

to analyze uncertainty in many types of measurements. These efforts will help QUEST achieve its primary goal, which is to facilitate a cultural change in which uncertainty analysis becomes an accepted and expected practice in biogeochemical studies.

Further information about this organization can be found on the QUEST Web site

(<http://www.quantifyinguncertainty.org>). Those interested in participating in QUEST should e-mail quantifyinguncertainty@gmail.com.

—JOHN CAMPBELL, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Durham, N. H.; E-mail: jlcampbell@fs.fed.us; RUTH YANAI, Department of Forest and Natu-

ral Resources Management, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse; MARK GREEN, Center for the Environment, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N. H.

ABOUT AGU

2011 Mass Media Fellow Lands at Voice of America

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Although on track to earn her Ph.D. in atmospheric physics next year, Dione Lee Rossiter is looking forward to a different sort of science career than the often-sought-after academic or research position. Her calling, she says, is science outreach, advocacy, and communication. Her eyes flash and her smile widens when she talks about illuminating science, making it feel relevant, credible, and important and rendering it understandable to the many people who often find science just the opposite.

"If people just understood science on a little bit higher level, they could start making more informed decisions. That's one of my passions—seeing that people are as excited as I am," she says.

AGU is supporting Rossiter as the Union's 2011 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellow. Selected as one of 11 young scientists to work for 10 weeks this summer as a science journalist, Rossiter expects the Fellowship to help her build communication skills and media savvy that she will need for the career she envisions. Each year since 1997 AGU has supported a Fellow through a program administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rossiter is working at Voice of America (VOA) in Washington, D. C., where she started her stint as a reporter on 13 June. Becoming part of a busy newsroom, with television screens everywhere tuned to

different news channels, is exhilarating, she says, and very different from anything she has experienced before. "It's very surreal, but very exciting."

It is also daunting, she admits. Fortunately, she says, her new colleagues on VOA's science desk—all of them reporters, none of them scientists—have gone out of their way to help her. They have also been coming to her to ask science questions on topics ranging from plate tectonics to cloud physics, her scientific specialty. "I'm loving that. At least I feel helpful that way," she says.

In her usual life as a graduate student, Rossiter can be found at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she studies marine stratocumulus clouds. Those are the low-hanging behemoths that drift above roughly a third of the world's ocean surface at any given time. Her studies focus on the microscopic behavior of tiny water droplets—drizzle—beneath those clouds.

It is the kind of scientific work that could have big implications for society. "If we can nail down how clouds work, then we can better understand how the climate is changing," she explains. She anticipates completing the requirements for her doctorate in spring 2012.

Rossiter has previously explored other ways of reaching out to the public with her science knowledge and enthusiasm. For 2 years, she taught science to youngsters ranging from preschoolers to high school juniors at the Lawrence Hall of Science in



Dione Lee Rossiter

Berkeley, Calif. While there, she was interviewed as part of a live MSNBC program about earthquakes. During an atmospheric science field campaign in Chile, Rossiter contributed "postcards from the field"—brief, chatty, scientific field reports aimed at children—to the science education Web site Windows to the Universe.

Each of those experiences has given her a taste of a different way of connecting about science with people who are not fellow scientists, as well as skills for making those connections meaningful. The Fellowship, she hopes, will teach her how to use words as powerfully as she already uses her personality to excite people about science.

"Personality is how I really hook people," Rossiter explains. But writing compelling news articles or radio scripts? "I have no idea just yet how to do that in the most effective way."

—PETER WEISS, Public Information Manager, AGU; E-mail: pweiss@agu.org