a future time.

In this month's newsletter, we have reports on Alicia Musselman's and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson's participation as judges at the 2003 Washington State Science Fair in April, earlier

this year; what happened during NWGS's April Meeting and Poster Session; who received our 2003 Chapter Scholarship; and a report on our June meeting on earthquakes and floods. Enjoy!

Heather Bonam Receives AWG-PS Special Award at 2003 Washington State Science Fair

Alicia Musselman, and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson participated as 2003 Washington State Science Fair judges and AWG representatives for the fair held on April 4th and 5th. We judged the elementary aged students on Friday evening. It is always amazing to see how much more these children seem to know about science than we did at their ages. Each year, it is also great to see motivated teachers bring their students out by the class load.

The second day we judged the Earth and Space Science, and Environmental Science categories along with a handful of special awards under the same categories. We chose Heather Bonam as the AWG Special Award winner and recipient of a \$100 savings bond and a Hiking Washington's Geology book. Heather's Science project looked at how different "soils" affected the stability of the buildings on top of them when an earthquake hits. She was a freshman student at her high school in Port Townsend, Washington.

NWGS April Meeting & Student Poster Session

On April 8, 2003, the Northwest Geological Society held their annual Student Poster Session. The student presenters from graduate programs, undergraduate schools, and community colleges made it a very interesting & informative meeting. There was even a poster presented by a high school student.

Both graduate student presenters were from the University of Washington. Jennifer Horvath's poster summarized her research on the **EVOLUTION OF A GRAVELLY MIMA-TYPE MOUNDFIELD IN SOUTHWESTERN MISSOURI**. Michael O'Neal's poster demonstrated validating a growth curve for a species of lichen growth for use in age dating geological surfaces less than 145 years old.

Pacific Lutheran University was marvelously represented by undergraduate students Denise Thompson & Paula York. Their zeal for geology was wonderful to behold. Paula recently presented a poster at the Cordilleran Section Meeting of the GSA in Puerto Vallarta. Denise has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study at Auckland University, New Zealand. She is currently student-teaching at Rogers High School in Puyallup; she has succeeded so well that a dozen or so of her students came to the meeting with her to present the results of their **GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE PROJECT**. Denise's poster was **AN ANALYSIS OF THE LACAMAS CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT AS A COMPONENT OF THE NISQUALLY CHINOOK RECOVERY PLAN**. Paula York's poster also handled the **LACAMAS CREEK PROJECT**; showing how compromise & failure to appreciate the sediment transport capacity of the stream resulted in little effect from the expenditure of much money & effort.

From the community colleges were Linda Wagner & Donald Hurling. Linda, from Green River CC summarized the results of a tree-ring study entitled **WHICH TREES ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE EFFECTS OF PRECIPITATION?** Donald from Everett CC dealt with the effects of satellite orbits on geology in the case of Jupiter's moon, Io.

Eliza York, a sophomore at Rogers High School & daughter of Paula York, produced a poster epitomizing the **YELLOWSTONE HOT SPOT**.

Each student ably answered questions at the posters & gave fine oral reports on them. It gave us great pleasure to see their interest, enthusiasm

& their precocious skill in expressing themselves.

(Original copy from NWGS's May Newsletter as submitted by Alicia Musselman)

Paula York Receives 2003 AWG Puget Sound Scholarship

Paula York was named recipient of the 2003 AWG Puget Sound Chapter's Scholarship and received a one-year membership in AWG. This award, founded in 1989, was established to aid undergraduate women who intend to pursue a career in the earth sciences. Recipients are chosen on the basis of their commitment to a geosciences career, financial need, and academic achievement. We had three applicants this year and choosing among them proved challenging.

We selected Paula York, a junior at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). As a full-time student and mother of six children, ranging in age from seventeen to four, family and medical needs have taken precedent financially. Highly motivated and enthusiastic, Paula is able to maintain a 3.4 GPA and participates in student and community activities. PLU has awarded her merit and academic scholarships.

During the spring of 2003, Paula was Vice President and a committee chair of the Student Washington Education Association.

Paula originally considered a biology major, with an emphasis on micro-biology, when she first attended Green River Community College. Later, while a student at Pierce College, she met instructor Tom Bush who introduced her to geology. He became both mentor and advisor in her newly chosen field. Paula presented a poster at the Geological Society of America Cordilleran Sectional Meeting in Mexico this spring and presented posters at the Northwest Geological Society Student Poster meeting for the past two years. She won in 2002 and was a runner-up this year. Paula became a member of the Northwest Geologic Society as soon as she learned about it and attends meetings regularly. She has already become active in AWG, planning to be our new

Secretary this fall. Paula taught geology in her practicum at Lakes High School this past spring and is making a great start in her goal to become an earth science educator.

We presented Paula with her \$1000 scholarship on June 20, 2003 at the last AWG Puget Sound meeting. Then, we followed with a geo-film fest. Paula and her daughter, Eliza, also brought posters they had prepared for recent geologic society meetings to share with attendees. About ten AWG members enjoyed pizza and films at Shawn Blaesing-Thompson's house in Tumwater, WA. The first documentary "Though the Earth Be Moved" had some fantastic amateur footage of the first 72 hours of the 1964 Alaska earthquake and tsunami. Animation of the Missoula Flood crossing the Columbia Plateau and great footage of the associated geologic features were featured in the second documentary produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting. We wish Paula the very best in her continuing studies and her eventual career in the earth sciences.

This award is made possible due to the generous members and friends of the Puget Sound AWG Chapter who contributed to this scholarship. Thanks are also due to the AWG Foundation, which supplies matching funds. Thank you for continuing to help make this annual event a success.

Lynn Hultgrien
Chair, AWG Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship Committee

Report on the June Meeting about Earthquakes and Floods

On June 20th we celebrated Midsummer with a look at some 'earth-shaking' documentaries with Pacific Northwest appeal as ten of us got

together over pizza and salad. In addition to the films, we awarded our **2003 \$1000 chapter scholarship to Paula York**, a junior at Pacific Lutheran University. She brought two posters that she and her daughter presented at the NWGS Student Poster meeting last April – her daughter's poster won one of the prizes!

We spent the rest of the evening watching two documentaries on 'nature's fury' in the Pacific Northwest. The first was a fascinating 45-minute historic documentary about the **1964 Alaska Earthquake** that was produced by the Office of Civil Defense a year or so later and is called **"Though the Earth Be Moved."** It doesn't really go into the geology, since few people recognized plate tectonics at that time, let alone that southern Alaska was sitting on a subduction zone. It does, however, have fantastic amateur footage of the earthquake and tsunami taken from a ship in Valdez Harbor. It covers the response in the first 72 hours by local governments and Civil Defense, mainly in Anchorage but also in coastal villages. The film was made into a video in 1996 and is part of the Heritage Collection produced by Alaska Public Telecommunications. This was a truly amazing video to watch due to the massive earth movement as a result of that earthquake.

The second film was a half-hour documentary produced in 1998 by Oregon Public Broadcasting as part of their Oregon Field Guide series, which has graciously been loaned to us by the Ice Age Flood Institute. It's about the **Missoula Flood** and includes some wonderful animation of the flood waters crossing the Columbia Plateau, as well as great footage of flood features.

A Link to the Ice Age Floods Institute:
<http://www.iceagefloodsinstitute.org/index.htm>

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson,
AWG-PS Vice-President



Alicia Musselman (on right), State Science Fair judge and AWG representative, and Heather Bonam (on left) the AWG Special Award winner and recipient of a \$100 savings bond and a Hiking Washington's Geology book. Heather's Science project looked at how different "soils" affect the stability of the buildings on top of them when an earthquake hits.



Lynn Hultgrien (on right), Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and Paula York (on left) our \$1000 scholarship award winner for 2003.

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