John Seinfeld is the next Thompson Lecture Series guest lecturer. John H. Seinfeld is the Louis E. Nohl Professor in the Divisions of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Engineering and Applied Science at the California Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester, where he received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering, and of Princeton University, where he received a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. He has spent his entire professional career at Caltech. He has received many awards for his work in the field of atmospheric chemistry and was the previous Chair of Caltech’s Division of Engineering and Applied Science. Professor Seinfeld is widely acknowledged for his research on the chemistry and physics of the atmosphere. Through both experimental and theoretical studies, he has made numerous contributions to our knowledge of the chemistry of the urban atmosphere, the formation, growth, and dynamics of atmospheric aerosols, and the role of aerosols in climate.

During the lecture series you’ll have an opportunity to hear Dr. Seinfeld present his work in both a technical seminar and a non-technical seminar. You’ll also be able to participate in roundtable discussions about science and career, and to meet with Dr. Seinfeld in an individual meeting.

Keep in mind that even though Dr. Seinfeld’s science might be in a vastly different field from your own, you should still consider signing up for an individual meeting. Individual meetings are a great opportunity to meet renowned scientists face-to-face. You’ll find that they have a breadth of interests and can also offer you interesting insights on your career development.

To see the full schedule of events, please go to the Thompson Lecture Series Wiki at https://wiki.ucar.edu/display/aspthompson08/Home.
**APRIL NEWS**

- If you are interested in joining the ASP Team for the Bolder Boulder, please contact Paul Winkler (pwinkler@ucar.edu) by the end of April.

- Earth Day April 22nd. This is the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. You can learn more about activities happening in Boulder at [http://www.earthfestboulder.net/](http://www.earthfestboulder.net/)

- NSF Communications Workshop April 29th. Registration deadline: April 16


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**April Fellows Social**

Join other postdocs and graduate students at The Med (west end of Pearl St.) on Wednesday April 14th for happy hour. More details about time, etc. will follow, but really, what more do you need to know other than Sangria and Tapas? There may be another activity scheduled for the end of the month.

Remember, you can always use the graduate-postdoc email list to organize a gathering or get together on your own.

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**ASP Director Search**

The search for a new ASP Director will begin this month. The committee will be chaired by Sue Schaufler, the Deputy Director of EOL and former ASP Postdoc. Other committee members include Hannah Brenkert-Smith (ASP/ISP), Paula Fisher (ASP), Don Lenschow (NESL/MMM), Alex Guenther (NESL/ACD), and Rebecca Centeno Elliot (HAO, former ASP Postdoc). The committee hopes to have the search completed within a few short weeks.

Candidates must be an NCAR Scientist to apply. If you work with someone whom you think would make an excellent candidate for the job, please let a committee member know. Also, please be sure to pass along any thoughts or suggestions you have regarding the process, the next director, or the program in general that you think might be helpful for this search.

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**The Tipline: Meeting Maker**

Many programs at NCAR, including the Advanced Study program, use Meeting Maker to schedule meetings and other ASP events.

If you are new to NCAR, you might want to take a moment to get set up on this calendaring software to ensure that you don’t miss any important meetings or events. Meeting Maker can either run on your PC or Mac, or you can access the web client via the internet.

The ASP requires the use of Meeting Maker by ASP postdocs. If you need to be set up on Meeting Maker, please contact Scott Briggs at sbriggs@ucar.edu.

For more information about Meeting Maker, please see: [http://www.fin.ucar.edu/it/services/calendar/calendar.html](http://www.fin.ucar.edu/it/services/calendar/calendar.html)

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**Note:** The tipline is a vehicle for fellows and their mentors to share some best practices that foster the most rich and rewarding experience for all postdocs and grad students at NCAR. Newsletter editor, Paula Fisher, welcomes contributions of 200-300 words. This month’s tipline comes from the UCAR Communications Office

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*A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.*

--Francis Bacon
Visiting Oxford by Cecile Piret

I had the amazing opportunity to work at the University of Oxford, UK, from mid October 2009 to the end of January 2010. I was a visiting PDRA (postdoctoral research assistant) at OCCAM, the Oxford Centre for Collaborative Applied Mathematics. The purpose of this department is to bring applied and computational mathematicians together with scientists from multiple disciplines such as engineering, geosciences or biology. The goal is to create collaborations and to make use of high-level mathematics to model and study the concrete problems present in these disciplines. OCCAM serves as a platform conducive to interactions and collaborations between mathematicians and scientists from all kinds of disciplines and institutions. It is a stimulating environment to do research and to meet people. OCCAM is funded by KAUST (the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology).

My work as a visiting PDRA consisted of continuing my research on the Radial Basis Functions method, and in particular in focusing on problems whose solutions contain discontinuities. The schedule was intense and the days flew by, starting with the 11:15am mandatory tea break, and finishing with the (less mandatory but just as attended) evening beer at the pub, two essentials of the English culture serving the objective of the department: interactions. I attended the many talks and seminars organized by OCCAM and by the Numerical Analysis group, all preceded or followed by either lunch (sometimes at the high table) at one of the Colleges or by a tea and cookies break. This energetic environment motivated me to talk a lot with people, to learn about their research, to introduce them to mine, and to learn a whole lot about mathematics. I was also given the opportunity to give talks (University of Oxford, University of Warwick), and thereby to expose my work and receive feedback from some of the leading mathematicians.

Meanwhile, living in Oxford was an exciting experience (as was riding a bike in the left-hand traffic!). It is quite intimidating to walk amongst the buildings of the oldest university of the English-Speaking world. The traditions are so essential to this prestigious university, that some have been preserved for centuries. It is interesting to notice the great dichotomy between Oxford in its rituals and conventions, and Oxford, a world leader in the development of new ideas and technologies. I was thrilled to visit and experience some of these traditions and folklore: lunches and dinners at some of the different colleges, the afternoon tea and scone, Christmas choir concerts, etc... I was also lucky enough to arrive just in time for the reopening of the famous Ashmolean Museum, and to see the pub where CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien used to meet, the colleges of Lewis Carroll or of Oscar Wilde, the Bodleian Library and so many marvels enclosed in the 38 colleges of this small town.

I had a clear idea of what I wanted to achieve during my three months visit at OCCAM, but it soon became evident, with the energy of the environment and the number of interesting people and projects, that my plans were going to suffer serious reassessment. I spent three months in a wonderful city, meeting people, learning about their work, talking about mine, and getting really excited about research.