

Earth and Planetary Surface Processes Focus Group Newsletter: October 2017

Dear Colleagues,

In this issue of the Earth and Planetary Surface Processes (EPSP) newsletter we provide updates on EPSP award winners, a link to session titles for the Fall 2017 AGU meeting, and several announcements.

Join us in congratulating [Dr. Michael Church](#), the University of British Columbia, this year's recipient of the [G. K. Gilbert Award in Surface Processes](#), given annually in recognition of sustained and outstanding contributions to Earth and planetary surface processes, the promotion of an environment of unselfish cooperation in research, and the inclusion of young scientists into the field. Dr. Church has been a leading intellectual force in fluvial geomorphology for over 40 years. Among his many accomplishments, he has advanced basic understanding and methods of field measurement of transport, sorting, bed structure, and storage in gravel bed rivers. He has made large gravel-bed rivers tractable objects of study by rigorous, quantitative, theoretically motivated means. He also has had a commitment to public service and to student mentoring that are quite exceptional. His influence is valued around the world in geomorphological science, river engineering, and resource management

Congratulations to [Dr. Isaac Larsen](#), University of Massachusetts, this year's recipient of the [Luna B. Leopold Award](#), given annually to an early career scientist in recognition of a significant and outstanding contribution that advances the field of earth and planetary surface processes. This award is named in honor of Luna B. Leopold, who engaged and nurtured young scientists throughout his distinguished career in hydrology and fluvial geomorphology. Dr. Larsen's diverse field studies have revealed unexpected mechanisms controlling post-fire erosion (in Colorado), demonstrated a non-linear increase in landslide erosion rates as hillslopes steepen (in Tibet), documented exceptionally high soil production rates from bedrock (in New Zealand), and indicate that smaller floods than previously proposed carved canyons in the Channeled Scablands (Washington).

Sessions for the 2017 Fall Meeting

[11-15 December: 2017 Fall Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana](#)

At this year's annual meeting, EPSP is sponsoring a [range of exciting sessions](#) in Earth and planetary surface science. The EPSP Focus Group Program Committee is responsible for our Fall Meeting sessions. Current members are:

Katie Skalak – Co-Chair
Kimberly Hill – Co-Chair

Greg Hancock
Ben Crosby
Michelle Koppes
Giovanni Coco
Ken Ferrier
Marisa Palucis

We've gone social!

For those of you who are interested in keeping up to date and in touch with our AGU Earth and Planetary Surface Processes focus group between AGU meetings, we've gone social and you can now follow AGU EPSP on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AGUEPSP/>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/AGU_EPSP). We hope these sites can serve as platforms to have more informal discussion about research, geoscience education, and more so please feel free to engage with them. Thanks to Joel Scheingross for setting these up for EPSP!

Lastly, we have several AGU announcements relevant to EPSP:

- AGU has published [*Earth and Space Science is Essential to Society*](#), a special collection of commentaries from AGU journals. This anthology explains the relevance of geoscientific research for the and the societal benefits of research through a compilation of collection, featuring 25 essays from notable scientists highlighting the important role Earth and space science research plays in society. They discuss the critical role of research, the growing importance of data and the increasing globalization of the scientific enterprise. Together, they highlight how Earth and space science research can help grow our economy and enable our society to thrive.
- The newly launched AGU Webinars channel is a great informational source for the Earth and space sciences. Each week features guest speakers from the Earth and space science community presenting timely, relevant topics. Tune in Thursdays at 2 p.m. ET. and visit webinars.agu.org for the schedule of upcoming webinars or to watch past webinars.
- AGU continues its program to enhance your contributions to EPSP--If more than 5% of our members give \$50 or more to our Focus Group during 2017, AGU will provide an addition \$1,000 for our programs (and the AGU enhancement increases with rising member participation). Please consider participating—our student programs, our EPSP reception, and other events depend on gifts from our members!

Best regards,

Bill Dietrich
AGU Focus Group President, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

Dorothy Merritts
AGU Focus Group President-Elect, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes

Greg Hancock
AGU Focus Group Secretary, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes