

News

A new look and a new name

Following our review of 20 years of *PAGES news* in the last issue, we realized, based on our track record, that a facelift was overdue. But this time we've gone even further and we've also changed the name to *Past Global Changes Magazine*, or *PAGES Magazine* for short. We believe that this more accurately reflects *PAGES news'* evolution in recent years from a simple newsletter into more of a magazine-style publication. We also hope that our new look magazine, with its more descriptive title, will attract a broader audience.

SSC Meeting in Paris

PAGES' Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) met in Paris in January 2014. In addition to approving four new Working Groups, the SSC also reviewed Working Group annual reports, met with Future Earth representatives and discussed PAGES' strategic direction in the coming year. The article on the opposite page gives an overview of the ongoing developments. The meeting was preceded by a day-long symposium featuring research talks by PAGES SSC members and a range of Parisian paleo-scientists.

New SSC members

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the SSC in 2014:

- Peter Gell is a paleolimnologist at the University of Ballarat in Australia, and is leader of the Focus 4 Water Theme.
- Kathy Willis is a paleoecologist at the University of Oxford, UK, and has also recently been appointed Director of Science at Kew Royal Botanical Gardens in London. She is the leader of the Focus 4 Biodiversity Theme.
- Michal Kucera is a paleoceanographer and micropaleontologist at the University of Bremen, Germany, and was co-leader of the MARGO glacial sea surface reconstruction initiative.

Current SSC member, Sheri Fritz, was elected to serve on the Executive Committee (EXCOM) to replace outgoing SSC member, John Dearing. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank John in addition to the other members who recently rotated off the SSC, Eric Wolff, Michael Schulz and Fátima Abrantes, for their invaluable support and contributions throughout their terms.

Support for meetings

At its two most recent meetings in October 2013 and January 2014, the EXCOM granted support for a total of 19 scientific and educational meetings, which are either organized by PAGES working groups or relevant to PAGES' scientific priorities. The PAGES-supported meetings are highlighted in our online calendar at: www.pages-igbp.org/calendar/pages-sponsored-events.

The next deadline for PAGES meeting support applications is 2 June. Details and application forms can be found on the PAGES website > My PAGES > Meeting Support.

Staff update

Welcome to Brigitte Schneider, who has recently joined our team in the Finance and Office Manager role.

Upcoming PAGES Magazine issues

The next issue of *PAGES Magazine* will focus on atmospheric dust and will be edited by members of the ADOM Working Group. Contributions to this issue are now closed. The following issue will be coordinated by the Past4Future project, of which PAGES is a project partner, and will focus on interglacials. Contributions will be sought in the coming months.

PAGES 2nd YSM special issue

Published articles have begun appearing in the *Climate of the Past* special issue emerging from the PAGES 2nd Young Scientists Meeting in Goa, India in February 2013. All of the first authors and most of the guest editors are early-career researchers who attended the YSM. You can view the papers, some published, some still in discussion at: www.clim-past-discuss.net/special_issue74.html

PAGES' product database update

Over the last few months we have been working hard to improve the PAGES online product database. This database provides a record of all the products from the Past Global Changes project. We can now allocate products to Working Groups or events to produce an online archive of a group's activities.

You can view the database at: www.pages-igbp.org/products/latest or go to the relevant Working Group page and view their products. Please let us know if you see any gaps or errors, and send us any meeting documents e.g. presentations and posters, which we can post to create a complete online archive of an event or activity.

Calendar

2nd PAGES Solar Forcing Workshop

20-23 May 2014 - Davos, Switzerland

3rd Asia 2k Workshop

26-27 May 2014 - Beijing, China

3rd Sea Ice Proxy Working Group meeting

23-25 June 2014 - Bremerhaven, Germany

North America 2k - Phase 2

23-27 June 2014 - Fort Collins, USA

Australasia 2k Working Group workshop

26-27 June 2014 - Melbourne, Australia

LOTRED-SA 3rd symposium and training course

07-12 July 2014 - Medellín, Colombia

IMBER ClimEco4 Summer School

04-08 August 2014 - Shanghai, China

PALSEA 2014

16-23 September 2014 - Lochinver, Scotland

Reconstruction of the Pliocene climate

17-19 September 2014 - Barcelona, Spain

www.pages-igbp.org/calendar

Featured products

Sea Ice in the Paleoclimate System

The Sea Ice Proxies Working Group's special issue (de Vernal et al. 2013; *Quat Sci Rev* 79) aims to address some of the uncertainties in sea ice modeling; lays the methodological groundwork for sea ice reconstructions for both polar regions; and makes some of the first inferences on past sea ice cover in the Arctic.

Paleoecology community identifies 50 priority research questions

In a recent paper from the Focus 4 Biodiversity Theme, Seddon et al. (2014; *J Ecol* 102) describe the process and outcomes of a workshop in December 2012, which used a unique community-consultation approach to produce a list of priority research questions in paleoecology.

Using paleo-climate comparisons to constrain future projections in CMIP5

Schmidt et al. (2014; *Clim Past* 10) of the CLIVAR/PAGES Intersection demonstrate that paleo-climate simulations can help constrain, and thus improve future projections, and propose guidelines towards future research.

Cover

Varved sediment section from Lake Belauer

In 1912, when Gerard de Geer established one of the first chronological methods in geosciences by examining the annual laminations i.e. varves in a sediment core, the potential of natural archives for environmental reconstruction was unrecognized. However, just over a century later modern analytical techniques allow for the measuring of environmental changes at annual to sub-annual time scales, thereby bridging the gap between proxy records and instrumental data. This image shows a beautiful example of a varved sediment section from Lake Belauer in northern Germany.