



## Summer 2010: JCET's Earth Science Explorers Program



JCET was fortunate to have three outstanding students join its Earth Science Explorers Program this past summer. These students gained valuable experience in working with their mentors, conducting hands-on Earth Science research and participating in activities at both UMBC and GSFC, including tours at NASA Goddard and various presentations during the seminar series. Vanisha Bisnath and Charles Chirchir were based at GSFC, and presented their posters on August 5th in GSFC's Building 33 along with the Summer Institute students.

*Summer Students, including JCET Earth Science Explorers  
image courtesy of Valerie Buxton, Program Assistant*

Student	School	Presentation	Mentor
Azhar Bahrainwala	University of Maryland, College Park (MD)	Design and Construction of an Inverse Nephelometer	Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins
Vanisha Bisnath	Ohio Wesleyan University (OH)	Assessment of Ecosystem Diversity & Urban Boundaries	Dr. Petya Campbell
Charles Chirchir	Benedict College (SC)	Interpretation of Airborne & Satellite Aerosol Extinction Measurements for Air Quality Study	Dr. Allen Chu

Azhar Bahrainwala, who was based at UMBC, presented the poster he had worked on with Gergely Dolgos (alumnus of JCET's 2007 Summer Program) and Dr. Martins at the 13th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Fest (SURF), held at UMBC's Albin O. Kuhn Library on August 11th. The poster featured theoretical predictions, descriptions of the instrument's design and components, and future goals for usage of this nephelometer, such as its integration on a LaRC B-200 aircraft. Student Programs Coordinator Ms. Valerie Casasanto was also in attendance, discussing the poster and presenting Azhar with a copy of "Our Changing Planet" (*image, right*), which all of the summer students received. Azhar will be returning to College Park this fall to continue his studies in Mechanical Engineering.

Information regarding the 2011 Summer Programs should be available on the JCET website later this year. Visit the Research section for details: <http://jcet.umbc.edu/research/>.



## Bon Voyage

Over the past few months, we found ourselves wishing several JCET faculty members good luck and best wishes in their new adventures. A few of these announcements resulted in a good old party, like the one thrown to celebrate the retirement of **Mr. Ernest Hilsenrath**, Professor of the Practice, and **Dr. Arlin Krueger**, who now has time to tend to his garden. On April 30th, JCET took over UMBC's Fireside Lounge for an intimate gathering of friends, family and colleagues from UMBC and GSFC to reminisce and thank these two gentlemen for their many years of service to JCET.

During the summer of 2010, **Dr. David Lary** traded in his loafers for cowboy boots and headed to the University of Texas at Dallas, Hanson Center for Space Sciences, where he is now an Associate Professor.

**Dr. Christine Chiu** accepted a position "across the pond", joining the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom as a Lecturer (equivalent to an Assistant Professor in the U.S.).

And, **Dr. Kevin McCann** is now devoting his time to teaching Physics.

**Ms. Jo Ann Maxim**, the Staffing Specialist for JCET and GEST, has decided to return to her studies and is pursuing a Masters Degree in Information Technology at the University of Maryland, College Park. For the time being, staffing issues and questions will be handled by Dr. Ray Hoff.

On the flip-side, **Dr. Elena Georgieva**, formerly of GEST, transferred to JCET in July 2010. She will be teaching *Fundamentals of Polarimetric Remote Sensing* as part of PHYS 721:Atmospheric Radiative Transfer with Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins in the fall semester.

**The next JCET All-Hands Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 13th, at 9:00 am. Dr. Amita Mehta will be the featured speaker. Note, UMBC's campus underwent major parking changes over the summer; this should not affect those of you who park at the meters.**

## Welcome Aboard

With great pleasure JCET introduces two new staff members. Please stop by and say hello when you have the chance.

Our new Executive Administrative Assistant, **Ms. Brizjette Lewis**, is working in the office at Goddard, Building 22, Room 170, familiarizing herself with GSFC's badging processes. Brizjette has 20 years of experience as a legal secretary, most recently working at a firm in New York City.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new Business Specialist, **Ms. Yonghong Luo** (pronounced "Law"). Yonghong obtained her Master's in Business from the University of Baltimore, and has several years of managerial, marketing, and information technology experience with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.



from left to right:  
Arlin Krueger, Sushil Chandra, Ernest Hilsenrath, Tim Krueger

## Hurricane Hunters

**Dr. Jeffrey Halverson** and GES Graduate Assistant **Janel Thomas** spent the majority of August 2010 in Florida, chasing hurricanes. Fortunately for them, and unfortunately for others, Category 4 Hurricane Earl made its debut and traveled up the Atlantic Coast. The exciting initial use of the unmanned Global Hawk and the scientific measurements, video, and photos it provided generated much media coverage. Scientists had the opportunity to review their hypotheses based on the findings. Look for a report on their experiences in the next JCET newsletter.

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