



Welcome

From Howard Wheeler

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Water News*. As the year draws to a close, it is an opportunity to reflect on our progress and achievements, and I am proud to report that we can look back on a highly productive and successful year.

2013 brought many new and exciting initiatives. We had major funding successes, with grants of over \$8 million won by CERC faculty and \$12.5 million from other GIWS members. This includes CFI grants to update infrastructure at our many research facilities throughout the Saskatchewan River Basin, now part of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). We were also acknowledged by NSERC for our Changing Cold Regions Network (CCRN), which brings together 37 Canadian investigators from eight universities and four government agencies to address environmental

change in Western Canada. Other major collaborative grants were won by Helen Baulch, Grant Ferguson, Markus Hecker, Tim Jardine and Paul Jones.

We have also attracted the world’s top researchers to visit Saskatoon. This past spring, our excellent student body attracted Rick Hooper and Jay Famiglietti from the USA to participate in our Let’s Talk About Water film event. We held a workshop of leading scientists in June to address the WCRP’s Grand Challenge for Water Resources. The Breakthroughs in Water Security Research: Distinguished Lecture Series, spanning the 12-week fall academic term, brought a high-profile expert in water science to the U of S each week.

GIWS members also remained active on the conference circuit. Our research made waves at the American Society for Limnology and Oceanography Aquatic Sciences Meeting in February, where Jeff Hudson and Rebecca North led sessions on our work in Lake Diefenbaker. The CGU, CMOS and CWRA Joint Congress took place in Saskatoon in May. Nearly 100 contributions were made by our members. We also had exceptional representation at the recent AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco, the largest worldwide conference in the geophysical sciences.

Indeed it has been a year of major achievement, thanks to you all. Let me conclude with very best wishes for a happy and successful 2014.

Regards,

Howard Wheeler

*Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security
Director, Global Institute for Water Security*



*Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency and SaskWater, met with Howard this summer.
Photo by Kate Wilson.*

Lecture series draws top water experts to U of S

After eleven successful weeks, the GIWS Distinguished Lecture Series has drawn to a close.

Held in conjunction with the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the U of S, the series featured a different world-renowned researcher each week for the fall term. It was offered as part of the SENS class ENVS 898, *Breakthroughs in Water Security Research*, taught by GIWS Associate Director Jeff McDonnell.

"Each of the guests brought a different perspective to water security research," says McDonnell. "We were able to bring together the U of S community and form research connections between visiting speakers and faculty from across campus."

Viewers from around the world were also able to view each lecture in real-time on the GIWS website, making it a truly global, engaging experience.

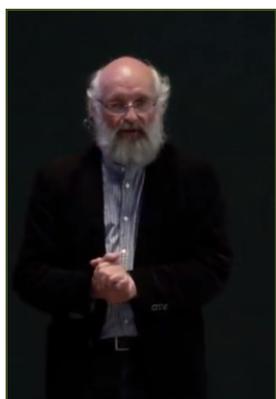
Topics included many diverse areas of water security research, including isotope hydrology, soil physics, hydroecological modelling, instrumentation, sociohydrology and many more.

To stream the lectures, visit [YouTube.com/usaskgiws](https://www.youtube.com/usaskgiws).

Member news

The following honours were recently bestowed to a few of our members:

- ✓ **Lee Barbour** was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE);
- ✓ **John Giesy** was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Miroslaw Romanowski medal, as well as the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Capacity-Building Award and the University of Saskatchewan's J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award;
- ✓ **Pat Gober** joined the panel of the Stockholm Water Prize;
- ✓ **Jeff McDonnell** was named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America;
- ✓ **John Pomeroy** was named a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), one of only three Canadians selected in 2013.



The Distinguished Lecture Series hosted such water experts as (from left) Keith Beven, Carol Kendall, Irena Creed and Leroy Poff.



Around the office

GIWS has grown significantly in 2013, in both in research and administrative capacities. Here are just a few of our new team members, to help put faces to names.



**Yanping Li, PhD,
Assistant Professor**

Our newest faculty member joined GIWS last summer. After completing her PhD at Yale in 2009, she worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the International Pacific Research Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her research expertise includes regional climate modelling and air-sea interaction.



**Sherry Olauson,
Clerical Assistant**

Sherry started at GIWS in February 2013. Previously, she worked in various capacities within the College of Medicine for 23 years, starting in the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and spending the past 13 years in Microbiology and Immunology.



**Jose-Luis Guerrero,
PhD, Post-doctoral
Fellow**

Originally from Honduras, Jose-Luis completed his PhD in hydrology at Uppsala University in Sweden. His current research deals with applying tools from computational geometry, with links to non-parametric multivariate statistical analysis, to model calibration and evaluation.



**Saman Rasavi, PhD,
Post-doctoral Fellow**

Saman completed his PhD in civil engineering at the University of Waterloo in April 2013 and came to GIWS soon after. Saman's research profile is extensive, and includes water resources planning and management, climate change impacts, rainfall runoff forecasting and surrogate modelling.

Young researchers by the numbers: in 2013, we funded...

- 22 masters students,
- 14 PhD students and
- 15 post-doctoral fellows.

Student members out and about in the community

The GIWS Student Outreach Team was established last year to bring together a community of graduate students working on water-related research. Now in their second active year, they have started to increase their presence on- and off-campus by collaborating with other groups and engaging a greater number of people in their activities.

In September, the team promoted sustainable water use by participating in World Rivers Day. The event in Friendship Park, located –where else? – alongside the South Saskatchewan River in downtown Saskatoon, served to remind attendees of the importance of rivers in local and global ecosystems.

The group also recently collaborated with the School of Environment and Sustainability Students' Association (SENSSA) to participate in Sustainability Week activities on campus. The Better Than Bottled event focused on reducing and eliminating bottled water and promoting Saskatoon's water by offering a blind taste test of both tap water and bottled water.

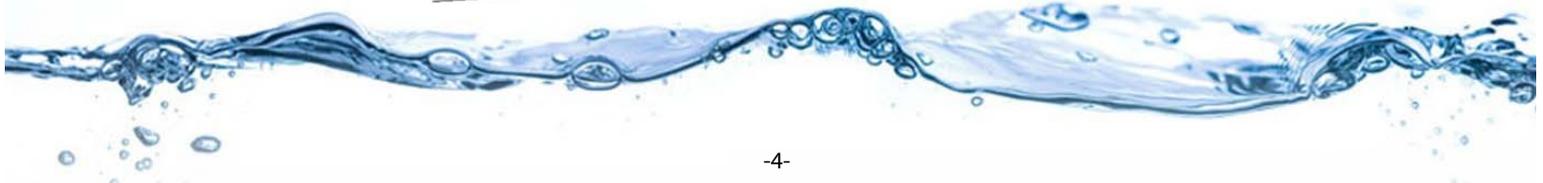
All U of S students with research interests in water issues are invited to join. It's free and you will be notified of activities put on by the organization and its associates, and will have opportunities to socialize and learn with like-minded people.



Join the conversation!



Photos by Lesley Porter



Upcoming events and important dates

February 25-26

GIWS Research Workshop – Saskatoon, SK; Park Town Hotel, Conference Room

This two-day workshop will provide updates on research currently being carried out by our members and collaborators. All are welcome to attend. Please email sherry.olauson@usask.ca by January 17 to RSVP.

March 1-12

Kananaskis Short Course on Principles of Hydrology Centre for Hydrology – Kananaskis Valley, AB

More information: <http://www.usask.ca/hydrology/>

May 4-6

1st Annual Water Initiative for the Future (WatIF): 2014 Graduate Conference – Kingston, ON

WatIF is the largest student movement among early water leaders in Canada, and will hold its first conference next May at Queen's University. Over 300 of the brightest graduate students from across disciplines (policy, health, engineering, geography, biology etc.) and regions of Canada will come together, providing an opportunity to share their research in a multidisciplinary environment that encourages collaboration and communication of ideas.

More information: <http://www.waterresearchcentre.ca/>
Registration opens January 15

July 14-17

GEWEX World Forum: 7th International Scientific Conference on the Global Energy and Water Cycle – The Hague, The Netherlands

The conference will celebrate 25 years of GEWEX research and address potential challenges in the World Climate Research Programme.

More information:
<http://gewex.org/2014conf/home.html>
Deadline for abstracts: February 14

For up-to-date event listings and more information, we encourage you to visit www.usask.ca/water regularly.



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Do you have a story, news item or event you'd like to see profiled in an upcoming issue? If so, please send your contribution to Meagan Hinther, Communications Specialist for GIWS: meagan.hinther@usask.ca.



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