

## **Natural Hazards Focus Group Spring News**

Greetings!

Below you'll find a short newsletter for the Natural Hazards Focus Group. You'll find news regarding activities at the Fall meeting, requests for nominations for the NHFG awards and elected positions, and a notice regarding an upcoming workshop.

### **Seeking Nominees for the NHFG President and Secretary.**

Later this year, AGU will elect its next set of leaders for the 2015-2016 term and the nomination process is now underway. We are seeking candidates for the position of President-elect and Secretary for the NHFG. If you are interested in being considered or would like to nominate another member, please send an email to Prof. Ning Lin the NHFG Secretary (nlin@princeton.edu). In order to best understand the roles and responsibilities of being an AGU leader, please review AGU's strategic plan (<http://sites.agu.org/leadership/strategic-plan/>) and the leadership criteria and job description for Council members (<http://sites.agu.org/leadership/volunteer/job-descriptions/>). Nominations (and self-nominations) should include a short statement (1/2 page) from the nominee, expressing her/his vision for the development of the NHFG, a short CV (max 2 pages) and a list of relevant publications (max 2 pages). The Nominating Committee (Alik Ismail-Zadeh as Chair, and Kelly Klima, Upmanu Lall and Arthur Lerner-Lam) will review the nominations. Please send your nominations to Prof. Ning Lin, the NHFG Secretary, by March 20. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Murnane (rickjmurnane@gmail.com).

### **Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award**

We are seeking nominees for the Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award for the Fall 2014 Meeting. Established in 2011, the Award is named in honor of Gilbert F. White, who had contributed greatly to natural hazards research. The Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award is given annually to an individual "for original contributions to the basic knowledge of natural hazards and/or disaster risks". The selection committee is chaired by Prof. Upmanu Lall, and includes Prof. John Eichelberger, Prof. Kerry Emanuel, Prof. Bruce Malamud, and Prof. Mary Lou Zoback. Please submit your nominations through the AGU Honors web page: <http://honors.agu.org/>. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2014.

### **Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research**

The AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group seeks nominations for its new award to young scientists engaged in studies of natural hazards and risks. This award recognizes one or more promising young scientists for outstanding contributions achieved during their Ph.D. research. Accordingly, eligibility is restricted to current Ph.D. students and those who have completed the requirements for a Ph.D. degree up to 12 months prior to the nomination deadline of April 15, 2014. Nominees should be AGU members. Please submit your nominations through the AGU Honors web page: <http://honors.agu.org/>. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2014.

The major criterion in the evaluation of candidates nominated to this award is the impact (or potential impact) of the research on the field of natural hazards. The awardee(s) will have the opportunity to deliver an invited paper in an appropriate Natural Hazards session at the AGU Fall meeting. The awardee(s) will also be announced in EOS. The selection committee will be chaired by Dr. Gerassimos Papadopolus, and include members Prof. Amir AghaKouchak and Prof. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala.

### **AGU 2013 Fall Meeting**

I hope you enjoyed the AGU Fall meeting. The Natural Hazards Focus Group was quite active. Professor James Elsner gave an excellent presentation titled “Are tornadoes getting stronger?” for the Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture. The Focus Group’s student representative, Hans Lechner, did a great job organizing the well-attended Town Hall on Exploring Careers in Natural Hazards. I also would like to thank Swiss Re for sponsoring the Natural Hazards Focus Group evening reception. Finally, congratulations are due to Yen Joe Tan of Lafayette College for winning the Natural Hazards Focus Group Outstanding Student Paper Award for his poster “Simulations of Tsunami Triggered by the 1883 Krakatau Volcanic Eruption: Implications for Tsunami Hazard in the South China Sea”.

### **Gilbert White archival material**

NHFG members might appreciate knowing about the following information that I received from Martin (Marty) Reuss, Ph.D., who was the Senior Water Resources Historian from 1982 to 2006 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Marty is currently semi-retired. Marty writes:

*The notice about the Gilbert White lecture reminds me that members of the Natural Hazards Group ought to be aware that Gilbert's papers are for the most part (all except material related to Boulder, Colorado and to Gilbert's Quaker-related activities) located in the records collections of the Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alexandria, Virginia. .... The material is voluminous, indexed, and fully represents Gilbert's scope of activities. An interview I did with Gilbert is also available through the Office of History.*

### **Workshop on risk and resilience**

Cathy Manduca, the Director of the Science Education Resource Center and Executive Director of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers asked if I could pass on information regarding an upcoming workshop titled “The Teaching about Risk and Resilience: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Earthquakes” that will be held in Boca Raton, FL, May 14-16. Cathy writes:

*This interdisciplinary workshop for faculty will focus on how we can integrate teaching concepts of risk and resilience with learning about the Earth processes that underpin natural disasters. Case studies will focus on sea level rise and flooding and earthquake hazards. An*

*interdisciplinary team of practitioners working in Florida and Southern California will work with faculty participants to identify opportunities and strategies.*

The application deadline is March 9, 2014. For more information see:  
<[http://serc.carleton.edu/integrate/workshops/risk\\_resilience/index.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/integrate/workshops/risk_resilience/index.html)>