

Alumni News from the IUP Geoscience Department

GEO-TIDINGS

Number 1

Winter 1997

Editors: John F. Taylor '75 & Karen Rose Cercone

Happy Holidays! We hope you enjoy this first attempt to gather together news and updates from the IUP Geoscience Department and from our many former alums, now scattered across the United States and across the globe. You'll find out what your fellow geoscience students have been up to since you left school, hear about new faculty and events at IUP, and have a chance to update your email addresses for all your old school friends. We had so many responses to our mailing that we couldn't fit in our updates on department renovations and how your financial contributions have been used to enrich the lives of our current geoscience students. Those will just have to wait until the next Geo-Tidings newsletter. Our sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to reply to our last mailing--we couldn't have done it without you!

After reading this newsletter, please take a few minutes to jot down any news of your own that we haven't mentioned here--your professional activities and accomplishments, travels and fieldwork, messages for fellow alumni, etc. We'd like to keep our network of alumni strong and involved, so we can take advantage of your cumulative professional expertise. Our program has been enriched over the years by alumni who have helped lead field trips, visited IUP as guest speakers, hosted our students as interns at their companies, or supervised our student teachers in their schools. You've also profoundly influenced the professional careers of younger IUP alumni by providing opportunities for summer and permanent employment. Please keep up the good work, and don't hesitate to contact us with any ideas you might have for future talks, field trips or cooperative research projects. Also, don't forget to think of the IUP Foundation when it comes time for your charity giving. A little bit donated to the Geoscience Fund by each of you can help our students a lot!

Another thing we would love to have our alumni help with is program evaluation. While student class evaluations and self-studies help us identify some of the strengths and weaknesses in our department, they can't give us a long-term perspective on how well we prepare our students for future challenges. Now that you have been out in the trenches, what have you found most valuable about your undergraduate experience here at IUP? What strengths and weaknesses does our program have compared to other programs that you know about? What changes might help better prepare our current students to succeed in your area of employment? Please let us know what you think.

In closing, we'd like to again thank all the alumni whose contributions to the Geoscience Fund over the last few years have enhanced our geoscience program here at IUP immeasurably. With those funds, we have offered an OSHA 40-hour safety workshop for our students, purchased the new Scanning Electron Microscope, supported student travel costs to professional meetings such as GSA and given out awards for the best student paper and best research presented at Geoscience Day. With your generous support, we hope to continue this level of financial support for our students in the future.

FACULTY NOTES

Karen Rose Cercone has been doing so much fiction writing lately that in 1997 she began taking graduate classes at Pitt (part-time) for her MFA in writing. Her second mystery novel (Blood Tracks) will be published in early 1998.

Joe Clark took a leave of absence from IUP in Fall 1996 to participate in an international conference on landslides in Spain. He continues to map the San Gregorio Fault in California and has published a digital database of the Monterey & Seaside Quads.

Frank Hall ran the Geology of the Northern Rockies for the 8th time in the summer 1997. He moved Field Geology to the fall semester to take advantage of better weather conditions and continued working in the area of the problematic Jackson Fault.

Steve Hovan's involvement in the Ocean Drilling Program has our majors learning about the use of deep ocean sediments for reconstructing Cenozoic climate change. His grants have already provided financial support for four students as research assistants.

Fred Park attended the Penn State mineral conference this fall, and continues to work on characterization of solids. His daughter Jayne graduated from the Geoscience Department magna cum laude and is now attending the University of Nevada at Reno.

Darlene Richardson still directs Liberal Studies and is working on developing new courses on Women in Science. In August '96, she presented a paper at the International Geological Congress in China on fossil soils.

Connie Sutton along with Darlene Richardson, presented a paper at the 2nd International Geoscience Education conference in Hawaii. She continues to conduct research on women in science, especially astronomy.

John Taylor continues to use Cambro-Ordovician trilobites to solve stratigraphic problems in PA, MD and VA. If a recently submitted NSF grant is funded, he and his students will be sampling sections in Colorado, Wyoming and the southwestern US.

ALUMNI SPOT-LIGHT

In each newsletter, we will highlight the contributions of some outstanding alumni who have provided extraordinary support to the department. Our thanks this time go to:

Pat Imbrogno--for his help in securing funding from Cabot Oil & Gas to purchase both a Nuclide luminoscope and Scanning Electron Microscope for the department.

Alfred Baker--for securing additional funding from his company for the new SEM.

Tom Moore--for arranging field trips; providing samples for class projects; mentoring younger alumni now employed with Phillips Petroleum and for co-chairing the Alumni Advisory Board.

Jeff Greenawalt--for delivering many class talks at IUP; leading field trips; and providing samples for class projects.

Nancy Durika--for assisting on regional field trips, for continuing research efforts and for her work as a liaison with the USGS

Mark Yanosky--for providing numerous employment and internship opportunities for our students throughout the years.

Barry Franz--for professional networking; providing teaching samples for classes and for teaching workshops at IUP.

Gary Neuder--for sparking the creation of our new Alumni Advisory Board through his persistence and interest, and for co-chairing that board along with Tom Moore.

ALUMNI NOTES

Al Baker ('73) was elected president of the New Orleans Geological Society in 1996-97. He is currently a staff geologist with Chieftain International Inc. in New Orleans LA.

Ken Battyanyi ('88) has been working with ENSR for going on eight years, but wishes he had more time to advance his geologic knowledge. He is married and lives with his wife and two-year old daughter in Carnegie, PA.

Mark Bierei ('80) writes to say that after three years of well-site work in the central Rockies and North Slope and four years of petroleum geochemistry graduate work at Wyoming, he now manages and sells environmental assessment and remediation services for Fluor-Daniel GTI. He and wife Louise live in Long Beach CA with children, Kayla (2) and Emily (1).

Dan Bowser ('92) is working as a project geologist at Engineering Tectonics in North Carolina. He says hello to Tom Proctor, Kerry Egan & Wendy Metcalf and would be glad to network with fellow alumni about the environmental business. He can be reached at 1-800-394-8807 ext. 107.

Marianne (Rieber) Borelli ('71) is working as a substitute teacher at St. Barnabas School in Ohio. She stopped by the Department during her 25th year grad weekend and says "I stayed at Baden Hall--hard to believe they still have the same mattresses and pillows twenty-five years later." Marianne's sons are now 15 (Nate) and 13 (Bart), and she is looking to get back to full time earth science teaching.

Terry Brink ('74) is now an Assistant Professor of Elementary and Secondary Education at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.

Lisa (Graby) Bruck ('94) is now working as an earth science teacher in Maryland, where she lives with husband Keith Bruck. In the summers, Lisa enjoys working for NASA's educational programs at Goddard Space Flight Center.

Tom Carney ('82) will be teaching Physical and Historical Geology at Lord Fairfax Community College in the evenings, beginning with the 1997-1998 school year. He and wife Virginia have two children, Zachary (4) and Jacob (1).

Jo-anne Marie (Staudt) Clark ('80) is currently a homemaker with a 4 year old son, Peter Gregory. After serving as an Air Force Officer, Jo-Anne worked for R.F. Weston and got a Virginia teaching certificate, but husband David's military career keeps the family moving (Virginia, Iceland and currently San Antonio TX). She asks friends Cate Grube Brier, Tudi Perry and Bruce & Gretchen Brown to get in touch, since she accidentally lost some of their addresses.

William Donaldson ('70) is president and part-owner of BlueStone Inc, a drilling and blasting company. He was recently elected to the Board of the Southeastern PA Chapter of the International Society of Explosives Engineers. He and wife Aleta have three children: Jennifer (23), David (22) and Elizabeth (20).

Dennis Donati ('74) is an earth science & astronomy teacher at New Kensington-Arnold School District. He would like to see friend Charlie Thompson again.

Linda (Stark) Ferrant ('74) is working as a science teacher in Frederick, Maryland. Along with husband James, she has one son, Nicholas (9). She asks if other alumni would be interested in having a full-scale alumni address directory.

John Fulton ('83) writes to say that several years spent "eating Ramen noodles and pop-tarts" paid off with a masters in hydro-geology from the Univ. of Nebraska. He worked in Minneapolis and Tampa before replacing another IUP alumnus (Mark Ferlin '83) at ENSR in Pittsburgh. John is married and has two sons, John (6) and Ryan (3). He is completing a second masters in water resources and hydraulic engineering at Pitt.

Michelle (Bosko) Gajewski ('74) is working as an Earth & Space Science Teacher at the Greater Latrobe School District. Along with husband Louis, she has two children, Jennifer (17) and Benjamin (11).

Karen (Roser) Jewell ('85) is a program coordinator at the Gateway Institute and Clinic. Along with husband Kenneth, she has four children: Heather (24), Jennifer (20), Shawn (19) and Amy (17). Karen married an IUP graduate and her daughter Heather is following family tradition by attending IUP as well.

James Loch ('83) is now an Associate Professor at Central Missouri State University. He and wife Janet Lee have three children: Kylie (8) and twins Jessie and Kellin (3).

Jamie MacBlane ('89) is still working for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in the Division of Responsible Party Site Remediation. She says it was nice to visit the department and see the improvements.

Tom Moore ('76) is principal geologist for Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, where he lives with wife Karen and children Duane (13) and Aileen (11).

Gary Neuder ('82) writes to say that he enjoyed finding the IUP Geoscience Department web site. He and Sherry are alive and well in Lagos, Nigeria. Gary is still with Mobil and will be in Lagos for three more years.

Rich Parrish ('75) continues to keep Texaco in business in the international arena. His position as Project Manager for Columbia, means he gets to do just enough traveling to make things interesting. He says that he doesn't miss the cold weather, and that whenever a northern front comes through Houston, he's ready to move even further south, maybe to Costa Rica.

Pat Perfetta ('96) is a graduate student at the University of Missouri. His thesis is on trilobite taxonomy and carbonate sedimentology: Crepicephalus and Aphelaspis zones, lower Deadwood Formation, Black Hills, South Dakota. Pat has accepted a position as a

geologist at Phillips Petroleum Company.

Gary Smarsh ('81) left Indiana in 1988 and has been working for the New Jersey DEP ever since. He and wife Cindy now have two children: Kirby (11) and Kelby (3). He writes "Other IUP-NJDEP employees include Amy Telford, Tim Nuss and Jeff Story. I'm going to Penn State for my Masters in Environmental Science and am looking forward to returning to the western PA area. Any leads?"

David Stake ('75) is now an elementary principle in North Clarion County. He and wife Kay have two children, Kristen and Bryan.

Jeff Story ('78) is currently attending New Jersey Institute of Technology part time, working toward a masters degree in Environmental Science. He's planning to revisit the Northern Rockies this year, since he had such a good time out there in the summer of 1978. He and wife Ann Cole Story ('79) have two children: Jessica (16) and Dan (15).

Wendy (Metcalf) Straatman ('92) is now with Phillips Petroleum, working in the Permian Basin as a development geologist. She has lived in Odessa TX for over a year with husband Warren and daughter Kate, and says they're still waiting to see if the wind stops blowing.

Jeanne (Goettler) Sutton ('94) is now a coal reserves geologist with the state of West Virginia. She writes, "Hello everybody in Geoscience...keep me posted on future activities, I'd like to see you all soon. I can't believe the people I meet and work with from IUP: Greg Smith with Stagg Engineering and Gary Ball at the WV Geological Survey!!"

Steve Zbur ('85) says its encouraging to see all the things going on in the department. He's been back in Pittsburgh for almost three years, where he has started up an office for Delta Environmental Consultants. Steve says its been a rewarding challenge to develop new client relationships, manage people and be a business person in addition to a scientist. He and wife Sandy now live in Gibsonia PA with son Nicholas (5) and Sarah (21 months).

1977-1980 GEOSCIENCE CLASS REUNION

All those rumors you've been hearing about a reunion of the Geoscience classes of 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 are no longer rumors! There is now officially a date set for the biggest field event since Mr Park instigated a rash of cow tipping incidents in the Adirondacks by insisting that cow tipping can be successfully performed provided the cow is in REM sleep. The plan is to meet over Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25) at Black Moshannon State Park near State College PA. There are modern and rustic cabins as well as tent camping areas at the park. The activities tentatively planned include:

- A geology or mineral collecting trip. The geologic clock has continued to tick away; there have undoubtedly been new thrust faults, erosional disconformities and other catastrophic geologic events since Doc Hall revealed the secrets of the Valley & Ridge to us as impressionable undergrads.
- A caving trip for all ages and levels of experience. All registrants must enter the cave, unless of course, they prefer not to.
- Music round the campfire. Bring your instruments and be ready to jam. Rumor has it that J.C. Clark will be singing his rendition of "The Jailhouse Rock."

The key to the success of this get-together is to make your plans to attend early and spread the word to all your friends and classmates. It is expected that the cabins and camping spots will be booked far in advance for this holiday weekend. The prices are very reasonable. Reservations can be made beginning 31 January 1998. If you want to get a cabin make your reservations on that day by calling 1-800- PAPARKS. (You may want to call on Jan 1 just to confirm that Jan 31 is the first date to make reservations.) If you have any questions or ideas about this event, please call **Tom Marks** at (610)-286-9803 or **Andy McKinnon** at (814)-237-9209. You can also email Tom at markst@wcp2.rfweston.com.

Editors Note: if any other groups of Geoscience graduates would like to plan your own mini-reunion, let us know by April 30, 1998 to have your information published in the next issue of Geo-Tidings.

A MESSAGE FROM TOM MOORE, CO-CHAIR OF THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

"To a person uninstructed in natural history, his country or seaside stroll is a walk through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art....nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall." --T.H. Huxley

Alumni, please do your part and do what you can, when you can, wherever you can, to help people appreciate the geoscience 'paintings' at least. If you are able, pitch in and help the IUP Geoscience Department faculty and staff to do their work in this effort as well. Thanks!