Greetings,

Wow, this has been a busy month! I attended AGU this December to share two of the education initiatives at BPRC and then took part in a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) training program sponsored by the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) at Ohio State and instructed by Wilderness Medical Associates. I would highly recommend WFR to any researcher who plans to spend time in the field two hours or more from definitive medical care. Participants learn to provide healthcare level CPR, treat musculoskeletal injuries, and identify conditions that necessitate emergency evacuations. This training has become an industry standard for many guiding companies, and I was happy to see that it was available on campus at the conclusion of the semester.

This is the third year that Ohio State has offered training, and they plan to do so again next year. Certification is valid for three years. I will advertise the program in next autumn’s newsletter.

Regards,
Jason Cervenec

IMPENDING DEADLINES…
NSF 09-552 - Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry  1/16/12
NSF 12-608 - Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology  1/17/13
NSF 13-503 - Ice Coring and Drilling Program for the Office of Polar Programs  1/22/13

NASA: Roses, A.49 - Studies with ICESat and CryoSat-2  2/15/13

On December 13, we partnered with the Gateway Film Center to host a panel discussion following the 7 p.m. screening of Chasing Ice (left). The new Learning Center served as the location of the holiday luncheon (right).
**For Your Information...**

**Skype Premium**
BPRC will be purchasing a Skype Premium account. A premium account allows us to run group video calls and group screen sharing. These are services which are typically much more expensive and often unavailable to groups that do not have a formal video conferencing system. If you would like to use the account, contact me for the information in January.

**Rock Box Advertisement**
If you know a teacher who is looking for materials to support the teaching of the rock cycle, please have them visit our website (http://bprc.osu.edu/r/rock_box/) and request a Rock Box for their classroom. Each box comes with rock samples from Antarctica and materials to help teachers deliver lessons. For this month’s trivia challenge (and free cookies), be the first or fifth person to e-mail me with the names of an igneous, a metamorphic, and a sedimentary rock.

**Join us on Facebook (/ByrdPolar) and Twitter (@ByrdPolar)**

![Facebook and Twitter](image)

*Last month’s photo submissions received some traffic on our Facebook page (left, top right). Our Twitter followers have increased dramatically over the last few months (bottom right).*
How You Can Help Me…How I Can Help You

Visible Geology
While at AGU, I came across an interactive online education tool called Visible Geology (http://app.visiblegeology.com/) that might help students connect stratigraphy and geologic events. Rowan Cockett at the University of Calgary in Canada developed the tool for which I can see applications from middle school through university.

Funds Available for Undergraduate Course Redesign
At AGU, I also learned that there are few proposals being submitted to the NSF’s Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (TUES) or Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE) for geosciences education.

Of the approximately 1,200 proposals submitted each year for TUES funding, approximately 20% to 25% are funded to a sum of 70 million dollars. Of the proposals submitted, almost 70% are coming from engineering and computer science. Only 30-40 proposals are being submitted for geosciences education annually. This is particularly troubling because proposal pressure dictates the funding stream. Any undergraduate course redesign or enhancement is eligible for TUES as long as the transformation could be scaled up to other classrooms if it proves effective. With the coming shift in the national science standards for K-12 education, there are also many teachers in pre-college classrooms interested in collaborating on initiatives that provide effective instruction.

NSF TUES Link: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741
NSF INSPIRE Link: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504852

Is There Some New Instructional Technology that You Have Heard About?
If there is a new instructional technology that you are considering using with your classes and would like me to investigate, please drop me a line and I can get more information for you.

BPRC Penguins Lego League Team

After months of research, design, and practice, The Penguins competed in Chillicothe, Ohio on December 1 and earned both the Core Values Award and Coaches Award. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to see their practice in late November and to Bryan Mark and Alfonso Fernandez who coached the team.

Random But Useful Endings
From July 1st to December 20th, 2012, Byrd Polar reached 3760 people through 60 different outreach activities.