

Editorial

FLUXNET Young Scientists Network

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Everyone has been a young scientist at one point in their academic carrier. The FLUXNET Young Scientists Network (YSN) was established in 2004 with the objective to connect young scientist within the FLUXNET community and the regional flux networks. The forum was initiated by Alexander Knohl and a group of ex-"young" scientists. Thanks to their commitment many of the former FLUXNET young scientists are now well integrated in the scientific community.

The YSN serves as a platform for young scientists within the FLUXNET community. This network goes beyond "biological age" and is focused rather on "academic age". Thus, FLUXNET young scientists are students (from undergraduate to PhD) and post docs who do not lead their own research groups.

The YSN provides an informal exchange platform for questions regarding research, career and funding opportunities for young scientists. Young scientist can present themselves and meet others in the YSN with interactive discussions and personal websites. Furthermore, established researchers [without being "young" in age or spirit] can search for potential candidates to join their research groups.

The YSN has grown and evolved along with the FLUXNET community as new young scientists incorporate to the network. After the first 5 years of the YSN the accomplishments were assessed and ideas were discussed on how to continue and improve these networking activities. The YSN is now comprised of two main tools: a new mailing list and a new interactive web-

page.

To participate in the YSN, a registration for the mailing list

is needed at <https://acs.lbl.gov/mailman/listinfo/young-scientist>. Afterwards, the subscriber will receive details to register for access to the interactive website (password protected). This new website consists of forums for questions and ideas, blogs, wiki, calendar of events, and a file repository maintained by an active community of young scientists.

With the establishment of a new interactive and password protected website it seems appropriate to start a new mailing list to keep track of members and updates. Thus, the old FLUXNET young scientist mailing list [fluxnet-young@lists.ornl.gov] will be closed in January 2010 and fully replaced by the new mailing list:

Young-Scientist@fluxdata.org.

We invite all young scientists to join or continue with this networking opportunity. The success of the YSN will depend on the feedback, interaction, participation, and energy of young scientists. The interactive website contains multiple tools for networking, but only with active participation it can be a useful networking and scientific resource.

The YSN is open for new ideas and feedback and we hope they can be expressed in the mailing list and the interactive website. We look forward to see the YSN grow and evolve with the active participation of young and not so young scientists.

Further information on the YSN can be found at:

FLUXNET Website – Program Information – Young Scientists Forum

(<http://www.fluxnet.ornl.gov/fluxnet/youngscientists.cfm>)

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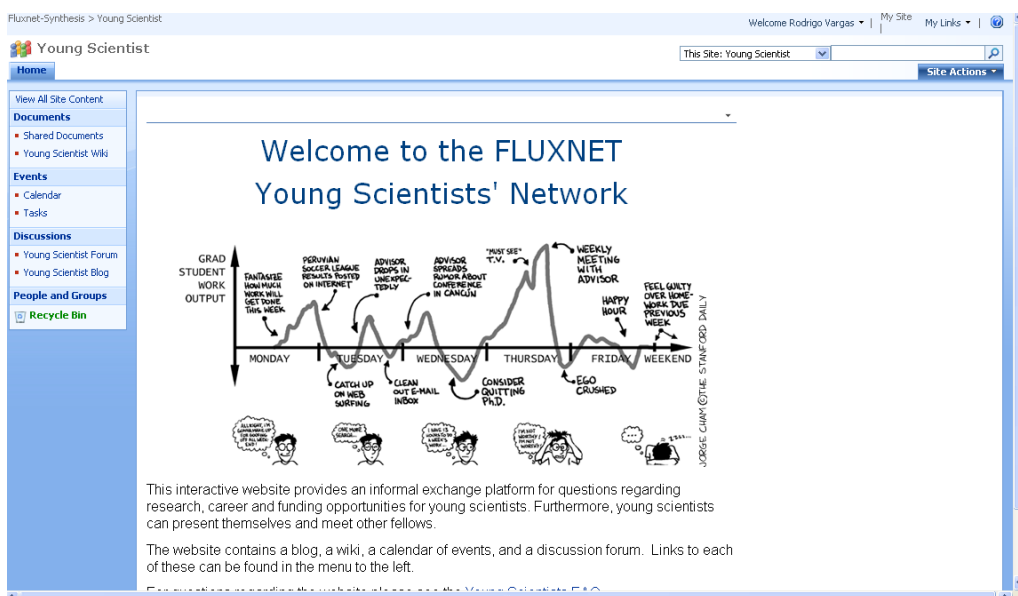


Figure 1: Screen shot of home page of the interactive Young Scientist Forum website