This year we are very pleased to welcome our Spring Banquet speaker, Dr. Christa Peters-Lidard, back to Virginia Tech. Dr. Peter-Lidard is an alumna of our department, having graduated summa cum laude in 1991 with a B.S. in Geophysics and a minor in Mathematics. After leaving Virginia Tech, she went on to earn M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Water Resources from the Civil Engineering department at Princeton University. After four years as an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, Dr. Peter-Lidard joined NASA, serving as a physical Scientist and a Lab Chief in the Hydrological Sciences Branch. She is currently the Deputy Director for Hydrosphere, Biosphere, and Geophysics in NASA’s Earth Sciences Division, where she oversee a budget of $70M dedicated to exploring and understanding Earth’s Hydrosphere, cyrosphere, biosphere, and geosphere. She has won numerous awards, including the 2005 NASA Software of the Year Award, the A Zeldovich Medal, and the Arthur S. Flemming Award. She was elected as an AMS Fellow in 2012 and an AGU Fellow in 2018.
Welcome to the Department of Geosciences’ Annual Spring Banquet and Alumni Dinner. Tonight we celebrate the groups that make our department so successful — our students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni. We are very pleased to recognize our graduating students at all degree levels — B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. — for their success tonight. Students: We have been lucky to work with each and every one of you, and we can't wait to see your future accomplishments. As we wish our students well, we also thank our dedicated faculty and staff for their continued efforts on behalf of our students. We couldn’t do it without you!

As our students graduate, they will join the ranks of the third group we recognize tonight — our alumni. We are blessed to have an amazing network of GeoHokie alumni who continue to support the department in numerous ways — through mentoring our students, offering their advice and experience to department leaders, and through their generous financial gifts. Alumni: Welcome back!

We hope that tonight’s events give you all a chance to greet old friends and make new connections. Enjoy!

6:00pm   Social Time

7:00pm   Buffet Dinner

7:30pm   Opening Remarks and Introduction of Graduates

Dr. W. Steven Holbrook - Head of Geosciences

Guest Speaker
Dr. Christa Peters-Lidard
“From Bedrock to the Boundary Layer: My Career at the Interface”

Graduating Class of 2019

B.S. Geosciences

Carlos Eduardo Alvarez - Geology
Matthew Francis Patrick Collins - Geophysics
Jordyn Marie Del Rosario - Geology
Jaelen Richard de la Fuente - Geology
Kelly Marie Hale - Earth Science Education
Christiana Katherine Hoff - Geology
Megan Rose Junod - Geology
Erin Rose Kelly - Geochemistry
Abigail Perez Lopez - Geology
Christopher Lawrence Melsen - Geology
Ronald Manuel Navarro - Geology
Michelle Meta Ya Diul - Geology

M.S. Geosciences

McNeill John Bauer
Jessica Marie DePaolis
Dana Elaine Korneisel
Kathryn Marie Krueger
Stacey E. Law
Tyler Wyatt Rasmussen
Sarah A. Ulrich
William Taylor Whalen
Codi Allen Wiersma

Ph.D. Geosciences

Zhen Guo
Richard Scott Jayne, Jr.
Calvin Andrew Mako
Lowell Reuben Moore
David Matthew Sublett, Jr.