



APECS

Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

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Introduction

The International Polar Year 2007–2008 (IPY) is advancing our fundamental understanding of the Polar Regions and the cryosphere as a whole. To ensure the legacy of these scientific advances, the next generation of polar scientists must be recruited, nurtured, educated, and mentored. To retain the current cohort of early career polar scientists and recruit the next generation of researchers, professional development and networking activities must be expanded to address difficulties in international and interdisciplinary collaborations, rapidly developing technologies, logistical requirements of field work, and the increasing need to disseminate science results to the public and policy makers.

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.

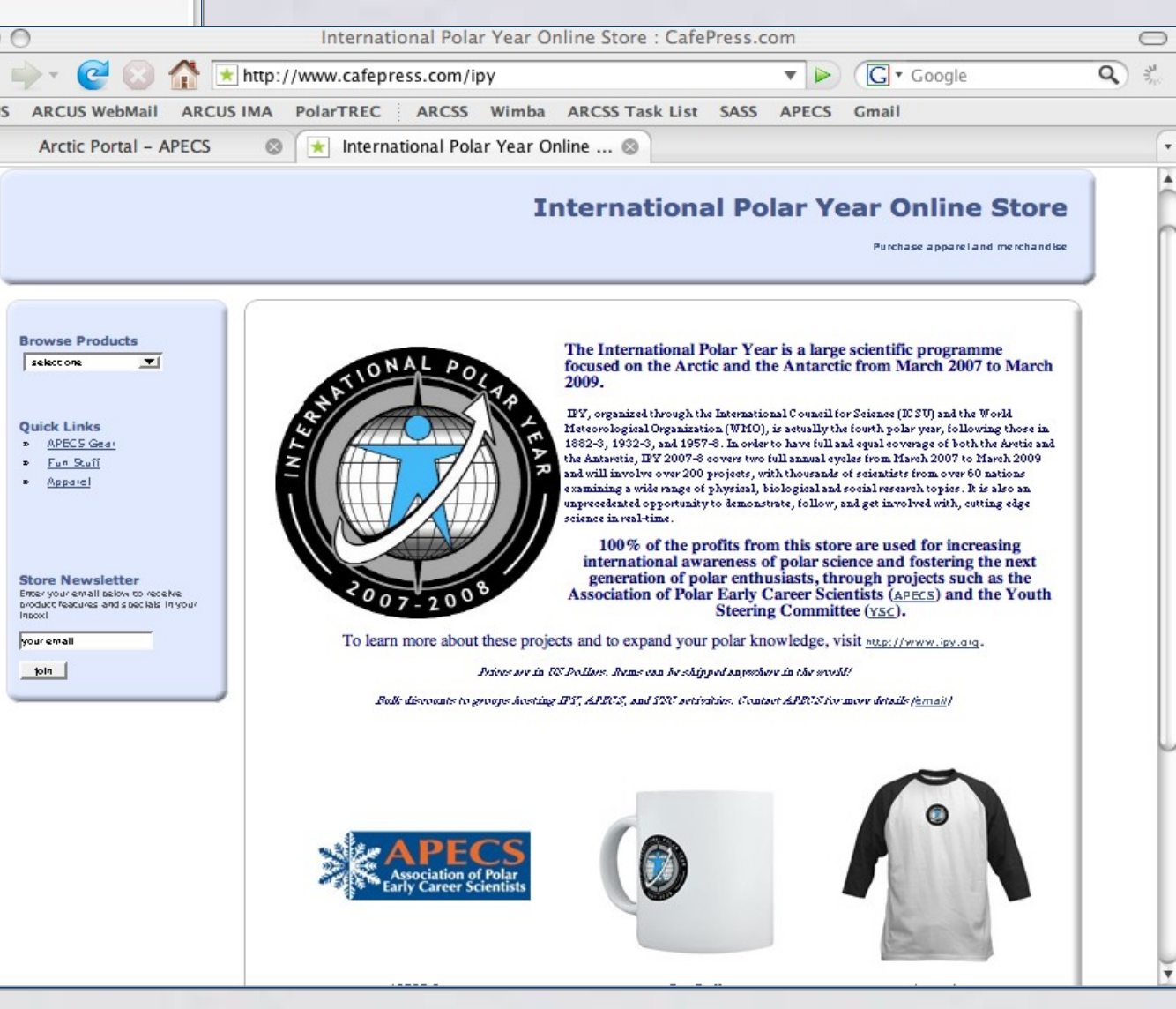
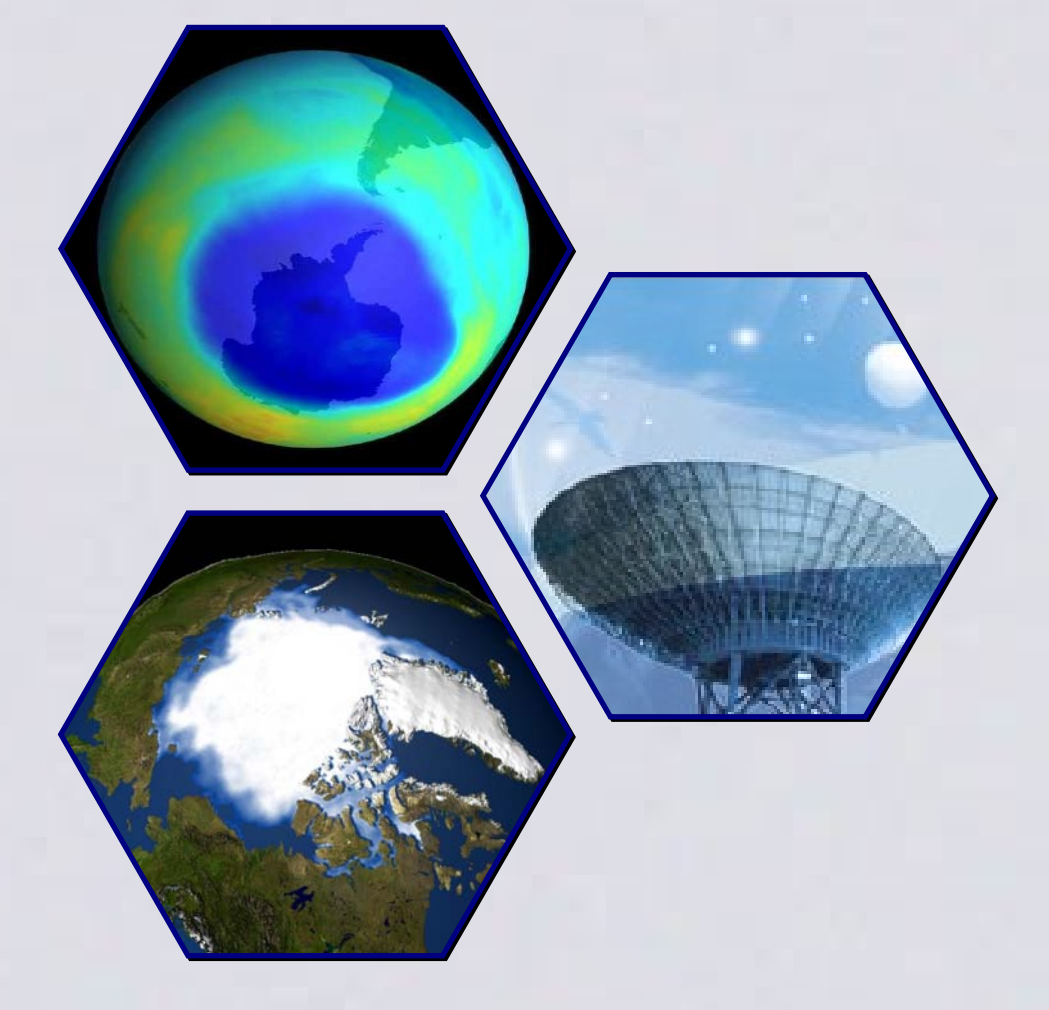
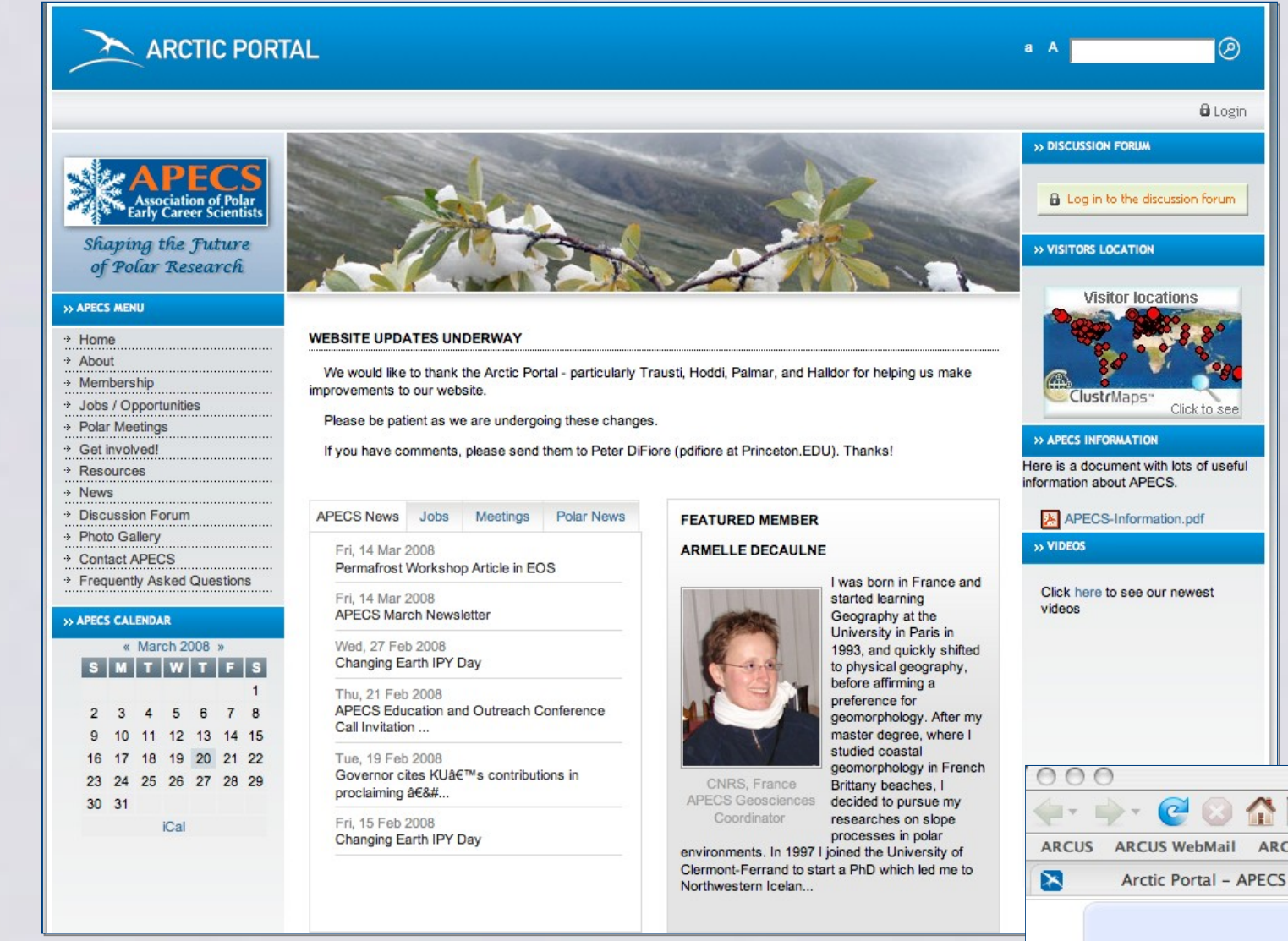
In addition to being a networking organization, APECS facilitates mentoring by and liaises with senior researchers. APECS' primary objective is to assist young researchers in addressing the challenges of polar research as they progress through the early stages of their careers. Education and outreach is a high priority of APECS members for a number of reasons, 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 undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and new faculty members. For more information, visit: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs>.



2007-2008 APECS Council

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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 **education 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.

Being an APECS member also gives you access to the many early career workshops and meetings that will be held in the coming months and years, as well as opportunities to serve on science planning and conference organizing committees as the voice of early career polar researchers. The APECS meetings allow rare face-to-face contact with those involved in the field, which is both professionally and personally rewarding. Each of these workshops will have a different focus, from very technical and technique specific to broad career development strategies. Many of these workshops will have limited openings, and being an active APECS member will give you higher priority in the application process.

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 discussion forum on the APECS website: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/forum> 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 (pdfiore@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.

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Contact Information

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