students to gain new round the world!

Left: Paris Miniterm: From left to right: Zoë Voigt, Mark Dubois, Emily Nicholson, Michelle Zhao, Su Cho, Carrie Wright, Brooke Huang, Kevin Chen, Lily Zhang, David Choi, Anli Zhang, Janet Yan.

Courtesy of Mallory Carnes

Courtesy of Claire Vallery

Above: China Miniterm: Top row: Andrew Adams, Mia Baxley, Sam Christensen, McKenna Reed, Lukas O'Daniel, Hong Li, Kyle Hudson. Bottom row: Mallory Carnes, Madelyn Krebs, Gabe Shepherd, Dallin Yost.

Opinion

I-Week: Does the "I" really stand for Innovation?

By Betty Liu

During the 2013-2014 school year, the NCSSM administration implemented a new program, Innovation Week.

The idea behind this is to "enhance academic and community life", "stimulate innovation across campus" and "reinvigorate students and staff." While these are admirable goals, it seems that I-Week has fallen short of expectations. Students have complained that rather than being a time to explore new interests, it has turned into a time of stress.

In comparison to a regular school week, I-Week features longer classes that meet fewer times during the week. This ensures that all blocks receive the same amount of class time while still leaving room to allow students to have the afternoon off. Initially, students were very excited about this new program.

Around campus there are fun and unique activities such as going to a seminar about Google Glass or learning how to crochet. However, there were many factors that made it difficult for students to participate in these innovative activities.

The major complaint for I-Week was the quantity of work. Many students had many major assignments due during I-Week, which hindered the ability to participate in activities. Some students had as many as 5 tests in a week or had many major projects due. This along with extra homework made it so that students spent the extra time during I-Week completing course work, rather than enjoying the various activities being hosted around campus.

Another factor was the limited time given during I-Week. While this was not too much of an issue during the September I-Week, many students found that they had no time to participate in activities during the January I-Week. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and an extended weekend fell on the January I-Week, which made it so that there was less time available to spread out the classes.

Rather than having three afternoons free to peruse innovative activities, students had one morning and a two-hour session in the afternoon.

Students agree that while I-Week was stressful, it would still be a good idea if come changes were made. One student notes, "It would be nice to have the time to explore new interests during the school year." The only change would be finding a way to make the week less stressful. Student Government is working with the I-Week committee to talk about possible changes in future I-Weeks.

Miniterm group creates art installation

Courtesy of Elisabeth Parker

The "Art Hanging in Mid-air" Miniterm group led by Dr. Bullard, created this piece in the back stairwell of Reynolds Breezeway between the first and second floors. Inspired by the works of French artist and photographer Georges Rousse, these pink chevrons, when viewed from the correct angle, give the illusion of floating.

New study raises climate change fears

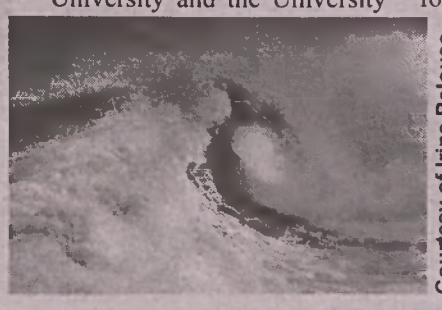
By Kanan Shah

A new study has been looking at past climate change as an attempt to elucidating whether changes in the future will be abrupt rather than a gradual change in temperature.

Currently, deep waters formed in the Northern Atlantic Ocean fill roughly half of the world's deep water, soak up much excess carbon dioxide from industrialization, thus helping to lessen the effects of global warming.

Changes in the circulation mode could be a tipping point for future climate change. This could have long-lasting effects on regional sea levels, the intensity of Sahel droughts, and the rate of ocean acidification and carbon dioxide sequestration.

A study led by Bjerknes Centre of Climate Research at the University of Bergen (UiB) and Uni Research in Norway suggests that this Atlantic deep water formation may be very fragile. Researchers from UiB and colleagues from Rutgers University and the University of Cambridge reconstructed surface ocean conditions and deep water circulation from about 125,000 years ago by using shells of tiny foraminifera found in marine sediment in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Then, the Atlantic Ocean was warmer, fresher and the sea level was higher- just as climate model predict the ocean will look like by the end of this century.



Courtesy of Irina Belousa

125,000 years ago, there was a series of sudden reductions in the influence of the Northern Atlantic Waters in the deep ocean, each lasting for several centuries. These changes had previously gone unnoticed due to their shortness.

This study, however, shows that deep water formation can be disturbed by freshening of regional surface water, which could happen due to glacier melting. A few centuries of this reduce deep water, although short, could mean that societies would have to deal with major droughts and sea level changes.

All in all, models created to represent the deep waters 125,000 years ago suggest that the fragile waters of the Atlantic Ocean could be disturbed by glacier melting, resulting in more dramatic effects of global warming.