



Miller Institute News

The Miller Institute is "dedicated to the encouragement of creative thought and the conduct of research and investigation in the field of pure science and investigation in the field of applied science in so far as such research and investigation are deemed by the Advisory Board to offer a promising approach to fundamental problems."

Miller Fellow Focus: Emily Brodsky

First year Miller Fellow Emily Brodsky develops novel interpretations of geophysical data using fluid mechanics. Dr. Brodsky is hosted by Professor Michael Manga in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science.

Fluid mechanics can have important ramifications for both the qualitative and quantitative study of solid Earth geophysics. For instance, in a recent Journal of Geophysical Research paper with Professor Kanamori of Caltech, Dr. Brodsky demonstrated that faults may be lubricated by the same mechanism as oiled bearings. In 1886 Oswald Reynolds first proposed an explanation for Beauchamp Tower's experimental discovery that introducing a continuous film of oil into a bearing reduces both the frictional resistance and the wear. Reynolds calculated the pressure increase expected from shearing the viscous oil using the Navier-Stokes equations. He found that the shear stress was sufficient to increase the oil pressure as observed. The high pressure pushed the faces of the bearing apart therefore minimizing the wear that would have resulting from grinding metal parts.

DEADLINE TO NOTE

Monday, February 11, 2002 Visiting Miller Professor nominations for terms in Academic Year 2002-03. Dr. Brodsky found parallels between natural faults and lubricated bearings. In both cases, a large load must be supported during the shearing of a thin gap. In the case of a fault, the faces are of rock instead of metal and the viscous fluid is mud instead of oil. Applying lubrication theory to faults helps to explain why frictional heat generation during earthquakes is relatively low. The theory also suggests an explanation for the recent puzzling observation that large earthquakes sometimes slip more smoothly than smaller ones. For large earthquakes, the lubrication pressure is sufficient to elastically deform the fault walls and reduce the rapid grinding of surface asperities. The slip threshold for such smoothing behavior is consistent with the slip observed during the recent magnitude 7.6 1999 Chi-Chi, Taiwan earthquake for a reasonable set of model parameters.

While at Berkeley, Dr. Brodsky has been focusing on observing and modeling the effects of seismic waves on confined aquifers at large distances (>100 km) from large earthquakes (magnitude>7). Well-water level changes in excess of 10 cm recorded in response to distance earthquakes have proven enigmatic for over 30 years. Recent observations of seismicity triggered by distant earthquakes in fluid-dominated geothermal systems has added a new incentive to understanding the the mechanism for the seismically induced hydrological changes. In collaboration with Dr. Evelyn Roeloffs of the U.S. Geological Survey and colleagues at the Department of Water Resources in Oregon, Dr. Brodsky is using high sampling rate water level data to perform the first simultaneous analysis of the dynamic response of water level and permanent offsets.

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Miller Professor Michael Christ (2000-2001)

published two papers during his term with the Miller Institute: "On certain elementary trilinear operators," Math. Research Letters 8 (2001), 43-56, "WKB and spectral analysis of onedimensional Schrödinger operators with slowly varying potentials," with A. Kiselev, Comm. Math. Phys. 218 (2001), 245-262.

Miller Professor J.C. Séamus Davis (2000-**2001**) published five papers during his year with the Miller Institute: "STM studies of The Electronic Structure of Vortex Cores in Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_{8+d}," with S. H. Pan, E. W. Hudson, A. K. Gupta, K-W Ng, H. Eisaki and S. Uchida, Phys. Rev. Lett. 85, 1536 (2000), "A Detailed Scanning Tunnelling Microscopy Study of the CuO chains of YBa₂Cu₃O_{7-x}," with D. J. Derro, S. H. Pan, E. W. Hudson, K. M. Lang, K. Mochizuki, J. T. Markert and A. de Lozanne, Physica C 341, 425 (2000), "Interplay of magnetism and high-Tc superconductivity at individual magnetic impurity atoms in Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O_{8+d}," with E. E. Hudson, K. M. Lang, V. Madhavan, S. H. Pan, H. Eisaki and S. Uchida, Nature 411, 920 (2001), "Observation of The Shapiro Effect in a Superfluid ³He Weak Link," with R. W. Simmonds, A. Marchenkov, and R. E. Packard, Phys. Rev. Lett. 87, 5602 (2001), and "Quantum Interference of Superfluid ³He," with R.W. Simmonds, A. Marchenkov, and R. E. Packward, Nature 412, 55 (2001).

Miller Professor Stuart Linn (Fall 2000) completed six papers during his prolific term with the Miller Institute: "Human Damagespecific DNA Binding Protein p48," with A. F. Nichols, T. Itoh, J. A. Graham, W. Liu and M. Yamaizumi, J. Biol. Chem. 275, 21422-214428 (2000), "Nuclear Transport of Human DDB Protein Induced by Ultraviolet Light," with W. Liu, A.F. Nichols, J.A. Graham, R. Dualan, and A. Abbas, J. Biol. Chem. 275, 214429-214434 (2000), "Identification and Cloning of Two Histone-fold Motif Containing Subunits of HeLa DNA Polymerase å," with Y. Li, and Z. F. Pursell, J. Biol. Chem. 275, 23247-23252 (2000), "MDM2 interacts with the carboxy terminus of the catalytic subunit of DNA polymerase Epsilon," with N. Vlatkovic, S. Guerrera, S. Li, D. S. Haines, and M. T. Boyd, Nuc. Ac. Res. 28, 3581-3586 (2000), "Proteolysis of the human DNA polymerase epsilon catalytic subunit by caspase-3 and calpain specifically during apotosis," with W. Liu, Nuc. Ac. Res. 28, 4180-4188 (2000), and "A mammalian DNA polymerase alpha inhibitor," with Y. Mizushina, S. Kamisuki, T. Mizuno, M. Takemura, H. Asahara, T. Yamaguchi, A. Matsukage, F. Hanaoka, S. Yoshida, M. Saneyoshi, F. Sugawara, and K. Sakaguchi, J. Biol. Chem. 275, 33957-33961 (2000)

Miller Fellow Focus: Emily Brodsky Continued

Aquifer properties such as permeability can be measured by examining the ratio of the amplitude of seismic waves in the well to the amplitude in the ground as recorded by a seismometer. Dr. Brodsky interprets a change in this ratio with time as evidence for a transient colloidal barriers in the fractured aquifer. Based on these observations, the group is proposing a new model for coseismic pore pressure changes in which a temporary barrier is removed by the flow induced by seismic waves.

Dr. Brodsky will be leaving the Miller Institute in February to accept a position as Asst. Professor at UCLA.





Miller Professorships

The Executive Committee and Advisory Board granted ten new Miller Professorship awards for terms during the 2002-2003 academic year.

Astronomy	Professor Jonathan Arons
Chemistry	Professor Robert Bergman Professor Birgitta Whaley
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Professor Anil Chopra
Earth & Planetary Science	Professor James Kirchner
Integrative Biology	Professor Wayne Sousa
Physics	Professor Dmitry Budker
Plant & Microbial Biology	Professor Brian Staskawicz
Statistics	Professor Steven Evans Professor Yuval Peres

Visiting Miller Professorships

The Executive Committee and Advisory Board of the Miller Institute have also granted awards to the following Visiting Miller Professors. Their terms range from fourteen days to one semester during the 2002-2003 academic year.

Astronomy	Prof. Philip Myers, Harvard-Smithsonian CFA
Chemical Engineering	Prof. Andreas Acrivos, City College of New York
Chemistry	Prof. Donna Blackmond, University of Hull, UK Prof. Marsha Lester, University of Pennsylvania
EECS	Prof. Dimitris Bertsimas, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mathematics	Prof. Nicolas Burq, Universite Paris Sud-Orsay, France
МСВ	Prof. Edwin Levitan, University of Pittsburgh
Optometry	Prof. Subrata Tripathi, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India
Physics	Prof. Jon Leinaas, University of Oslo, Norway Prof. Eliezer Rabinovici, Racah Institute of Physics, Israel
Plant & Microbial Biology	Prof. David Read, University of Sheffield, UK
Psychology	Prof. Vittorio Gallese, Universita di Parma, Italy
Statistics	Prof. Fabio Martinelli, Universita di Roma Tre, Italy



Miller Institute News Winter 2002 2536 Channing Way #5190 Berkeley, CA 94720-5190 Phone: (510) 642-4088 Fax: (510) 643-7393 http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~4mibrs

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Awards and Honors

Former Miller Fellow Matthew Francis has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley.

Former Miller Fellow Adam Summers was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Irvine in July 2001.

Former Miller Professor Anil Chopra ('90-'91) was awarded the 2001 Norman Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award is given for the best paper among all the journals published by the society.



Stork Club

The Miller Institute would like to congratulate third year Miller Fellow Tom Juenger and his wife Maria Juenger on the birth of their son Benjamin Thomas Juenger . Ben was born on December 3, 2001.