MECHANICAL ENGINEER JOINS THE GEO-HEAT CENTER STAFF

Andrew D. Chiasson recently joined the Geo-Heat Center staff as Research Associate-Mechanical Engineer. He is originally from Windsor, Ontario, Canada and received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Geological Engineering at the University of Windsor (1989 and 1992). He has worked for Dragun Corporation of Farmington Hills, Michigan (1990-1996) and EnviroSolutions, Inc., of Dearborn Heights, Michigan (1996-1997) as a Geological Engineer working mainly in the ground-water flow and hydrogeological field investigations. He then attending the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University (1997-2000) as a Research Engineer/Research Assistant. The area of study was in geothermal heat pump systems under faculty associated with the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA). During this time, he also designed a ground loop heat exchanger and data collection system for a bridge deck de-icing system on Interstate 40 near Weatherford, OK. After graduating with a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, he went to work for Hardin Geotechnologies of Indianapolis, Indiana (2000-2002) as a Geothermal Engineer. He designed closed and open loop geothermal heat pump systems for buildings with this firm. Most recently, he attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie as a Research Associate, and Ph.D. student in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering. He worked on modeling of geothermal heat pump systems and solar engineering systems, and heat extraction systems at underground coal fire sites for cogeneration. His dissertation topic is *Hybrid Geothermal Heat Pump systems with Solar Thermal Collectors in Cold Climates*, which he plans to finish by summer 2005. He is a Registered Professional Engineer (ME) in Indiana and Michigan, a member of ASHRAE (Geothermal Energy Utilization and Solar Energy Utilization committees) and the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). He has numerous publications to his name, mainly in the area of geothermal heat pump systems. His main task at the Geo-Heat Center will be technical assistance for geothermal direct-use and heat pump projects. He was recently married to Kirstin Beach of Palo Alto, California.