

# News

## PAGES SSC meeting 2015 and new SSC members

The PAGES Scientific Steering Committee will meet 24 - 25 January 2015 in Las Cruces, Chile. Topics on the agenda include the implementation of PAGES' scientific structure and collaborations with Future Earth and the World Climate Research Program (WCRP). A regional paleoscience symposium on the 22 and 23 January will precede the SSC meeting.

This year we are pleased to welcome two new members to the SSC:

- Blas Valero-Garcés is a paleolimnologist/sedimentologist in the Limnogeology & Global Change Group at the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology, Spanish Scientific Research Council in Zaragoza, Spain.
- Darrell Kaufman - a specialist in Arctic paleoclimate, paleolimnology, and geochronology at the School of Earth Sciences & Environmental Sustainability at Northern Arizona University. He is also one of the coordinators of the 2k Network and the PAGES endorsed group, Arctic Holocene Transitions.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Steven Colman, who rotated off the SSC at the end of 2014. We are grateful for his commitment and stewardship throughout his two terms.

## New Human/Environment working groups

Three new working groups with a focus on environmental change and the impact of humans have recently launched:

- GloSS (Global Soil and Sediment transfers in the Anthropocene)
- LandCover6k
- Aquatic Transitions

You can read more about each of them in their Program News articles in this issue. As all PAGES working groups, these are open to participation by scientists from everywhere in the world who are interested in contributing.

## Databases and tools

A number of database and tools have been developed by our groups recently:

- The Global Paleofire Working Group (GPWG) produced an open source R package, paleofire, for analyzing sedimentary charcoal series in the Global Charcoal Database. It is discussed and applied in a recent study by Blarquez et al. (2014, *Comput Geosci* 72).
- Arctic Holocene Transitions, a PAGES-endorsed group, has published an extensive compilation of Holocene proxy climate records from the Arctic (Sundqvist et al. 2014, *Clim Past* 10).
- A sub-group of the former MARGO (Multiproxy Approach for the Reconstruction of the Glacial Ocean Surface) project, which was supported by IMAGES and PAGES, has published a study addressing the constraints on surface seawater oxygen isotope change between the Last Glacial Maximum and the Late Holocene (Waelbroeck et al. 2014, *Quat Sci Rev* 105).

## Future Earth update

Future Earth's Strategic Research Agenda 2014 has been published after a year-long global consultation on the priorities for global change research. It identifies priority areas for research and collaboration between funders, policymakers, and researchers over the next 3-5 years.

[www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-strategic-research-agenda-2014-published](http://www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-strategic-research-agenda-2014-published)

The Future Earth Engagement Committee was recently announced. This is a strategic advisory group, comprising thought-leaders from business, policy, and civil society. Its primary purpose is to foster interactions between science and society working alongside the Future Earth Science Committee.

[www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-engagement-committee-announced](http://www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-engagement-committee-announced)

## Upcoming issues of PAGES Magazine

The next issue of PAGES Magazine will be on volcanic forcing and climatic response. Contact the guest editors Allegra LeGrande ([allegra.n.legrande@nasa.gov](mailto:allegra.n.legrande@nasa.gov)) and Kevin Anchukaitis ([kja@whoi.edu](mailto:kja@whoi.edu)), or the PAGES office to enquire about contributing to this issue.

We are also planning an issue on abrupt changes and tipping points in the Earth system. Contact the PAGES office if you are interested in contributing or exploring ideas.

In general, if you wish to lead a special section of the magazine on a particular topic, let us know at the PAGES office or have a discussion with any PAGES SSC member.

# Calendar

## Forest insect and pathogen disturbances in time

30-31 March 2015 - Taos, USA

## Conference on volcanoes, climate and society

07-11 April 2015 - Bern, Switzerland

## Arctic2k working group meeting

12 April 2015 - Vienna, Austria

## Aquatic Transitions working group meeting

22-24 April 2015 - Keyworth, UK

## Climate and human impacts in central Europe

17-19 June 2015 - Gdansk, Poland

## PALSEA 2015 Sea Level workshop

22-25 July 2015 - Tokyo, Japan

## Antarctica2k working group meeting

03-04 September 2015 - Venice, Italy

<http://pages-igbp.org/calendar>

# Featured products

## Synthesis papers

- The Global Monsoon Working Group has just published the first of two major syntheses taking a global view of monsoon variability across timescales (Wang et al. 2014, *Clim Past* 10).
- Members of the former Land Use & Cover theme present pollen-based quantitative reconstructions of vegetation cover in Europe for the Holocene. (Trondman et al. 2014, *Glob Change Bio*).

## Past Interglacials Working Group papers

- Martrat et al. compare similarities and dissimilarities between the last two deglaciations and interglaciations in the N Atlantic region (2014, *Quat Sci Rev* 99). Read more in this issue on page 10.
- Mokeddem et al. discuss how ocean dynamics may have contributed to the end of the last interglacial in the subpolar N Atlantic (2014, *PNAS* 111).

## 2k Network papers

- The 2k Consortium outlines the 2k Network's goals for its Phase 2 (Kaufman et al. 2014, *Eos* 95).
- Linderholm et al. create a tree-ring reconstruction of summer temperatures for the last 900 years in Fennoscandia (in press, *Clim Dyn*).

## Recent PALSEA2 papers

- An updated database of Holocene relative sea level change in NE Aegean Sea (Vacchi et al. 2014, *Quat Int* 328-329).
- The Mid-Pliocene sea-level conundrum: Glacial isostasy, eustasy and dynamic topography. (Rovere et al. 2014, *Earth Planet Sci Lett* 387).
- Contrasting records of sea-level change in the E and W North Atlantic during the last 300 years (Long et al. 2014, *Earth Planet Sci Lett* 388).

# Cover

## Geomorphological and archeological evidence of climate variability during the present interglacial at Radstock Bay, Devon Island, Canada.

The melting of the Laurentide Ice Sheet during the last deglaciation has left its imprint in the High Arctic landscape. The area has experienced an isostatic rebound of about 100 vertical meters, exposing the raised beach lines visible in the background. In the foreground are the ruins of winter sod houses built by Inuit of the Thule culture 500 years ago. The Bowhead Whale bones scattered on the ground once supported skin roofs. The houses were much closer to the sea at the time the Thule built them. Photo by Henning Thing.