APECS Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

Introduction

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), founded in 2006, is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members and educators with interests in polar regions and the cryosphere. By providing networking and career development opportunities, APECS activities aim to raise the profile of polar research, develop effective leaders in education and outreach, and stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations. APECS builds on extensive national and disciplinary networks to develop integrated research directions, meet career development needs, and communicate the urgencies of polar science to a worldwide audience.

In addition to being a networking organization, APECS facilitates mentoring by and liaises with international experts. APECS primary objective is to assist young researchers in addressing the challenges of polar research as they progress through the early stages of their careers. Education and outreach is a high priority area, including the stimulation and engagement of the next generation of polar scientists that will be needed to meet growing scientific challenges. APECS’ membership includes more than 700 early career researchers from every continent ranging from undergraduates and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and new faculty members. For more information, visit http://arcticportal.org/apecs.

Goals and Objectives

APECS’ goals include creating opportunities for the development of innovative, international, and interdisciplinary collaborations among current early career polar researchers as well as recruiting, retaining and promoting the next generation of polar enthusiasts. Specifically, we aim to:

- Create a network of polar researchers across disciplines and national boundaries to meet, share ideas and experiences, and develop new research directions and collaborations.
- Provide career development for traditional and alternative polar and cryosphere professions.
- Promote education and outreach as an integral component of polar research and to stimulate future generations of polar researchers.
- Recognize outstanding achievements and contributions to polar science by early career researchers.

What Does APECS Do?

We are an active group of over 700 young researchers from around the globe, working together to accomplish our goal through the following activities:

- Providing opportunities for early career researchers to work with senior researchers on polar science planning activities and developing mentoring relationships.
- Hosting career development workshops, networking and round table sessions at national and international meetings together with senior mentors.
- Maintaining a website with current job opportunities, upcoming polar events, a discussion forum for idea exchange, photo gallery and recent cryosphere journal publications and popular press articles.
- Distributing a newsletter with new information from the website, other opportunities and career development advice from international senior researchers.
- Working with polar institutions, organizations and projects to share resources to develop a Polar Career Development Guide.
- Providing access to educational and outreach materials generated by early career researchers that can be used for teaching polar science to a variety of age groups, concentrating on building up resources for use in tertiary education.
- Remaining flexible to adapt new programs and initiatives to meet the needs of our members.

Benefits of Membership

APECS encourages all students, post-docs, early career faculty, and research associates with an interest in interdisciplinary and international polar and cryosphere research to become involved with the organization. As an international organization, the major connecting point for our association is our website. Being an APECS member gives you access to resources that will be helpful for your career development, along the continuum of undergraduate through to successful polar researcher. Our discussion board allows you to interact with the larger community regarding a variety of issues such as questions regarding laboratory procedures, finding out where to get polar experience, sharing stories and tips and discussing recent publications. You also have access to a variety of RSS feeds regarding polar research all in one place – from recent news stories to the latest polar related Science paper. We have a database of polar related job openings and several RSS feeds from other job databases. One of the most useful benefits of membership is the membership database itself. Using this tool can help you find other people in your field asking similar questions, allowing you to meet new international colleagues, or find additional resources to help your research and career development.

How Do I Become a Member of APECS?

Becoming a member is easy. To sign up to become a member of APECS, go to the APECS website, register on our registration form, and click on the Register link under the APECS logo. This will take you through the registration process where you will be asked to enter your email address and other information. We only use the email address to send you announcements from time to time. Your information can only be accessed by other members for the purposes of finding new collaborators, networking and learning more about other polar research projects. The more information you enter, the more people will be exposed to your work. If you have troubles, please contact our Chief Information Officer, Peter DiFiorie (pdifiore@Princeton.EDU). This will enter you into our system so you can start receiving information immediately and helps us stay connected. In the coming months this area will be improved to contain membership profiles where you can enter more information about yourself and search for other members with similar interests to start new collaborations or ask for help on whatever you are working on.

Shaping the Future of Polar Research

We extend special thanks to our sponsors.

Contact Information

For more information or to get involved, visit http://arcticportal.org/apecs

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EUG General Assembly 2008


SRRefID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2008-A-05293

2007-2008 APECS Interim Executive Committee

2007-2008 APECS Council