



Post Doc Mentoring Lunch #1

*Post doc productivity: what's
expected locally and globally.*



Possible topics for next meetings

- **Networking and soft skills:** schmoozing for fun and profit and diffusing issues before they arise
- **Research Communication:** From elevator speech to job talk
- **How to write a highly cited paper:** Tricks of the trade
- **Applying for Assistant Professor positions:** Keys for success
- **Advanced grant writing skills:** What you really want for Christmas
- **Tricks for maintaining a work-life balance**



Agenda for today:

- **Discussion topic:** “what you are shooting for” in terms of activity level / activation energy through a Post Doc that will carry you into a Assistant Professor position.
- **Questions for discussion:**
 - What do you take away from the examples?
 - What are your impediments to productivity?
 - How can discussion of these help?
 - Ideas and tricks for increasing productivity to share?

Some good examples...

- Adam Ward, PhD 2011
http://www.uiowa.edu/~wardlab/Ward_Watershed_Hydrology_%26_Engineering_Lab/Main.html
- Ciaran Harman, PhD 2011
<http://landscapehydrology.com/people/>
- Sally Thompson, PhD 2010
<http://www.ce.berkeley.edu/people/faculty/thompson/cv>
- Scott Jasechko, PhD Oct 2014, <http://jasechko.weebly.com/>
- Jay Zarnetske, PhD 2012
<http://glg.natsci.msu.edu/people/faculty/zarnetske-jay/>

Example

[Main](#) [Research](#) [Teaching](#) [People](#) [Vitae](#) [Openings](#)



Ward Watershed Hydrology & Engineering Lab



Adam S. Ward, PE

Assistant Professor
School of Public and
Environmental Affairs

Research Opportunities at Indiana University

Currently seeking multiple PhD students interested in: **(1)** connectivity of streams and landscapes in agro-ecosystems (Ph.D. Research funded by the Intensively Managed Landscapes Critical Zone Observatory (IML-CZO)), **(2)** environmental transport of contaminants of emerging concern (Ph.D. Research funded by a USDA-AFRI award), and **(3)** climate-driven variability in water, nitrogen, carbon, and energy balances in agriculturally dominated landscapes (Ph.D. Research funded by a Water Sustainability and Climate project recommended for funding from the NSF)

Currently seeking one Post-doctoral Researcher interested in water quality implications of stream-landscape connectivity in the Intensively Managed Landscapes Critical Zone Observatory (IML-CZO). Research to focus on stream-aquifer interactions during periods of hydrological forcing, the mobilization of nutrients from the landscape to the stream, and transport dynamics in the stream system.

Contact me via email if interested. **MORE INFO FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS...**

Research Group Foci:

Our work is in quantifying the transport of water, energy, and nutrients through hydrological landscapes, and the ecological implications of these fluxes. We seek to understand how hydrological connections between streams, their landscapes, and their aquifers control biogeochemical processes and ecosystem function, particularly the transport and fate of compounds in the environment. We use a combination of field-based experiments, environmental observation, and numerical modeling to quantify couplings between physical, biological, and chemical systems, and apply this knowledge to predict water



Example...

▪ Monthly accomplishments

- Reynolds, KN, TD Loecke, DA Riveros-Iregui, AJ Burgin, SA Thomas, AS Ward, CA Davis, MA St. Clair. Using a high frequency monitoring network to quantify optimal sampling strategies in agricultural watersheds.

- Work in our lab is featured on the [Iowa Environmental Focus](#).

• April 2014

- Congratulations to Joe Cullin, Sam Smidt, and Matt Even for successfully defending their M.S. theses.

- Matt Even, Joe Cullin, and Sam Smidt presented research posters at the [University of Iowa's College of Engineering Research Open House](#).

- Sam Smidt, Matt Even, Colleen Brehm, and Joe Cullin presented their work at the [16th Annual James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference](#) at the University of Iowa.

• March 2014

- Our [Intensively Managed Landscapes Critical Zone Observatory](#) was featured in the [IIHR-Hydrosience and Engineering](#) newsletter.

- Ward appointed as an [Associate Editor](#) for [Ground Water](#).

- Our [CrowdHydrology.org](#) sites, used to CrowdSource stream stage data, were featured on the [Iowa Environmental Focus](#) website.

- Our Large Lecture Transformation project is [featured in the Daily Iowan](#) (March 7, 2014 issue).

- Ulowa's Water Sustainability Initiative is featured by [CGRER](#) in [this new feature](#). Ward's role is also described in a [short interview](#).

• February 2014

- ***New Publication:*** Menichino, G. T., Ward, A. S. and Hester, E. T. (2014), Macropores as preferential flow paths in meander bends. *Hydrol. Process.*, 28: 482–495. doi: [10.1002/hyp.9573](https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.9573)

- The new issue of [Currents](#) highlights work by the [Water Sustainability Initiative](#) at Ulowa. The issue includes a feature article about our group and a profile of Kara Prior. [Click here to see the publication](#).

My two cents worth

- It's not a 40 hr per week job
- Equal parts hard work and focus
- Must avoid being a busy fool
- Need to generate new ideas daily/weekly
 - Outputs monthly (see Adam Ward)
 - The curse of the long gestation paper
- It's more than just large number of high quality papers (as the examples show)
 - But # high quality papers MOST important
- Only do what only you can do



HINT 61: THE TENURE CLOCK IS REALLY four and a half years, not seven.



Some ideas to kick off discussion:

- Daily to do list
 - Break tasks down
 - Rank with paper output as key guide
- Detailed paper outlines (with figures) before any writing (ever) [we'll devote a whole lunch to this]
- Write a little bit every day
- Use general reading to stimulate writing
- Find your focus/hard work nexus
 - Work hard, play hard





Summary:

- **Discussion topic:** “what you are shooting for” in terms of activity level / activation energy through a Post Doc that will carry you into a Assistant Professor position.
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Which ones for future months?

- **Networking and soft skills:** schmoozing for fun and profit and diffusing issues before they arise
- **Research Communication:** From elevator speech to job talk
- **How to write a highly cited paper:** Tricks of the trade
- **Applying for Assistant Professor positions:** Keys for success
- **Advanced grant writing skills:** What you really want for Christmas
- **Tricks for maintaining a work-life balance:** are there any?
- **Other???**