



Volume 27, Issue 1

Winter 2008

Special points of interest:

- Have you paid your 2008 dues?? Membership form found inside!!
- Seeking nominations for Chair-elect, Mentoring Chair, Newsletter Chair, and Webpage Assistant
- Current job announcements found on page 7
- Taken your AWSS shirt somewhere fun or exotic?? See page 8 to share your picture!
- Welcome new members!!

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Ms. Lindsey Moritz Awarded the 2007 AWSS Travel Scholarship

Ms. Lindsey Moritz, a Master's student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was awarded the 2007 AWSS Travel Scholarship at the AWSS Annual Meeting November 6th in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ms. Moritz was chosen from a highly accomplished and impressive pool of young women to receive the \$500 scholarship to support her travel to the ASA-SSSA-CSA Annual Meetings in New Orleans. This was the third

year AWSS has awarded the scholarship to an up-and-coming female soil scientist making their first presentation at a professional meeting.

Ms. Moritz and her co-authors presented a poster entitled "Microbial Dynamics through Depth in Two Contrasting Tropical Soil Orders at Mt. Kinabalu, Borneo.". A copy of their abstract can be found at <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2007am/techprogram/P32716.HTM>.



AWSS Chair Dena Marshall presents Lindsey Moritz with her AWSS travel scholarship

T-Shirt Sales Raise over \$1,500 for Travel Scholarship

This year, shirt sales were excellent! We introduced a new design ("Play in the Dirt" with dirt crossed out and soil written in) and a new color (moss). We completely sold out of our new design during our three days selling shirts at the Tri-Society meetings. Overall, we sold approximately \$3,400 in shirts, netting approximately \$1,500.00 for our annual scholarship fund. At next year's meeting, I encour-

age anyone who has a free hour or so to stop by the booth and work a shift. Working at the booth is an excellent way to meet people and network! No experience required!

In addition, I have updated the T-shirt order form on the web and would like updated pictures to match. If you have a picture of anyone wearing our shirts, I would love to have it! I am look-

ing for "models" for every t-shirt design, including kids.

We are working on a new design for next year's joint Tri-Societies and GSA meetings. If you have any ideas, please pass them along!

—Genny Helt

Genny.Helt@in.usda.gov

Nominations/Self-Nominations needed for Chair-Elect and Several Committee Chairs!!

More information on page
Please send names of nominees to Jamie by January 18th (jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu)

Have you paid your 2008 AWSS dues?

A Note from the Chair—Dena Marshall

Happy Holidays All!!!

As I write this, Christmas is less than a week away. It continues to amaze me how quickly a year goes by. Must have something to do with getting older. It just seems like we had just put winter behind us and here it is again.

I would like to take a minute to THANK everyone who helped us out at the SSSA Meetings this year in "the Big Easy," New Orleans, Louisiana. I'm kicking myself for not getting pictures of everybody at work, but you know who you are. Genny Helt, Margie Faber, Jamie Patton for putting in lions share. Ann Mason, Wendy Greenburg, and Victoria Gardner are a few others that I can remember; please forgive me if I forgot you! Those weeks go by in a whirl. Another big Thanks to Purdue University, Dr. Philip Owens and Dr. Byron Jenkinson, for hauling all the shirts down in the van, which turned out to be an Expedition, with 7 people plus luggage already. That's another whole story unto itself. But that's also what makes life a great adventure.

We debuted our latest T-shirt design and a new color. You can now get the new dirt shirts in oxidized(red) or reduced colors(green). Our adult "Play in the Dirt" shirts have dirt crossed out and the word Soil penciled in. We figured once we grew up and got educated that we could use the correct terminology.

We also got a big tip of the hat from Paul Kamps and the Smithsonian crew. Paul approached me on a potential item of business concerning the Smithsonian Exhibit that will be opening in July. It seems that the Smithsonian is looking for soils related merchandise to offer for sale in the gift shop once the exhibit opens. They may be contacting us for a supply of our soils shirts! This almost more exciting than words can express. This could be a great break for us financially to be able to exert more influence in the interest of women in the field of soil science. I'll keep you posted!

This will be the last column from me as your Chair. My (extended) term will be up in January. I'll be handing the reins over to Jamie at this time. I'll still be on the executive committee for another year and have a few commitments for the Association to attend to. I will continue to commit as much time as possible to our organization. We have picked up quite a bit of momentum in the last few years and I hate to see that fall back off. Getting to the top is hard, staying there is harder. I believe that we are on the brink of being able to do great things we just have to keep working at it.

I encourage anyone out there interested in serving as a member of the executive committee, Chair or Vice Chair to speak up. We will most likely be nominating some folks for the upcoming elections, so you maybe getting a call on that topic. I spoke with Kelly and she has graciously agreed to continue as our Sect.-Treasurer if there are no nominations from the field. THANKS Kelly!

Thank you everyone! Our organization is a great one. Thanks to everyone who continues to support us and our mission.

Peaceful Holidays!

Yers in Dirt



Joint Meeting with Association for Women Geoscientists...

The next societies meeting will be held in conjunction with the Geologic Society of America meetings in Oct. of 2008 in Houston, Texas.

The AWSS has been considering some way of having more of a "social" type of gathering at these meetings rather than boring our members with a business meeting that we seem to typically have. On a whim I looked to see if there was a group of women geologists. And what do you know, there is! AWG, the Association for Women Geoscientists is a group similar to ours in mission and purpose.

I dropped them a note to see if there was some interest in having a joint social "mixer" type of gathering similar to what the universities do. More good news, they're definitely interested.

So... Look for more information on our joint get-together with the lady geoscientists in upcoming announcements!

Secretary/Treasurer Report—Kelly Counts

Happy New Year!

I cannot believe another year has already come and gone! During 2007, the Association of Women Soil Scientists gained 19 new members. Currently our membership database is at 128 members, consisting of 100 regular memberships and 28 student memberships. Hopefully by the end of 2008, we will increase our numbers even more. If you know of anyone interested in the Association of Women Soil Scientists, pass our newsletter on to them!

Annual Dues!

As most of you know by now, January is the month when AWSS collects its annual dues. The annual cost of membership is \$15.00 for regular membership and \$10.00 for student membership. You can find the membership form near the back of the newsletter.

Do not forget, I recently moved! Please send you dues to: P.O Box 578, Maple Valley, WA 98038. If you have any questions regarding membership or dues you can call me at 206-962-9674 or e-mail at kelly.counts@yahoo.com.

Have a great year,
Kelly Counts

Financial Status—September 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007

REVENUE:		EXPENSES:	
2008 Regular Membership	225.00	2007 Travel Award	500.00
2008 Student Membership	40.00	2007 Exhibit Space	750.00
2007 Regular Membership	1,290.00	2006 Travel Award	500.00
2007 Student Membership	295.00	2006 Annual Meeting	291.01
2006 Regular Membership	90.00	2006 Exhibit Space	750.00
2006 Student Membership	50.00	T-shirts Order	5,762.09
2006 Janis Lang Raffle	291.00	Smithsonian Soil Donation	582.00
AWSS T-shirt Sales	7,302.50	Website Service	1,186.85
Scholarship Fund	303.23	Quicken Software	32.60
Interest	96.80	Postage	199.46
		Post Office Box	18.00
		Bank Charge	2.00
TOTAL REVENUE:	9,983.53	TOTAL EXPENSES:	10,574.01



Checking Account

Previous Balance: \$9701.42
Current Balance: \$9099.38



**Welcome
New
Members!**

Crystal Frey	frevc@missouri.edu	Ingrid Hallin	hallin@ualberta.ca
Amanda Hensler	hensler.12@osu.edu	Rebecca Elwood	rebecca.elwood@ct.usda.gov
Mary Schuh	mary.schuh@ndsu.edu	Lina Yousef	yousef.13@osu.edu
Mikel Williams	williamsmikel@hotmail.com	Amanda Williams	willamje@unlv.nevada.edu
Kamana Holmes	Kamara.Holmes@in.usda.gov	Heidi Kelly	hkelly@niu.edu
Patricia Elias	pelias@vt.edu	Alaina Frazier	alaina.frazier@ca.usda.gov
Jessica Lene	jess_rutha@yahoo.com	Jennifer Berman	jannifer.berman@ca.usda.gov
Julie Bower	jcbower@ucdavis.edu	John Galbraith	john.galbraith@vt.edu
Soni Pradhanang	smulmi@svr.edu	Victoria Gardner	Victoria.Gardner@fl.usda.gov
Stacy Kavanaugh	calpoly@analogduck.com		

2007 AWSS Annual Meeting Minutes—New Orleans, Louisiana

Welcome

Dena Marshall, Chair, welcomed the group to the 2007 Annual Meeting at 6:30 pm in the Fountain Room, Hilton Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

Members/visitors in attendance: Dena Marshall, Genny Helt, Pauline Lindo, Suduan Gao, Lindsey Moritz, Jamie Patton, Tanja Williamson, Lynette Brown, Wendy Greenberg, Lisa Gardner, Skye Wills, Arlene Tugel, and Ruth Yanai

Old Business

Smithsonian Soils exhibit slated to open in June 2008

AWSS has been approached to provide t-shirts to sell in museum gift shop

Dena will follow up with Soil and Water Conservation Society regarding potential souvenir sales

Members agreed great opportunity to bolster scholarship fund

Genny Helt discussed alterations of current designs to promote organization through Smithsonian sales

New Business

Dena encouraged participation in committees, newsletters

Discussion followed regarding upcoming officer nominations and elections; duties of each position, term involved

Positions to be filled: Chair-elect, Scholarship Chair, Mentoring Chair, Newsletter Chair, Webpage Assistant

Suduan Gao volunteered to serve as Scholarship Chair

Discussions on formalizing mentoring opportunities for professional and student members, new mentoring chair encouraged to develop and implement a mentoring program

Tanja Williamson suggested that duties and time commitment required for each position be published in the newsletter, as well as profiles and pictures of persons running once ballot is set

Discussion regarding joint mixer/reception with Association of Women in Geosciences

Wendy Goldberg volunteered to head up committee to organize mixer/reception

Wendy asked to have members send in photos of themselves or students on the job to incorporate into a "welcome" PowerPoint to be shown at the mixer

Members express desire to hand out scholarship and mentoring award at mixer/reception, potential to award two scholarships next year

Discussion on hosting a session on women's experiences in soils at future meetings, agreed planning needs to begin more than a year in advance

Discussion regarding organization strategic plan

Jamie Patton volunteered to set up a blog site linked from organizational website to discuss organization's mission, strategic plan, and to provide ideas for activities/events/newsletter topics

Dena Marshall recognized Lindsey Moritz as the 2007 AWSS Travel Scholarship winner

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.



Officer/Chair Nominations Needed!

AWSS is seeking nominations for the following positions:

2008-2010 Chair-Elect
Mentoring Committee Chair
Newsletter Editor/Chair
Webpage Assistant

Nominations/Self-Nominations should be sent to Jamie (jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu) by January 18th

Please include: Name and e-mail address of nominee and position(s) nominated for.

Summary of Open Positions

2008-2001 Chair Elect

Duties:

Assist Chair, Past Chair with communicating with various agencies (ASA, NRCS, NACSS, etc), t-shirt sales and member recruitment at Tri-Society meetings, seek new opportunities for inter-agency/organization collaborations, assist chairs with membership, scholarship, newsletter and website

Term of Appointment:

Six years—2 years chair-elect, 2 years chair, 2 years past-chair

Time Commitment:

~Four to six hours per month, work booth at Tri-Societies meetings

Questions About Chair Position:

Dena Marshall
 Dena.Marshall@in.usda.gov



Mentoring Committee Chair

Duties:

Assist committee with call for mentoring award nominees; review applications and determine mentoring award winner; design, implement and oversee student/professional mentoring program

Term of Appointment:

Two years

Time Commitment:

~One hour per month

Questions About Position:

Jamie Patton
 jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu

Newsletter Editor/Chair

Duties:

Compile newsletter on a bi-monthly basis (newsletters typically composed in MS Word or MS Publisher); solicit members for articles; compose articles as needed; send newsletter via mass e-mail program

Term of Appointment:

Two years

Time Commitment:

~Four hours per month

Questions About Position:

Jamie Patton
 jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu

Webpage Assistant

Duties:

Assist with the updating and designing organizational website using Macromedia Dreamweaver

Term of Appointment:

2 years

Time Commitment:

Variable, ~One hour per month

Questions About Position:

Jamie Patton
 jamiejp@nwmissouri.edu



Kari Sever on Job Shadowing

Today, I had the unique opportunity to participate in a "Job Shadow" program. Job Shadow is a part of the introductory soils course at Eastern Oklahoma State College in which each student in the class is challenged to follow a soil scientist or conservationist for a day, as part of their course credit requirement. The student then is required to write a 2 page paper covering the tasks performed and their experience. The individual that accompanied me for the day is a sophomore from Eastern Oklahoma State College (a small two-year college in southeast Oklahoma) and is majoring in horticulture. She is graduating with an Associate Degree in horticulture in May and transferring to a 4-year college next fall, but is currently on the soil judging team and loves it.

In selecting the agenda for the day, I had to consider that my

most interesting work on the schedule requires travel, and I only had one day of the student's spring break schedule to work with. Not wanting to waste precious time by driving to far away places, I chose to do local septic evaluations for the Job Shadow program, so we could cover more variety of soils and situations. We completed 3 septic evaluations at 3 locations, including 1 percolation test and 2 soil profiles and the clients included both contractor and individual. It was a great opportunity to show the variation of results when using the perc test vs. the soil profile description. Between the 3 sites, we augered into sandy loam over sandstone, clay, secondary carbonates, and "redbed" shale with relict redoximorphic features.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if more university professors required students to "Job

Shadow" or at least offer it as "extra credit/bonus points" for the introductory soils class. These particular students from EOSC were told to go to their local NRCS office and ask to Job Shadow a government employee, but they also had the option to accompany another qualified person, if they knew of one. My Job Shadow student knew of me because I had designed her parent's septic system over a year ago.

It was a great experience for us both, but I have to admit that I was disappointed when I learned that she planned to study elementary education next fall and her career goals include being a grade school teacher. On the optimistic side, maybe she will take her enjoyment of soils to a new level within the primary education system by incorporating soils in the elementary classroom.

—Kari Sever



Kari Sever is a private soil science consultant in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is a past AWSS Chair and is currently serving as the 2007 president of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if more university professors required students to "Job Shadow" or at least offer it as "extra credit/bonus points" for the introductory soils class.

Past Ask Mother Earth... I am working on my master's degree in soil morphology and would like to get a job as a soil scientist with the federal government (NRCS or Forest Service). I keep watching the job postings at USAJOBS, but there are very few openings for entry-level soil scientists. What can I do to increase my chances of getting my dream job?

Please pass this message to the person doing her masters in morphology and looking for a Federal job - The Forest Service also uses the SCEP program. I would advise her to contact the Regional Soil Scientist in the areas of the country she is interested in working. I can help with contacts in the west. Also, she should be aware that with a master's degree, she qualifies for GS-9 level jobs - a step above entry level. If she is interested in working for the Forest Service, I would recommend at least one course in environmental analysis and enough coursework to qualify as a hydrologist - many Forests are advertising jobs that involve both hydrology and soils - and sometimes these are only advertised in the hydrology series. If she would like to contact me, I can be reached by email at dedownie@fs.fed.us.

- Denise Downie

More Responses??... I volunteered to do a presentation on the following topic... "Making Soils Fun - If the word "soil" doesn't bring to mind images of candy bars and exploding fruit, 1) you're not alone and 2) it's time for you to learn how to make soil education fun for your students. Join us to learn a variety of hands-on demonstrations in soil science"...but I need inspiration. I would appreciate a sentence or two about some cool soils demonstrations that you have done or have seen.



Go to <http://www.awss.org> to post your response. Remember...all answers are anonymous.

If you want credit for your demonstration, please be sure and provide your name!

Current Job/Post-Doc/Internship Announcements

Assistant Professor, Soil Physics

Auburn University (www.auburn.edu), Department of Agronomy and Soils (www.ag.auburn.edu/agrn/) is accepting applications and nominations for the position of Assistant Professor in the area of soil physics. A detailed position announcement, including application instructions and requirements can be obtained by contacting Kay Holloway, email: hollowk@auburn.edu; phone: 334-844-3899; or mail: Agronomy and Soils Department, 201 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Inquiries about the position may be directed to Dr. Jacob Dane, Search Committee Chair, at danejac@auburn.edu or 334-844-3947 or Dr. Joe Touchton, touchjt@auburn.edu or 334-844-3952. The search will continue until the position is filled, but to ensure consideration for the position, applicants are encouraged to apply by January 4, 2008. Expected position start date is August 16, 2008. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia

A postdoctoral fellow has become available in the Forest and Mycorrhiza Ecology Research Group, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Kelowna, Canada.

It requires an individual with a background in soil organic matter chemistry and an interest in soil microbiology. S/he will be responsible for characterizing forest floor from pine and spruce sites subjected to optimal nutrition fertilization. Experience in proximate analysis, in quantifying microbial biomass and N mineralization rates and in interpreting elemental and isotopic (^{13}C , ^{15}N) composition and NMR of SOM is essential. The objective is to determine whether soil microbial communities have adjusted physiologically to changes in SOM chemistry resulting from fertilization.

The research, which is funded by an NSERC Strategic Grant, will involve interaction with scientists and grad students from two other universities and government agencies. Funding is available at \$35,000CAN/year (plus benefits) for two yrs. Starting date is negotiable, but summer 2008 is ideal.

The successful candidate will join an established research group (see <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/biophgeo/research/fame.html>) housed in 6000 sq ft of new lab space. UBC Okanagan is a new rapidly-growing campus located in the resort community of Kelowna. The Okanagan Valley has a moderate climate and is a center for wine and fruit production and is also a destination for skiing and water sports.

Qualified candidates should email contact address, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information of 3 references to Dr. Melanie Jones: Melanie.Jones@ubc.ca. Review of the applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

GeoCorp Internships—Several Soil Science Interns Available!!

The Geological Society of America has launched their 2008 GeoCorps intern positions which are now open for application. View the list of 68 geoscience short-term positions and internships. Apply today! Application period will close Feb 1, 2008.

List of GeoCorps Positions Available: <http://www.geosociety.org/geocorps/>
Application Guidelines: https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/2007/start.asp
Eligibility Guidelines: <http://www.geosociety.org/geocorps/eligibility.htm>



Current Job/Post-Doc/Internship Announcements, continued

Soil Scientist/Geologist

Earth Dimensions, Inc. (EDI) is offering a full-time position for a Soil Scientist/Geologist. EDI is a small environmental consulting firm, located southeast of Buffalo, New York. The position will require a self started, motivated individual who can function as a Soil Scientist/Geologist on varying types of projects. The position involves both field and office work. The field work focuses on, but is not limited to, logging soils on a drilling rig, in test pits or hand auger borings. The position may also include conducting federal wetland delineations. At times, field work conditions involve working in inclement weather and working with equipment and therefore requires a certain level of physical fitness. The office work includes, but is not limited to technical report and letter writing, field work analysis, CAD mapping functions, peer review, literature and internet research, field sample identification, strict adherence with regulations set forth by the state, federal and other local governing agencies as well as a working compatibility with the regulatory personnel. Salary is commensurate with experience and skills, benefits package

BA/BS in Soil Science, Geology or similar related field.

Academic training should include a combination of courses which may include geology, soil pedology and texturing.

Basic computer skills including internet research, common and current business software (in particular, Microsoft Office and AutoCAD).

Specializations in a relevant geological area of interest a plus.

Good technical writing, communication and analysis skills.

Field Identification of soil texture, consistency and formation a plus.

Familiarity with Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States

If interested, please email, fax or send a resume including qualifications to the following (**Attn: Soil Scientist Position**):

1091 Jamison Road

Elma, New York 14059

P: (716) 655-1717

F: (716) 655- 2915

earthdimensions@aol.com

Where in the world is your AWSS t-shirt?

Going on vacation?

Participating in a study abroad?

Going to the field?

Send us a picture of where you have taken your AWSS t-shirt and tell us a little about where you have gone!

Prizes will be awarded to the t-shirts that 1) have traveled the furthest and 2) that seems to be having the most fun!

Contact Genny at genny.helt@in.usda.gov with questions!

Example (right): Jamie Patton with her shirt on a termite mound in Boa Vista, Brazil



Association of Women Soil Scientists Membership Form



Clip or photocopy. Required items are marked with an asterisk (*).

* Dues: ___Professional=\$15/year ___Student=\$10/year.

Membership is on a calendar year basis and includes three newsletters and access to the online directory of members. New members may join at any time during the year and will receive all three issues of the newsletter. Renewals are due the first business day of January. You may contribute to the AWSS scholarship fund when you pay your dues. Just designate amounts on the memo line of your check.

* Please check all that apply: ___New Member ___Renewal ___Address Change ___Volunteer

* Name: _____

E-mail: _____

* Address: _____

Phone (Work and/or Fax and/or Home): _____

Current Position: _____

Advisor's signature (* to verify student status for student members): _____

* List me in the AWSS Member Directory: ___yes ___no.

Note: The directory will be available online to **AWSS members only** by the second quarter of 2004. It will be secure, password-protected, and SSL encrypted. Each member will have a unique login ID and password.

I would like to volunteer (check all that apply):

Committee: ___Membership ___Mentoring ___Scholarship ___T-Shirt

Newsletter: ___Write a profile ___Write a newsletter article

Completed membership forms and checks (payable to AWSS) can be mailed to:
Kelly Counts, .O. Box 578, Maple Valley, WA 98038-0578
Questions? E-mail Kelly at kelly.counts@yahoo.com



The Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization of **women and men** in soil science who support these goals:

- To establish and maintain high standards for professional women soil scientists;
- To promote and enhance communication among professional soil scientists;
- To promote a dialogue of soil information and to encourage an interchange with other technical and scientific communities;
- To promote better understanding of the role of soil scientists;
- To provide assistance and encouragement for women in non-traditional fields and for women seeking employment in the field of soil science.



AWSS Executive Committee

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Encouraging and supporting women in soil science