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Key: Meeting  Journal  Funder  Dissertation **Public Release: 12-Mar-2010**

[Tropical Storm Tomas approaching Nadi this weekend](#)

Tropical Storm Tomas is on a southern track in the South Pacific Ocean, and residents of Nadi, Fiji will be watching it as it approaches the eastern side of the island late this weekend. A tropical cyclone alert is in effect for all of Fiji this weekend.

★ NASA

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[NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center](#)**Public Release: 12-Mar-2010**

[NASA's Aqua Satellite shows strong convection in Tropical Storm Ului](#)

NASA's Aqua satellite flew over Tropical Storm Ului during the morning hours (Eastern Time) on March 12 and noticed a large area of strong convection in the storm's center, indicating strengthening.

★ NASA

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[NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center](#)**Public Release: 12-Mar-2010**

[GOES-12 captures south Atlantic Tropical Storm 90Q far from Argentina's coast](#)

The second-ever known tropical cyclone in the South Atlantic Ocean can't escape satellite eyes, and today, the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-12 captured a visible image of Tropical Storm 90Q now located off the coast of Argentina.

★ NASA

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[NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center](#)**Public Release: 12-Mar-2010**

■ International Journal of Phycology

[AgriLife scientists do groundwork for genetic mapping of algae biofuel species](#)

Using green algae to produce hydrocarbon oil for biofuel production is nothing new; nature has been doing so for hundreds of millions of years, according to a Texas AgriLife Research scientist.

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Texas A&M AgriLife Communications

Public Release: 12-Mar-2010

The use of cover crops in vineyards can help control the yield and quality of grapes and wine

Correct management of soil and irrigation is a vital factor in modern viticulture, due to the influence of the water balance of the vineyard on wine quality and the environmental impact of agricultural practices on vineyard soils.

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Public Release: 12-Mar-2010

■ Cladistics

Phylogenetic analysis of Mexican cave scorpions suggests adaptation to caves is reversable

A new study of the scorpion family Typhlochactidae, a group of nine dark-adapted species endemic to Mexico, shows that specialized traits are not necessarily an evolutionary dead end. At least three reversals, or a return to generalized morphology, were found in a phylogenetic analysis.

★ National Science Foundation

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[American Museum of Natural History](#)

Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

Proposed mission would return sample from asteroid 'time capsule'

Meet asteroid 1999 RQ36, a chunk of rock and dust about 1,900 feet in diameter that could tell us how the solar system was born, and perhaps, shed light on how life began. It also might hit us someday.

★ NASA

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

3 FASTSAT instruments pass tests

The outer layers of Earth's atmosphere hold many secrets yet to be uncovered and three scientific instruments will fly soon on the FASTSAT-HSV01 satellite and seek to uncover them to benefit us here on Earth. Known as MINI-ME, PISA and TTI, these instruments recently passed a series of important final tests to prove their readiness for spaceflight.

★ NASA, USNA, USAF

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

Second only south Atlantic tropical storm: 90Q, moving away from Brazil

Tropical Storm 90Q is the second known tropical cyclone to form in the cooler South Atlantic Ocean, and two NASA satellites confirm it is now moving away from Brazil's coast. The first tropical cyclone ever seen in recorded history in the Southern Atlantic was called "Catarina" in 2004.

★ NASA

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

Tropical Storm Tomas calls for alerts in south Pacific

System 97P was looking pretty impressive on NASA satellite imagery early today, March 11, and by 10 a.m. ET, it strengthened into Tropical Storm Tomas.

✴ NASA

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010**Hubert's remnants still raining on southern Madagascar**

Hubert may not be a tropical storm now that it has made landfall in southeastern Madagascar, but it's still a formidable and large storm system. NASA's Aqua satellite revealed that there are still some very high, strong thunderstorms in Hubert's remnants as it continues to bring rains and gusty winds to southeast and south-central Madagascar.

✴ NASA

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Geophysical Research

New study debunks myths about Amazon rain forests

A new NASA-funded study has concluded that Amazon rain forests were remarkably unaffected in the face of once-in-a-century drought in 2005, neither dying nor thriving, contrary to a previously published report and claims by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010**Scientists at UCSB discover 600-million-year-old origins of vision**

By studying the hydra, a member of an ancient group of sea creatures that is still flourishing, scientists at UC Santa Barbara have made a discovery in understanding the origins of human vision. The finding is published in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, a British journal of biology.

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Proceedings of the Royal Society B

Why female moths are big and beautiful

In most animal species, males and females show obvious differences in body size. But how can this be, given that both sexes share the same genes governing their growth? University of Arizona entomologists studied this conundrum in moths and found clues that had been overlooked by previous efforts to explain this mystery of nature.

✴ National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters

Scavenging energy waste to turn water into hydrogen fuel

Materials scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have designed a way to harvest small amounts of waste energy and harness them to turn water into usable hydrogen fuel.

✴ UW-Madison Graduate School, National Science Foundation, NASA Astrobiology Institute, US Department of Energy

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Science

Aquatic 'dead zones' contributing to climate change

The increased frequency and intensity of oxygen-deprived "dead zones" along the world's coasts can negatively impact environmental conditions in far more than local waters. In the March 12 edition of Science, UMCES oceanographer Dr. Lou Codispoti explains that the increased amount of nitrous oxide produced in hypoxic waters can elevate concentrations in the atmosphere, further exacerbating the impacts of global warming and contributing to ozone "holes" that increase our exposure to harmful UV radiation.

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

Survey shows lack of confidence in national hurricane response planning

According to a study recently completed by an LSU group charged with conducting studies on improving hurricane crisis communication in coastal communities, many families have a well-developed hurricane response plan of their own but have little faith in the preparation developed at higher government levels.

★ Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Nature Chemistry

Behavior of single protein observed in unprecedented detail by Stanford chemists

Scrutinizing a single molecule for more than a few milliseconds used to require effectively "stapling" it down, inhibiting its normal behavior. Now, using a technique recently developed in their lab, Stanford chemists have for the first time confined a protein (one involved in photosynthesis), observed its behavior for more than a second and learned things about it that could influence solar energy technology and biofuels.

★ US Department of Energy, NIH/National Center for Research Resources

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Public Release: 11-Mar-2010

■ Science

Water oxidation advance boosts potential for solar fuel

Emory University chemists have developed the most potent homogeneous catalyst known for water oxidation, considered a crucial component for generating clean hydrogen fuel using only water and sunlight. The breakthrough, published March 11 in Science, was made in collaboration with the Paris Institute of Molecular Chemistry. The fastest, carbon-free molecular water oxidation catalyst to date "has really upped the standard from the other known homogeneous WOCs," said Emory chemist Craig Hill, whose lab led the effort.

★ US Department of Energy

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

Prehistoric response to global warming informs human planning today

Since 2004, University at Buffalo anthropologist Ezra Zubrow has worked intensively with teams of scientists in the Arctic regions of St. James Bay, Quebec, northern Finland and Kamchatka to understand how humans living 4,000 to 6,000 years ago reacted to climate changes.

★ National Science Foundation, ARRA

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Environmental Science & Technology

NoMix toilets get thumbs-up in 7 European countries

People in seven European countries have positive attitudes toward a new eco-friendly toilet that could substantially reduce pollution problems and conserve water and nutrients, scientists in Switzerland are reporting. Their article, which calls on authorities to give wider support for the innovative toilet technology, is in ACS' Environmental Science & Technology, a semimonthly journal.

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[American Chemical Society](#)

Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Energy & Fuels

World crude oil production may peak a decade earlier than some predict

In a finding that may speed efforts to conserve oil and intensify the search for alternative fuel sources, scientists in Kuwait predict that world conventional crude oil production will peak in 2014 -- almost a decade earlier than some other predictions. Their study is in ACS' Energy & Fuels, a bimonthly journal.

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[American Chemical Society](#)

Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Leading Edge

Texas earthquake study cites 'plausible cause'

A study published in the March issue of the Leading Edge examines series of small earthquakes occurring near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport between Oct. 30, 2008, and May 16, 2009.

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Nature

Scientific breakthrough in genetic studies of animal domestication

The domestication of animals and plants is the most important technological innovation during human history. This genetic transformation of wild species has occurred as humans have used individuals carrying favorable gene variants for breeding purposes. In the current issue of Nature an international team led by researchers at Uppsala University has revealed some of the secrets underlying the remarkable development of the domestic chicken.

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Public Release: 10-Mar-2010

■ Nature

The smell of salt air, a mile high and 900 miles inland

In a surprise with implications for air quality, researchers have found that chemistry involving airborne chloride, thought to be restricted to sea spray, occurs at similar rates in air above Boulder, Colo., nearly 900 miles away from any ocean.

★ National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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