Bostick and Dade To Join EARS Faculty in 2003

In a decision made public last Friday, the chair of the Earth Science Department announced that Dr. Benjamin C. Bostick, currently at Stanford, and Dr. W. Brian Dade, currently at University of Aberdeen (UK), will join the Earth Science faculty in January and March 2003, respectively.

Bostick graduated from the University of Idaho in 1994 with a joint degree in Chemistry and Spanish. He continued uninterrupted at Idaho for his masters degree in soil chemistry. He received that degree in 1997, completing a thesis entitled “Pyrite surface chemistry: Reaction with cadmium.” Beginning his Ph.D. at Idaho, he transferred to Stanford and completed that degree in 2001, and has been working at that university as a postdoctoral researcher.

Dade, an American who has been working as a senior researcher at the Institute of Theoretical Geophysics at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, will join the Earth Science faculty as a senior hire loosely fit into the watershed processes group. Dade also brings strong quantitative experience to the faculty. He is also the co-founder of School House Research Associates, a software consultancy which creates software packages for scientific applications in business and academia.

Festive Friday

The Department of Earth Sciences hosts an internal happy hour on Fridays from 5-6 pm in the Fairchild Tower.

Spring ‘02 Speaker Series

The Spring Speaker series for the Earth Science department continues May 13 at 4 pm with a lecture by Dr. Bill Dietrich of UC-Berkeley. Dr. Dietrich, one of the world’s experts on geomorphology, will speak about his research on hillslopes, channels, and landscape scale.

Future speakers during this series include and Charles Harvey (May 27) of MIT, Matt Davis (May 20) of UNH.

Personnel Notes

The Earth Science department has hosted Stephen Thompson and Andrew Dombard as visiting professors for the term. Dr. Thompson is teaching structural geology; Dr. Dombard is teaching planetary geology.

Field Notes

The summer field season is heating up. Members of the Department who are actively involved in field research are reading their field gear for June. During the summer, Dr. Jim Aronson and Ed Meyer are considering going to reexamine fault contexts and sandstones in the Black Warrior basin in central Alabama. Dr. Aronson was also heard to say that Meyer did not eat enough collard greens and sausage gravy during his first trip there.

A smashing field summer awaits Ray Dums who will travel to Wales, U.K., to the Waters of Plynlimyn for a few weeks with Dr. Anthony Faiia and others.

Headed west, Ben Burke will be digging soil pits within the bounds of Golden Gate NRA north of San Francisco this summer with help from Dr. Arjun Heimsath, who will be pursuing that and other field-based research efforts this summer.
Current Requirements for The Ph.D. Degree

General requirements for the Ph.D. degree are given on page 131 [of the College’s Organization, Regulations, and Courses, September 2001]. In fulfillment of the specific requirements of the Department of Earth Sciences, the student must:

1. Satisfy all course requirements for the MS degree.

2. Pass the following required courses or their equivalents, if not passed prior to entering the Ph.D. program.
   a. Math 23 Differential Equations
   c. Earth Sciences 115. Analysis of Environmental Data
   d. One upper level science or engineering course outside the department carrying graduate credit.

3. Pass a minimum of nine courses carrying graduate credit, including those fulfilling the above requirements.

4. Submit a summer research proposal by May 1 of the first year of residence.

5. Pass a general oral exam and defense of results from a summer research project during Fall term of the second year.

6. At the end of the second year, present and defend a thesis proposal before the faculty.

7. An essential element of graduate education at Dartmouth is the experience gained in teaching other students. Therefore, at least one term of undergraduate teaching is required of all graduate students. Students may participate in more than one term of teaching. Each student’s program will be arranged, according to his/her individual needs and interests, and the teaching needs of the Department.

A candidate who has satisfied the above requirements will receive a Ph.D. degree after he or she has:

1. Passed any additional graduate-level courses beyond those specified above, as prescribed by the Department.

2. Completed a thesis of professional quality. The thesis may be a series of published papers connected by an appropriate text. The candidate must pass a final oral examination on the thesis.

New Department Printer

Room 217 in Fairchild now has a functioning printer, an Apple Laserwriter II NTX, manufactured in November 1988, due to a perceived increased demand for on-demand printing resources.

This printer, appropriately named PreCambrian, is very old and does not print graphics well at all. Be advised that the paper tray, just like that of Zirconwriter on the fourth floor of Fairchild, cannot be loaded any more than 1/3rd full without jamming the printer. Please also be advised that the printer takes a long time to print documents, so do not print the same job multiple times just because you thought the printer might have forgotten about your job the first time.

Proposals Sought for Object d’Art

Dr. Gary Johnson is soliciting proposals for an artistic piece du resistance, preferably sculpture, to be constructed of spent paleomagnetic cubes from the Pakistan/Afghani stan area and other areas of the world.

The State Department in Washington has not expressed interest in these cubes, however the finished artwork could be sold to the government to increase funding for first-summer Doctoral projects, currently set at $500. The money could also be used to endow a fund that would provide free beer at the Festive Friday gatherings.

The available materials are paleomagnetic cubes cut from soil and rock. They are each 1 cubic inch. Approximately 10,000 are available for any proposed artistic project.