The Second Annual Celebration of the EAPS Patrons Circle

6:00 | Reception
7:00 | Dinner and Program

Welcoming Remarks by Robert D. van der Hilst
Department Head — Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences

Presentations by Graduate Fellow Speakers

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<th>Christine Chen</th>
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Closing Remarks by Neil E. Rasmussen ‘76, SM ‘80
EAPS Patrons Circle Chair

8:30 | Adjourn
ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Robert van der Hilst, Head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) is the Schlumberger Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at MIT. Rob joined MIT’s faculty in 1996 and became the department head for EAPS in 2012. The Van der Hilst Lab specializes in Global Seismology and Mantle Dynamics and has made major contributions to our understanding of the 3D structure of the Earth’s deep interior.

Neil Rasmussen is an entrepreneur and high tech executive with a passion for health and the environment. He is a member of the MIT Corporation, serving on visiting committees of EAPS, Institute for Medical Engineering and Science, and Nuclear Science and Engineering. He recently endowed two fellowships in Climate Science, and funded the MIT Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics. He has a BS (76) and an MS (80) from MIT in Electrical Engineering.
MEET THE 2015-2016 EAPS FELLOWS

Josimar Alves da Silva Jr. (Whiteman Fellow) is a second year graduate student in the geophysics program. He is originally from Brazil where he earned a bachelor’s degree in geophysics. Upon graduation from MIT he intends to work in academia. In his spare time he and his wife enjoy touring Boston and discovering the local coffee scene.

John Biersteker (Whiteman Fellow) is a second year student in the Program in Planetary Science working with Professor Hilke Schlichting on problems related to planet formation and exoplanet characterization. He graduated from Harvard College with an AB in physics in 2009 and spent the intervening years at MIT Lincoln Laboratory working on space surveillance and control systems.

Christine Chen (Callahan-Dee Fellow) is a third year graduate student in the MIT-WHOI Joint Program studying past climates—paleoclimatology—with Professor David McGee. She graduated from Princeton University summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Geosciences in 2013. She was recently named a National Geographic Young Explorer for her ongoing research reconstructing past rainfall patterns from ancient lakes in the central Andes.

Margaret Duffy (Norman C. Rasmussen Fellow) is a first year graduate student in Climate Physics and Chemistry working with Professor John Marshall. Margaret’s current project uses climate models to study the response of the Southern Ocean to anthropogenic climate forcing. Prior to joining EAPS she studied Mathematics and Statistics as an undergraduate at Haverford College.

Tao Feng (Warren G. Klein Fellow) is a first year PhD student in the Program in Atmospheres, Oceans and Climate (PAOC), studying the health impact of air pollution and the climate penalty with Professor Noelle Selin. Tao is a graduate of Peking University with a BS in environmental science and a BS in economics. He hopes to combine environmental sciences with economics and to inform policy-making strategies on air pollution and climate change through his research.
Charles Gertler (Norman C. Rasmussen Fellow) is a first year student in the Climate Physics and Chemistry program, studying with Professor Ron Prinn. He graduated from Harvard College with an AB in Earth and Planetary Science, later earned an MPhil in Glaciology from Cambridge University, and spent time before MIT working on pollution near Himalayan glaciers. He is interested in past climates and cryosphere-atmosphere interactions, and is getting better at saying “I don’t know what that means.”

Mukund Gupta (Frederick Middleton Fellow) is a first year student in the PAOC program studying climate physics with Professor John Marshall. Mukund graduated from Cambridge University with an MEng in Mechanical Engineering. He hopes to understand more about the sensitivity of the climate to perturbations, such as volcanic eruptions and increased greenhouse gases.

Niraj Inamdar (Robert R. Shrock Fellow) is in his final year as a PhD student in the Planetary Sciences program, studying planet formation with Professor Hilke Schlichting. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, and a master’s degree in the same field from MIT.

Shujuan Mao (M. Nafi Toksöz Fellow) is a first year PhD student in geophysics, working with Professor Van der Hilst to study the tidal effect on the shallow crust around the Piton de la Fournaise volcano. Shujuan comes from Xi’an, an ancient city in China, and graduated from Peking University with a BS in geophysics.

Harry Matchette-Downs (Schlumberger Fellow) has just started a PhD in the geophysics program, having studied physics at the University of Cambridge. He is working with Professor Van der Hilst to image the subsurface of the Tibetan Plateau.

Jamie Potter (Theodore Madden Fellow) is a first year geophysics PhD student researching fracture interaction and surface deformation with Professor Brad Hager. She graduated from Skidmore College with a BA in Physics with a minor in Geoscience. In addition she earned a BE in Mechanical Engineering from Dartmouth College.
Jeemin Rhim (Grayce B. Kerr Fellow) is a first year PhD student in the Geobiology Program. She is currently studying the process of isotope and isotopologue fractionation during microbial methanogenesis with Professor Shuhei Ono; she also plans to investigate the morphological and geochemical biosignatures of oxygenic photosynthetic benthic microbial communities with Professor Tanja Bosak. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Environmental Earth Science.

Catherine Wilka (Norman C. Rasmussen Fellow) spent 25 years on the sunny West Coast before heading to the land of snow for the opportunity to study Climate Physics and Chemistry with Professor Susan Solomon. She hopes to use computational skills from her BA in astrophysics to tackle problems in modeling the climate of her home planet. When not diving into research and classes, Catherine enjoys cycling, studying the chemistry of cooking, and playing on the EAPS intramural Water Polo team.

Martin Wolf (Norman C. Rasmussen Fellow) graduated from Princeton University in 2015 with a BSE in Chemical and Biological Engineering. Now, as a first year graduate student in Professor Dan Cziczo’s lab, he is studying the potential for marine aerosols to act as water and ice nuclei, aiding cloud formation over the open ocean.

Madeline Youngs (Norman C. Rasmussen Fellow) is a first year graduate student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Physical Oceanography. Madeline works with Professor Raffaele Ferrari on the ocean's role in climate change. She graduated from Caltech with a degree in Applied and Computational Math and is looking forward to using her numerical skills for modeling the ocean.
PAST EAPS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

2014-2015

Jared Atkinson . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Whiteman Fellow
Tom Beucler . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Neil and Anna Rasmussen Fellow
Katie Castagno . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Neil and Anna Rasmussen Fellow
Christine Chen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
Manuel Flores Torrez . . . . . . . . . . . . . Theodore Madden Fellow
Chen Gu . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . M. Nafi Toksöz Fellow
Niraj Inamdar . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
Christopher Kinsley . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
Mingwei Li . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Whiteman Fellow
Diamilet Perez-Betancourt . . . . . . . . . . . Warren G. Klein Fellow
Sandra Shedd . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Whiteman Fellow
Elena Steponaitis . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Warren G. Klein Fellow
Haoyue Wang . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Theodore Madden Fellow

2013-2014

Mike Byrne . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Frank Fellow
Danielle Gruen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Neil and Anna Rasmussen Fellow
Ben Klein . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
Emily Matys . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Whiteman Fellow
Michael McClellan . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Neil and Anna Rasmussen Fellow
Sharon Newman . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Frank Fellow
Shaojie Song . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
Elena Steponaitis . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Warren G. Klein Fellow
Matthew Webber . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Whiteman Fellow
Lucas Willemsen . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . M. Nafi Toksöz Fellow
Maria Zawadowicz . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grayce B. Kerr Fellow
EAPS PATRONS CIRCLE

The Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences launched the EAPS Patrons Circle in 2014 to recognize those who have made a gift or multi-year gift/pledge of $70,000 or more to support our endowed or expendable fellowship funds. We are also pleased to include those who have made an irrevocable provision for EAPS graduate fellowships through an estate plan. An endowment gift of $1M helps to fund one graduate student in perpetuity. Departmental fellowships are critical to our success in attracting and retaining the best students and faculty in the world, and in providing students with the flexibility to explore “out of the box” scientific interests. The Annual EAPS Patrons Circle celebration provides an opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our leading fellowship donors, and for Patrons and graduate fellows to meet and build lasting friendships.

PATRONS CIRCLE MEMBERS | 2014-2016

Roger J. and Noreen A. Breeding*
John H. Carlson
Robert C. Cowen
Patricia R. Callahan and David Dee
Arthur C. H. Cheng
George J. Elbaum and Mimi Jensen
L. Robert Johnson and Lisa A. Reich*
Breene M. Kerr†
Warren G. Klein†
Eric Michelman
Frederick A. Middleton
Catherine B. Olkin and Terry M. Olkin
Donald L. Paul
Chengbin Peng
Neil Elliott Rasmussen and Anna Winter Rasmussen
John S. and Cynthia L. Reed
Peter H. Stone and Paola M. Stone
M. Nafi Toksöz and Charlotte Johnson
Emily V. Wade
Jie Zhang

* Patrons Circle members who have provided for Graduate Fellowships through an estate plan.
† Deceased