

Fall 2002

Volume 2, Number 1



The Alumni Newsletter of the Geoscience Department

Geo-Tidings

Wendy Straatmann '92 serves as 2002 IUP Alumni Ambassador

For only the second time since the IUP Alumni Ambassador program began, a Geoscience graduate has been selected to represent the College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics. Following in the footsteps of John Repetski '69, Wendy Metcalf Straatmann came back to IUP over Homecoming Weekend to speak to faculty, students and friends.

After graduating from IUP in 1992, Wendy got her master's degree from the University of Missouri, then took a position at Phillips Oil & Gas. From there, she went on to work at Samson Resources, a privately held energy company with interests throughout the world. As part of her visit, Wendy gave a lecture about the "The Ups and Downs of Carbonate Exploration: Cretaceous James Lime Reefs and Ordovician Trenton/Black River Grabens."

In her spare time, Wendy serves on alumni advisory councils for both Missouri and IUP. She and several other female petroleum geologists have recently organized a Tulsa chapter of the HERA Foundation to raise funds for ovarian cancer research. In addition, Wendy and husband Warren recently won a national wife-carrying contest and will be competing at the world championship in Finland next summer.



Wendy discusses graduate school and careers in resource geology with current

The Walt Granata Fund Passes \$10,000!

The Walt Granata Fund, a special endowment established in the IUP Foundation to support student research and field experience, has surpassed the critical threshold of \$10,000 needed to become interest-bearing. Now, any money that is contributed to the fund by alumni or faculty members can generate interest which will accrue to the fund itself.

Our ultimate goal is to have both the Walt Granata Fund and its companion fund, the Paul Prince Fund, both reach the point where the donated funds can generate enough interest to cover the award of field camp scholarships, deep-sea research cruises, professional conferences and undergraduate student field expenses each year.

David Brezinski '78 honored by USGS

IUP Geoscience Alumni David Brezinski was recently recognized by the United States Geological Survey as one of 16 national Ambassadors for Science. The honorees are people who conduct science in partnership with the USGS and who have had an impact on public policy.

Dave was specifically cited for his work with the Maryland Geological Survey, in which his scientific expertise on Appalachian Basin geology and his pragmatic approach to science have enhanced the quality, value and timeliness of geologic hazard and other mapping projects.

Faculty News

Steve Hovan

Steve Hovan has returned to the fold after a year-long sabbatical. Last October-December, he joined a team of international scientists aboard the drilling vessel JOIDES Resolution working with the Ocean Drilling Program. They drilled 7 different sites and recovered more than 1500 meters of mud along a latitudinal transect in the subtropical Pacific Ocean. Sediments from these cores provide clues about how the atmospheric and oceanic circulation systems interacted, especially during intervals of extreme warmth at the end of the Paleogene. Hovan returned to IUP with more than 1100 mud samples and is feverishly working with undergraduate students Crystal Mueller, Kevin Jones, and Dave Bowser to identify and characterize the paleowind systems through analysis of the aerosol of these sediments.

John Taylor

John continued to wage his “three-front war” this past year, sampling for trilobites in Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician rocks in Texas and New Mexico in the winter, Wyoming and Montana in the summer, and the central Appalachians in between. The winter and summer field seasons were the most productive in five years, yielding numerous large collections from the Gallatin Formation and El Paso Group. As always, John encourages all you secondary science teachers to recommend our programs to your students; there will be many opportunities in the next few years for students interested in paleontology and stratigraphy to participate in these three major studies and a few satellite projects in rocks of similar age in Minnesota, Missouri, and elsewhere.

John also reports, with great relief, that several manuscripts made it out the door this year. A solo-authored paper on the History and Study of Cambrian Biomes was submitted for inclusion in a GSA (Geological Society of America) Special Paper, and is now in revision. John and his coauthors put the finishing touches on their synthesis of the early Paleozoic stratigraphy and paleogeography of western Colorado. Keep an eye open for this paper (Myrow and others) in the GSA Bulletin in 2003. If you attend the GSA convention in Denver this month you can also get an abbreviated version in the talk John will give on Tuesday afternoon in the theme session on “Reconstructing the Cambrian World”. A third manuscript, coauthored with former student James Loch, describing two new genera and three new species of trilobites from Upper Cambrian microbial reefs in southern Pennsylvania just went off for review to the Journal of Paleontology earlier this month. So many trilobites, so little time!!

Joe Clark

Joe Clark is teaching Subsurface Geology this fall and plans to teach Environmental Geology the fall 2003 semester. This September he participated in the Xth International Conference and Fieldtrip on Landslides (ICFL) in Poland and is presently serving as Secretary. In October, he attended the 67th Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists in the “Endless Mountains” of northeastern Pennsylvania and looks forward to seeing more IUP graduates and geologists at next year’s Conference in Altoona. Joe continues his mapping in California with co-workers of U.S. Geological Survey. MF-2373, covering five quadrangles, was published earlier this year, and his Professional Paper on the geologic setting of the Loma Prieta earthquake is in press. This past spring he started fieldwork on a 3-D mapping project and basin analysis of the Salinas Valley. Joe has also remained active as advisor to Sigma Gamma Epsilon and is hoping to rejuvenate this honorary society with an influx of new members this fall.

Dyanna Czeck

Dyanna joined the department this fall, replacing Frank Hall as our structural geologist. She hails from Minnesota, where she was born and raised. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Iowa and got her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her doctoral dissertation was on some spectacular metaconglomerates that were caught up in a major Archean shear zone in western Ontario. Last year, she taught as a visiting professor at Oberlin College in Ohio.



Dyanna likes to conduct structural geology research that is a nice combination of field work and mathematical treatment of deformation. She spent the summer getting some papers out (look for one soon to be published in the Journal of Structural Geology) and joined a Penrose Conference with many of her structural geology heroes in Switzerland. Most of the conference was spent in the field and the rumors are true — structures in the Alps are spectacular! Dyanna is really looking forward to learning more about Appalachian tectonics and structures, however, and would like to get some students involved in local research. She could use any ideas for great local spots for field geology course projects, field trips and research projects. (The more ductile, the better!) Feel free to send your ideas to Dyanna at dyanna@iup.edu.

Alumni News

Greg Anthony '01

I just finished my first year at VAPCO Engineering. For a while, I was their only geologist. I did the majority of the research for coal permits, with my work being reviewed by a PG. The last week of May, they finally hired another PG (I still have seniority at the company- go figure that!!). I thoroughly enjoyed my job and was extremely thankful to find a job in geology in Punxsy. Then on the 25th of June, my National Guard Unit was activated to support Operation Enduring Freedom. I am currently stationed in Stuttgart Germany and I expect to be here for approximately 6 months while Kristy attends the State Police Academy this fall.

Marty Arford '98

Since my last update I have received my Master's degree from the University of Tennessee where I'm now working on my Ph.D. research. This project includes reconstructing a regional environmental history for the past 8000 years based on pollen and charcoal from sediments in six lakes in northwestern Costa Rica. I'm also including bulk sediment chemical analysis using XRF, and thin section microscopy of the lake sediments. This semester I'm teaching my first lecture section of physical geography and I've now adopted a second cat, Thor.

Al Baker '73

Some good news — I formed my own oil and gas exploration company last summer. It is called Beacon Exploration, LLC and it is headquartered in Metairie, LA.

Yvonne Branan '01

My first year of graduate school at Michigan Technical University has been pretty amazing. My first semester I concentrated mostly on classes, but soon found myself involved in a research project centered around Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador. I presented a poster at the Fall AGU meeting in December and began to make a lot of great connections in the volcanology field. In January of this year I spent an amazing two months in Central America. I gathered gas and thermal data from 9 active volcanoes in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua and worked with government groups from all three countries. I spent the rest of the spring and most of the summer working on this data and forming a plan for my PhD thesis. I plan to

use many volcano monitoring methods (including SO₂ gas fluxes, thermal fluxes, seismicity, and infrasound data) to better understand two volcanic systems: Santiaguito Volcano in Guatemala and Stromboli Volcano in Italy. These two volcanoes erupt several times each day and make for exciting field work. Most recently, I spent two weeks in Italy at three active volcanoes: Vulcano, Stromboli and Etna. Here, I again worked with local government groups and scientists from the University of Firenze. I am planning another trip to San Francisco in December for the fall AGU meeting to present another poster on data gathered at Santiaguito Volcano. Also, I have plans to return to Guatemala for a month-long stay in January and to Italy for a month-long stay in May. Thus far, my graduate career has been very exciting and I have enjoyed every minute of it!

Tom Buterbaugh '01

I married my childhood sweetheart Magen last summer and we currently reside in Chadds Ford, PA. I work for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection - SE Regional Office as a Geologic Specialist within the Special Projects section. I'll bet the leaves are colorful back there in Indiana - I miss that place in the Fall.

Amy Byers '98

I have recently moved to Blacksburg, Virginia, where I teach at Christiansburg High School. The subjects I teach are Earth Science and Oceanography to grades 9-12. We are on block scheduling, so I have three 90 minute blocks, two of which are Earth Science and the other Oceanography.

Dave Curry '91

I have recently completed my Masters work at Arcadia University in Environmental Education (MAED) 12/2001, and I have switched school districts. I formerly taught Earth Science (for ten years) at Owen J. Roberts School District in Chester County and now have accepted an Earth Science teaching position at Council Rock School District in Bucks County. Council Rock is a very prestigious school district in the Philadelphia suburbs and I'm proud to bring a piece of my IUP experiences to it. If anyone's coming out to NSTA in Philadelphia this year, be sure to let me know.

Alumni News

Mike Cypcar '97

Steve Hovan reports that Mike Cypcar was married last summer in a lovely ceremony at Raystown Lake Resort. Best wishes to Mike and his new wife Stacy!

Kelly Dreibelbis '01

I am still working as a Geological Information Specialist at Texas Keystone Inc., an oil and gas resource company in Pittsburgh. I'm planning to go back to school soon to get my Masters Degree, possibly at Duquesne University.

Jeff Dynda '98

I've bounced around a little since graduation, but think I should be calling Colorado home for a while. Well Rebecca and I just bought a home, so we had better stay a while! I did get married last August to Rebecca Henry, an IUP alumna. I think she actually had a class with Dr. Hovan while at IUP.

Ralph Feather '71

I am currently teaching Earth Science, Astronomy, and Geology at Derry Area High School in Derry, PA. I also am serving on the Pennsylvania State Science Assessment committee helping to build the state science assessment that will assess Pennsylvania's new Science, Technology, Environmental Science, and Ecology Standards. I have nine new textbooks (or updates of current textbooks) with copyrights of 2002 and 2003, published by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. Things are going well and I am currently searching for a position working with student teachers and teaching geology and astronomy courses at the college or university level.

Andrew Gides '01

After working at Crestdale Middle School in Charlotte, NC last year, I am currently teaching 8th grade science at Pine Richland Middle School and loving it. I am voluntarily involved in music education here as well (mostly percussion). I am working on a musical "side project" called If You See Cristen. The first CD from that project will be released in the early winter of this year.

Bob Kervin '02

I just accepted a job as a hydrocarbon well logger (aka

Mudlogger!) down in Texas with a company called Geosite, Inc. I think its gonna be one of them learning experiences. My boss was nice enough to give me a one month trial to come down and see if this is for me. He guarantees me the job isn't for everyone. I've got my belt buckle and hardhat and I'm off to do everything bigger!

David Kielbowick '88

I am still teaching Earth Science in Chesterfield Virginia, where I have helped to develop a teaching field trip through Skyline Drive of the Blue Ridge. I am also teaching a course in Aerospace Engineering in our pre-Engineering Specialty Center. My wife and I recently completed our adoption of two children from Belarus. Irina is 6 and Sasha (Alexander) is 4.5. (Two and a half weeks in this former USSR republic really makes one appreciate America.) I have recently accepted a position with the Penna Army National Guard that will see me promoted to the Rank of major soon.

Phil Lacey '74

I am currently part of several programs sponsored by the American Meteorological Society - the Maury Project and Waters in the Earth System. I give workshops in physical oceanography (yes, Mr. Prince was a great influence on me) directed towards middle to high school teachers. Project WES is an on-line course that studies the global water cycle.

Scott McCallum '00

IUP alumni Scott Ishman '82 who currently teaches at Southern Illinois University reports that he sent Scott McCallum to Antarctica this winter on a research cruise. Scott M. expects to finish his masters thesis for Scott I. sometime in 2003.

Diane (England) Miller '88

I continue to work part-time for a professor at Pitt. His specialties are paleolimnology, paleoclimatology and sedimentology. I help him with various sampling and analyses and he wants me to be in charge of the radiocarbon prep line when he gets it up and running. I had to dig out my old geochemistry book to refresh my memory about a lot of things!

Alumni News

Jeff Mills '75

Jeff Mills has been working in a new field of geology since 2001. After 23 years in oil and gas exploration in Houston, abiding in northern New Mexico is much more enjoyable. He works with the New Mexico Environment Department, Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau in Santa Fe investigating and remediating hydrocarbon contamination in ground water.

Dave Neely '98

I started teaching this fall at the Maine-Endwell school district near Binghamton NY. I want to thank you all who assisted me in attaining this position. I want to invite fellow IUP alums to share your expertise in my classroom!

Barb Osgood '97

School is going very well. My advisor is starting to get very excited about my project. I am going to be coring a series of glacial lakes in Western PA. We took 9 meters out of Lake Pleasant on Saturday. I am going to reconstruct a climate history of this area using lake sediments (and everything that gets trapped in them). Some of the local anthropologists have gotten word and are interested in working with me. This project has turned out to be more exciting than I anticipated!

Michael Petrunyak '92

After spending two years teaching in Hershey, Rose and I got the itch to see a little more of the world. The opportunity to rejoin the Army (95th Chemical Company) presented itself and we jumped on it. Most people get out of the Army because of the travel, but we needed it. We're currently stationed in Alaska, where we were joined by new arrival Mia in mid July. Looks like we'll be here until sometime in 2003, and from here, who knows where. Alaska is awesome! We've had snow on the ground since the first week of October. The aurora activity has been high and we're getting good displays all the way down to Anchorage. It's worth seeing if you can stand the cold!

Bob Pilat '70

Connie Sutton tells us that Bob Pilat was interviewed on all of the Pittsburgh TV stations last spring as the prime science teacher of one of the astronauts on the space shuttle mission. Bob teaches earth science at Pine Richland.

Jon Pina '78

Jon J. Pina has been a full time instructor/consultant with the Safety Sciences Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania since 1999. He also has his own Safety, Health, and Environmental consulting firm, Evergreen Environmental Health and Safety, Inc., in which his last large project was managing the demolition and environmental remediation of the last steel mill, LTV's Hazelwood Works, in the city of Pittsburgh.

Heather Renyck '99

I'd like to share my exciting news. After spending several years teaching in the Hoosier State, I accepted a teaching position in Milford, New Hampshire (about 50 miles NW of Boston). I am currently teaching Earth and Space Science classes for them with the expectation that I will develop a geology elective soon.

John Repteki '69

John Taylor reports that a number of secondary science teachers now have some excellent fossil material to use in their classes thanks to John Repetski who salvaged and forwarded a lot of material from the collections of the late Louis Pribyl (a specialist in fossil insects) as well as other USGS collections of marine invertebrates. Current IUP Geology major Heather Rodgers Kline took the ball and ran with it by making special fossil deliveries to teachers throughout the Indiana area.

Tom Repine '74

Connie Sutton reports that Thomas E. Repine, Jr, BS in Earth Science Education, received his EdD in Curriculum and Instruction from West Virginia University. His dissertation title was "Recurrent Participation in Rock Camp: Perceptions of a K-12 Professional Development Program in Geology". Tom works for the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.

Henry Scott '96

After graduating from Applied Physics with an Earth Science specialization at IUP, I finished a Ph.D. in geophysics at UC Santa Cruz last December. Since then, I have been working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Geophysical Lab at the Carnegie Institution in Washington DC.

Alumni News

Susan Shaeffer-Smith '92

I am doing great. I am with a new group with PPG called Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (but that is not all we do). Love the work!!! Great group to work with. I work with a lot of metals but no crystalline solids (darn!)

Steve Smith '02

Kate and I got married this summer and have arrived safely in the frozen North. (ie, Fairbanks, Alaska) For those that don't know already, I will be working as a graduate student at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks Geophysical Institute, helping to monitor volcanoes!

Greg Stickler '94

I had a son on July 24, 2001. We are expecting a second child in April 2003.

Jason Taylor '98

John Taylor reports that Jason defended his masters thesis at Oregon, on slope and seismic stability of a natural dam formed by the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Jason has moved back to the east coast from Oregon and is working in the Harrisburg area.

Larry Tedesco '72

Greetings from southeast Texas! Cindy and I are doing well. She works for the Houston school district, although for the last three years she has been out of the classroom in a special program that tries to help teachers teach reading better. I am still with Chevron (19 years) and managed to survive another downsizing last year. Until the downsizing, I had been exploring the onshore of the Texas Gulf Coast, and am now working in development geology in the same area.

Joe Tedeski '92

I am still working for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection in Pittsburgh. I recently got married and am currently living in Marion Center with my wife Debra.

Rob Templeton '93

I was transferred to the New Jersey office of Geological Services last summer and am now living in Mullica Hill NJ along with my wife Ellen and our children Taylor (6) and Kyle (3).

Beverlie Weir '01

I spent this summer in Chicago, IL working for R.R. Donnelley and Sons (largest printer/publisher in the world) doing an internship in their Environmental, Health and Safety Group at Corporate Headquarters. I was out in Reno, NV to help one of our divisions with EHS programs... forgot how much I loved the weather in the southwest. I mentioned to one of my mentors (their word for boss) that I could live there in Reno and he replied, "Watch what you wish for!". Life is great and I only have 9 more months of graduate school left - not that I am counting or anything!

Mark Yanoski '80

Once again, the department extends its sincere thanks to alumni Mark Yanoski, who has been one of the most generous contributors to our special funds in the IUP Foundation. Mark invites other alums to join him in supporting new initiatives such as helping current IUP students visit potential graduate schools to increase their chance of acceptance and help them decide where to continue their geologic careers. For more on what Mark and the rest of you have funded with your donations, keep reading!

Christa Ziegler '01

Steve Hovan tells us that Christa Ziegler is now in the Ph.D. program at Boston University working with Dr. Richard Murray on geochemical indicators of climate change. She's heading out to sea on ODP Leg 206 in early November. There she will work as a sedimentologist helping to describe "mud" for a drilling leg designed primarily to drill into fast oceanic spreading centers near the Galapagos Ridge.

IUP Temporary Faculty Positions Open Now

Due to the departures of Keith Putirka for UC Fresno and Bernd Kulesa for Belfast, the Geoscience Dept. is now searching for two temporary faculty positions in Spring 2003: one to cover Igneous & Metamorphic Petrology and one to cover Geochemistry. Both positions may also involve teaching introductory non-major lectures and/or labs. We hope that a search for a permanent faculty member will be approved as soon as state budget constraints are known for the year. (Faculty members teaching as temporaries are always welcome to apply for any permanent positions.) If you or someone you know may be interested in these positions, please contact Steve Hovan at hovan@iup.edu.

Alumni Networking

Alumni Contacts

Anyone interested in relocating to the Denver area can get in touch with **Jeffrey Dynda**, Geologist & IT Coordinator at Klabzuba Oil & Gas. Jeff says he's starting to "get connected" in the Denver area. He can be reached at 303-382-2161 or jdynda2@yahoo.com.

Positions Wanted

Looking for employment opportunities in geology, hydrogeology, wetland science, or environmental assessments. Call **Brad Mikula** at 814-241-5054 or send email to jbmik27@yahoo.com.

What Your Donations Have Been Doing

We wanted to let all of our generous donors know that we've been making limited but crucial use of the Granata and Prince funds while also trying to build them up to interest-bearing levels. Last summer, IUP students Yvonne Branan and Christa Ziegler received partial funding to help defray the expenses of field camp and oceanographic research cruises and IUP students Bob Kervin and Kevin Jones were funded to attend the national Geological Society of America conference. In addition, student Bryan Sell received a field trip fellowship to help defray the tuition expenses of the Newfoundland regional field trip.

Address & News Updates for the Spring Issue of GeoTidings:

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News for GeoTidings:

Please fill out this form and send it to Geoscience Dept., Indiana University of PA, Indiana PA 15705-1087. Or, if you prefer, you can email your information to John Taylor (jftaylor@iup.edu)

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GEO-TIDINGS

The Alumni Newsletter of the
Geoscience Department

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Indiana PA 15705-1087

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**Circle these dates
on your calendar!**

OCTOBER 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	11/1	

October 28 (7:00 pm - 9:30 pm) — IUP alumni in Denver for the Geological Society of America meeting can gather at the alumni party in the Marriott City Center Hotel. Look for paleontologist John Taylor in the University of Missouri section. Our new structural geologist, Dyanna Czeck will also be attending GSA this year.

November 1 (7:00 am—9:00 am) — Wendy & Warren Straatmann will be interviewed on the CBS Morning Show. Wendy and Warren recently won the North American wife-carrying contest in Maine, defeating sixteen other couples to represent North America at the world championships in Finland next summer.

December 6-10 — IUP alumni attending AGU can be on the lookout for Steve Hovan in San Francisco. Steve will be presenting papers and also looking for candidates to fill our temporary and permanent faculty positions.

April 25, 2003 — Tentative date for Geoscience Day 2003 and our annual Geoscience banquet. Plan to visit IUP that day and join us for the festivities. John Taylor plans to hold a Newfoundland Reunion as part of the banquet, so bring some of your favorite slides and dust off your old field trip stories!