

Winter 2003

Volume 2, Number 2



The Alumni Newsletter of the IUP Geoscience Department

Geo-Tidings

Dr. Michael Poage joins the IUP Geoscience Department

The IUP Geoscience Department is proud to welcome Dr. Michael Poage as its newest tenure-track faculty member. Dr. Poage comes to IUP from Dartmouth College, where he did both his undergraduate work and his Ph.D. Dr. Poage's master's thesis was earned at the University of Montana.

Dr. Poage is a stable isotope geochemist with interests in ancient climates, the uplift history of major mountain ranges, and soil processes. In addition, he is an igneous and metamorphic petrologist, having worked on magmatism and metamorphism in tectonically active mountain belts. His field sites have included the Nanga Parbat region

of northern Pakistan, the Taklamakan Desert in China, and the Basin and Range and Rocky Mountain regions of the western United States. He is currently headed down to Antarctica for several weeks to participate in NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research program in Antarctica's Dry Valleys.

At IUP, Dr. Poage will teach courses in introductory geology, mineralogy, geochemistry, and igneous and metamorphic petrology. In addition he will be leading the Geology of the Northern Rockies summer field trip. Dr. Poage's interests outside geology include music, wood-working, and wild mushroom picking.

Tom Moore '76 becomes Coal Section Head at Illinois Survey

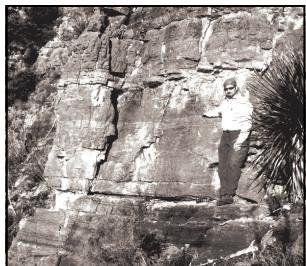
After having worked for Phillips Petroleum for twenty-two years, IUP alumnus Tom Moore has taken a new position as geologist and section head of the Coal Section at the Illinois State Geological Survey in Champaign, Illinois. Tom's move was prompted by the merger between Phillips and Conoco Oil, and the resulting certainty of a move from Bartlesville, OK to Houston, out of exploration and into technical services. Instead, he decided to take advantage of the Phillips severance package and look for another job. "It was a wrenching decision to have to make in some ways, but an early release in others," says Tom.

As he waited for the Illinois Survey job to come through, Tom started up Groundhog Professional Services, LLC to do some geological consulting work in coal-bed methane and unconventional reservoirs. (His consulting company was launched on February 2, 2003, thus the name!) He handled some large projects for Vintage Petroleum, before moving to Champaign, Illinois to start work at the survey. Tom says, "Anyone who is interested in what we do here (my staff is highly experienced and productive despite some hard years), can check out our web home page at: www.isgs.uiuc.edu/isgshome/coal.htm

Faculty News

John Taylor

John enjoyed several sessions in the field with alumni and current students this past year, sampling Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician rocks for trilobites, conodonts, and other useful critters. Spring Break in early March was spent with (among others) former student Jim Loch and current student Matt Morgan in west Texas and New Mexico, coaxing trilobites out of the stubborn carbonates of the El Paso Group. Matt got some great first-hand experience



IUP student Matt Morgan checks out the El Paso group in Texas.

in field-based biostratigraphic research and the material for his senior research project, but they came at a high cost – he now has to deal with a serious addiction to chile rellenos.

John and his co-workers are happy to report that their work is paying off in significantly revised and improved correlations of the Lower Paleozoic units across the southwest.

They'll be offering a 2-3 day field trip in association with the 2004 Geological Society of America Meeting in Denver to several of the ranges in that region.

Field work late in the spring in Maryland with alumnus Dave Brezinski and geology major Christie Roth provided new collections from the Upper Cambrian deep-water limestones of the Frederick Formation that will form the basis of Christie's senior seminar project. Bulk samples collected for conodonts went off to alumnus John Repetski for processing. Again, however, a high price was paid as a cold, steady rain made the collecting both miserable and difficult. (Not that Brezinski would know; he had the good sense not to show until the weather cleared the next day!)

John hooked up again with Dave and alumna Nancy Durika in June for some productive work on the Lower and Middle Cambrian carbonates in the Conestoga Valley. August included another week of field work in some remote areas of the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming sampling the Gallatin Formation. This was the fifth consecutive summer that he and his research partners have invested in the Northern Rockies portion of their "3-year" NSF project, and this summer's work necessitates another visit in 2004. Everyone's getting a bit concerned that shipment of another season's samples out of the Big Horns might require renaming them the Big Horn Hills.

John also helped out with the 2003 Field Conference of PA Geologists in early October, leading (along with former department faculty members Bill Bragonier and Frank Hall) a few of the stops in the Keyser and Old Port Formations in the Altoona-Holidayburg area, and proposing a new name for the basal member of the Keyser, the Chimney Rocks Member. The field trip guidebook can be purchased on CD from the Pennsylvania Geological Survey if anyone is so inclined. It was fun seeing so many IUP Geoscience alumni at the conference, among them John Harper, Joe Tedeski, Pat Federinko, and Tom Fridirici.

John has to admit, however, that the excursion he enjoyed most in 2003 was the one shared with department alumnus (and sibling) Wil Taylor and his colleagues from University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire to Ecuador, including a tour of the Galapagos Islands, a trip to the cloud forest on the western slope of the Andes and a visit to the high Andes themselves. After teaching so many generations of students about the geologic wonders of those areas, it was an indescribable experience to see them first hand and in such fine company. Unfortunately, however, trilobites were nowhere to be found.

In Other Faculty News:

Connie Sutton retired in June of 2003, after teaching at IUP for over thirty years. She is now splitting her time between Indiana and Cleveland, where husband Chuck still works, and is having fun spoiling her grandchildren!

As her MFA in Fiction nears completion, **Karen Rose Cercone** has returned to teaching Hydrogeology for the first time in six years. She would love to hear from alumni hydrogeologists about what skills IUP graduates should have and what remediation techniques they need to be most familiar with to qualify for entry-level jobs. Dr. Cercone also continues to show her dogs in obedience and agility; her younger Sheltie Brynn was ranked as the #4 Novice Sheltie in the United States for 2002.

Ralph Feather '71 has graciously taken on our temporary position in education this year, filling in both as astronomy professor and student teaching advisor in place of Connie Sutton. He has also gone above and beyond the call of duty by overseeing the PA Department of Education five-year review of our educational programs.

Alumni News

Pete Bohan '94

I'm still in Salt Lake working for a drilling company, REI. We work all over the US drilling horizontally in coal mines, doing anything from degasification boreholes to barrier drilling (proving old works from projected mining areas). We also characterize coal discontinuities (coal thickness and how wide the channel is). I'm basically an office bum and do all the hole plotting, interpretation and certification when needed. About the only time I get out in the field is if we have a big time problem. That's good because I'm home every night, otherwise I'd be out on a drill site all year round (definitely not meant for family life!) I made the purchase of a house here in Salt Lake, so I'm here to stay for a while. If any IUP folks get out this way, be sure to pay me a visit!

Yvonne Branan '01

I am now in my 3rd year of my PhD at Michigan Technical University in Houghton. I am continuing my work on correlating different parameters (sulfur dioxide fluxes, seismic and thermal data) in an attempt to better understand volcanic systems. In the past year I traveled to the AGU Fall Meeting in December 2002, spent a month collecting data in Guatemala, was awarded a Michigan Space Grant and the Thornton Endowed Fellowship, attended a Volcanic Clouds Workshop and survived my comprehensive exams!

John Dembosky '93

I am currently at SUNY Geneseo as a Visiting Assistant Professor. I am teaching intro geology to a class with 240 PLUS there is a required lab for all of them (I was told it's the largest class at the college of only 4500)! I am also teaching Regional Geology of North America. In the spring I get another class of 240 plus Structural Geology, with 18 students so far. Look for a new GSA volume out soon concerning the Mojave-Sonora megashear. I should be getting a paper in there!

Paul Hale '94

The big news is that I received my Pennsylvania PG December 2002. I breathed a sigh of relief when I got the exam results, I was so glad to not have to stress about any more tests. Then my boss came into my cube and asked me to attain certification as a Licensed Remediation Specialist (LRS) in West Virginia. So much for resting on my laurels! I passed the LRS exam in late September. Now I can be sued in two states! Family is fine, my daughter Kendra started kindergarten this year and just lost her first tooth. Her little brother Drake keeps asking when he can get cash from the tooth fairy. I have hidden all the pliers. It would be great to hear from IUP geologists. Shoot an email to phale@gfnet.com.

Rich Heisler '02

I am now the new 8th grade Earth and Space science teacher at Freedom Middle School in Beaver County. Wish me luck!

Phil Lacey '74

I'm starting my 5th year at East Liverpool High School in East Liverpool, OH although I live in Beaver, PA. I am an active member of OESTA, the Ohio Earth Science Teachers Association. I am the managing editor of our newsletter. Also I continue to be part of the American Meteorological Society's Education programs. These include Project Maury, DataStreme WES, and DataStreme Ocean. With Project Maury, I present hands-on physical oceanography workshops to teachers. The Datastreme courses are offered online to teachers at no cost through Brockport State in New York. Interested teachers can contact me at placey@access995.com. My older child Andrew is a freshman at Slippery Rock. He is planning to be a math teacher on a secondary level. My daughter is a sophomore at Beaver Area High School and just completing her second season in volleyball.

Brad Mikula '01

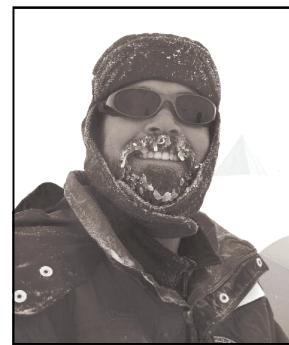
I was accepted into the Environmental Pollution Control program at Penn St. Harrisburg. I'm excited to go there because it was my first choice and I think Penn State Harrisburg will allow me to gain the knowledge I want and offer a good network for job opportunities.

Jeff Miller '93

The big news here is that I got hired into the US Antarctic Program for a stint during the austral summer. It has been an absolutely amazing experience! I'm mostly doing remediation work of which there is a surprising amount that needs done down here. I'm based at McMurdo, the largest of three permanent US stations, which is located on a volcanic island in the Ross Sea. There are about 1,200 of us, all to support or take part in the science.

McMurdo is a strange hybrid of a mining town and a college town, with actually plenty to do.

There are a lot of overqualified people doing menial tasks here, just for the chance to see this place. (Nothing like seeing a PhD pushing a broom!). What I've seen of the continent is pretty indescribable. It's certainly not the flat, white, cold (well, it is pretty damn cold sometimes), and lifeless place I thought it was.



Alumni News

Tom Moore '76

There have been a bevy of changes for me in the last year or so. With the merger between Phillips Petroleum and Conoco, and the year-long pre-consummation reorganization, I had a lot of "fun" that helped me to make the decision to try to scrounge up another job. I thought I had one all lined up to go directly to as I went out the door from Phillips at the end of December, but it hang-fired and I ended up in a kind of limbo for several months. In that interim, I started up Groundhog Professional Services, LLC and worked steadily in Tulsa through the spring and summer before joining the Illinois State Geological Survey in Champaign. I am in an apartment for temporary housing right now, with Muffie remaining in Bartlesville, Oklahoma for at least the rest of the school year. She's working in a special ed classroom again for the first time in a long, long time and trying to get her certification back in shape. Son Duane is a sophomore at Oklahoma State in an aeronautical engineering program. His grades reflect more those of his mother than me, for sure. Daughter Aileen is a freshman at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, starting a specialized program in art therapy.

Tommy Morrow '99

I am currently living in Eugene ,OR and have been here for the past 2 years. I am filling a long term substitute position in Special Ed at one of the high schools here in Eugene. I am still with Kristy Ridge, another IUP Geoscience grad who is working in a lab for Molecular Probes, a biotech company in Eugene. Things are going well, and I am working on my permanent Oregon teaching certification. I need to get into gear and get this grad school stuff done with once and for all. Life is good and we are enjoying all the West has to offer. The rain has started, but it's a way of life here that you have to accept. Big trees come at an expense, you know!

Gary Neuder '82

Sherry and I are back in the USA (Houston) after almost 10 years overseas. Hard to believe how those 10 years flew and hard to believe we've been back in the States almost 2 1/2 years now. I'm in my 21st year with ExxonMobil and continue to work Production. Lots of top notch people here and my current assignment (African Field Studies) keeps me hopping. As for me, I thought the merger went well. The two companies are a good fit as opposed to some of the other mergers. On the home front, we're happy as clams. It's nice to be on the same continent as the grandkids. We have four now (ages 6 months to 5 years). Sherry doesn't think we see them enough. Between travel within the USA and church, we're enjoying ourselves immensely.

Barb Osgood '97

School is going great. I just submitted an abstract to this years GSA meeting in Seattle and Dr. Tom Anderson from Pitt asked me to participate in the Eastern AAPG meeting. I finally found my 'thing' at school. It took long enough!! This fall I am taking Isotope Geochemistry (sounds scary!) and teaching Sed/Strat lab again. I had a lot of fun teaching that last year so I am looking forward to doing it again plus I have everything saved from last year so it should much less time consuming. I am also taking a Paleolimnology class my advisor is teaching. This is going to be my busiest semester yet... but I am glad. I am almost done with course-work. I am at the point where I am taking classes because the subject matter is of interest... not just for the sake of credits. Plus, I am actually at the point were all I want to do is work on my research... wow.

Dan Pompa '97

I have finished my final project for my M.S. in geoscience through MS State, on geosciences in the Pittsburgh area. I just got back from a field course at Mammoth Cave and had a week to finish my project. It took me back to the day of the Southwest trip. What a blast! Now that I have my MEd and MS out of the way I hope to do more traveling in the summer. Angie is still with the DEP in Greensburg and we just bought a house in Hempfield Township.

Heather Renyck '99

I have spent this past year teaching an Honors Geology course at Milford High School in New Hampshire. I started out with 12 students, but enrollment quickly dropped to 7 because I was not willing to compromise the vigor of what an honors course should be, just to keep the enrollment high enough to run the course. Initially I was concerned that I had ruined the reputation of the course, but those who decided to take the challenge are really enjoying our journey. We are covering the same material that IUP professors present in Physical Geology. I have also incorporated sections of Historical Geology. I have discovered that the bulk of my students will rise to the occasion with respect to the level of difficulty, as I present the material almost the same way in which it was presented to me at IUP. We are also creating professional research presentations (much like Geoscience Seminar).



Alumni News

My most rewarding experience (by far) has been the field trip that I led through southern and central New Hampshire in early October. We observed the metamorphic and igneous rocks in various litho-tectonic terranes. I could not believe how much my students could interpret without assistance! I had students finding index minerals that were so weathered that I could barely believe that they had correctly deduced the degree of metamorphism in the section. I would love to assist any teacher who has thought about implementing a geology course in their school. Just drop me a line at hrenyck@yahoo.com.

Henry Scott '96

I've left the Geophysical Lab where I was doing a postdoc, and have started as an assistant professor at Indiana University at South Bend (just couldn't shake the name Indiana from my address). I'm in the Physics Department, but was hired as a geophysicist and will teach mostly geology courses.

Susan Shaeffer-Smith '92

I am doing well here in the electrochemical analysis division at PPG. I love the work. We are doing some research but also a lot of analysis for others here at the Tech Center and globally. I still don't work with rocks but metals are just A-OK! I have put Fred Park's class (and Wendy Elcesser's Inorganic class) to use many times. Boy, does one have to dig deep for that stuff when one doesn't use it every day. On the family side, I have three beautiful grandchildren: a 16 year old cellist, Domenica, and 2 much younger boys. Ben (4) loves any kind of trains, and Nathaniel (8) enjoys the Civil and Revolutionary War periods.

Dale Skoff '78

I am now working at CORE Environmental Services, Inc. (CORE) an environmental consulting firm located in Allison Park, just north of Pittsburgh. Coincidentally, I am working for another IUP Geoscience Dept. grad – Steve Zbur, who is president of our company. I've been with CORE for about a year and like the small company/entrepreneurial atmosphere. My son, Justin is now a sophomore at Notre Dame and my daughter Alyssa is a freshman at Mars High School. And I'm still getting together with alumni Tom Metarko and Mark Yanoski for a few beers now and then!

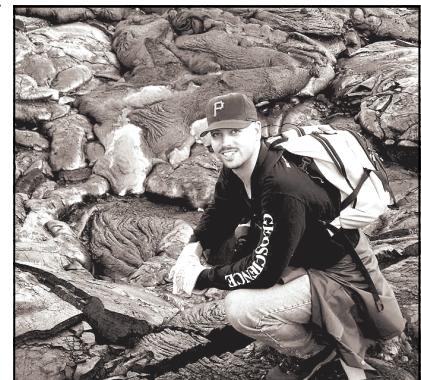
Gary Smarsh '88

Things are still fine out here in Doylestown, PA, where we have been since the fall of 1988. Since that time, have been with the NJDEP as a geologist / hydrogeologist (thanks to that hydro course way back in 1986). Other alumnus here are Amy Telford, Tim Nuss, Jeff Story, and Jamie MacBlaine.

Steve Smith '02

My first full summer of graduate school at the University of Alaska Fairbanks was busy. The first trip of the summer was an Intro to Volcanology trip to Katmai National Park with Dr. John Eichelberger. We did a lot of hiking to several areas of the region of the park called The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, which is where the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th Century occurred in 1912.

The second trip of the summer took me to Hilo, Hawaii for a Student Workshop and Conference on volcanic processes from explosive to effusive eruptions. I then attended the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior's Cities on Volcanoes 3 Conference in Hilo. This was a conference primarily focusing on many aspects and case studies of volcanic hazard mitigation.



The last trip of the summer was to my study area for my Master's Thesis: Mt. Cleveland volcano in the east central Aleutian Islands of Alaska. We were only able to spend time on the island from August 5 to 9th due to the Aleutian weather. We did manage to gather most of the data that I needed for my thesis and take many photos for comparison to other field seasons from 2001 to 2002. I was able to finish the written portion of my comprehensive exam, and now await the oral part this coming January 2004. My wife, Kate, and I also celebrated our 1 year wedding anniversary, though we were both apart for it since I was on my Katmai trip. We did get to talk via satellite photo on the day of the anniversary which made up for not being there. Kate has been a trooper during this first year, and for that I am very thankful!

Beverlie Weir '01

Following graduation from IUP Safety Sciences Department with my Masters in Science in May 2003, I relocated to the Detroit Metro area and joined the Health and Safety ranks of General Motors Corporation. The first year of my career will be spent in rotational assignments throughout GM to learn about the processes and be exposed to the many areas of General Motors. My first three months were spent at Powertrain Headquarters located in Pontiac, MI.

(Continued on next page.)

Alumni News

Beverlie Weir '01 (Con't):

In that location I worked on an project dealing with metal-working fluids, looking at the control of exposure for the workers and the composition of the fluid. After the Labor Day Holiday I changed my daily commute from going west to Pontiac to going south to Hamtramck. I am currently working at the Hamtramck Assembly Center located on the divisional line between downtown Detroit and the Polish

community of Hamtramck, basically downtown Detroit. . . This facility assembles the Cadillac Deville, Cadillac Seville, Buick LeSabre and soon the Pontiac Bonneville. Plant life is great. I am adjusting to the early morning start and long days but the environment is wonderful. I am learning more and more each day and feel as though I am helping my customers — the people out there on the line assembling the cars — go home safe and sound each day and night.

Get well wishes!

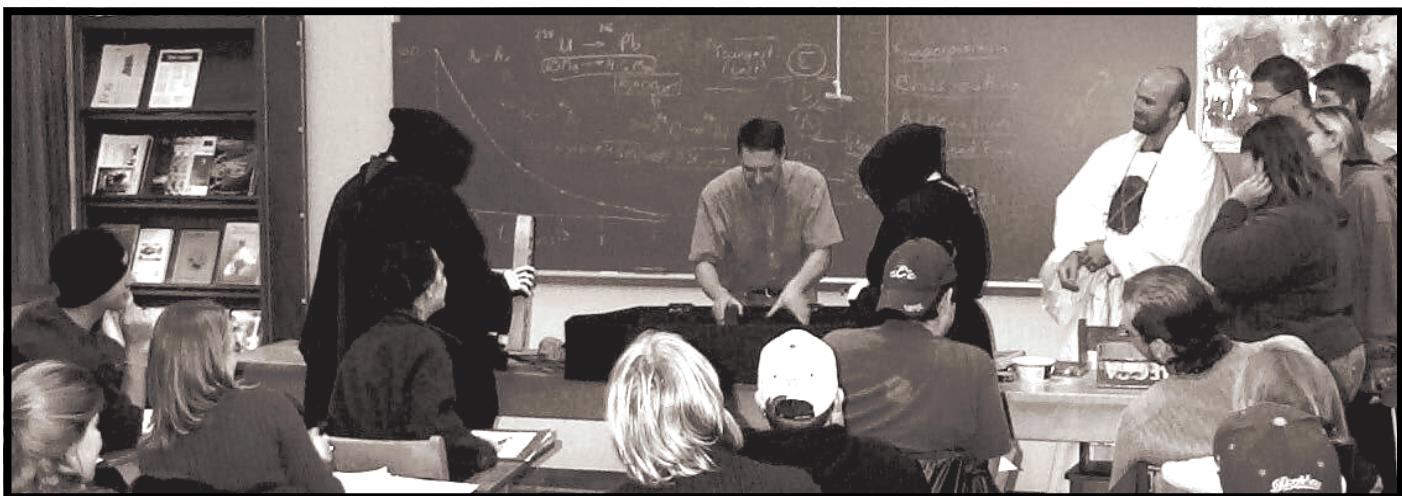
Best wishes go out to **Jann Wenturine**, who is being treated for a recurrence of the ovarian cancer that she survived five years ago. Jann tells us that she will probably need to undergo surgery and chemotherapy, but she is hopeful because they seem to have caught the cancer early. Jann is currently on medical leave from her high school teaching position and is living in Yuma with her sons.



Blast from the Past: A 1974 trip to Calvert Cliffs. Can anyone identify the student in the dapper Seals & Crofts-style hat?

He's Officially Older than Dirt: Doc Taylor Turns Fifty!

With High Priest Steve Hovan presiding over the festivities, the Fates themselves (black-robed forms inhabited by Nancy Durika and Cinda Roebuck) carried in a black birthday cake in a coffin, to the amusement of Doc Taylor's Physical Geology class.



Updates & Donations

REMEMBER THAT LOBSTER DINNER?

Our thanks to the many contributors who helped push the Walter Granata Fund up over the top to earn interest annually for support of our programs. This fund has provided scholarships and financial support for students to attend regional field trips and meetings of professional societies, especially GSA. It has greatly enhanced the educational experiences of a number of students, and also ensures that Dr. Granata's service and leadership to the department will be remembered long into the future.

Now to our next challenge. With the focus being on the growth of the Granata Fund, we've given the Paul Prince Fund too little attention and it remains far short of the targeted amount. By our count, well over two hundred of you had the privilege of learning under the theatrical tutelage of Mr. Paul A. Prince, here at IUP and/or at the Marine Science Consortium in Virginia. Many of you secondary school teachers received your training in Oceanography and Meteorology from Mr. Prince. And, if memory serves, a significant number of you enjoyed a lobster dinner at Mr. Prince's expense as one of the pin-

nacle experiences of the Oceanography field trip those many years ago. Our hope in reminding you is that you will see fit to repay that kindness through a contribution to the Paul Prince Fund so that future generations of students can be supported through scholarships carrying Paul's name. Anyone who knew Paul Prince well can verify that no one ever cared more, or worked harder to serve the students of the IUP Geoscience Department. The Prince Fund was established to provide financial assistance to students whose primary interest and research is in Oceanography and Marine Geology. So all you more recent alumni who worked with Mr. Prince's successor, Steve Hovan – this is your fund too. (We thought about renaming it the Prince Hovan Fund, but Steve just seemed too pleased about the royal tone of that title!) Contributions of any size are welcome. It means a lot to us to see most of our alumni contribute, regardless of the amount. Thanks in advance and we'll keep you posted on our progress.

— John Taylor

Address & News Updates for the 2004 Issue of GeoTidings:

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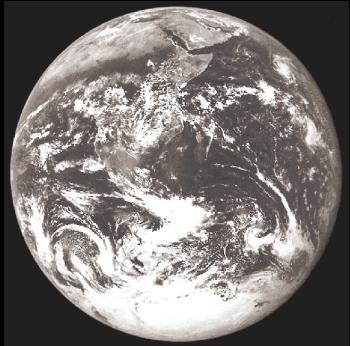
Please fill out this form and send it to Geoscience Dept., Indiana University of PA, Indiana PA 15705-1087. Or, if you prefer, you can email your information to John Taylor (jftaylor@iup.edu)

Renew Your Donation in 2004!

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GEO-TIDINGS

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IUP Geoscience Department**

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302 East Walk
Indiana PA 15705-1087

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**Circle the date for
Geoscience Day & the
Geoscience Banquet
on your calendar !**

2004 FACULTY SEARCHES

The Geoscience Department is currently searching for two new tenure-track faculty members: a K-12 Education specialist trained in any area of the Earth Sciences and a Structural Geologist with interests in Geomorphology, Hydrogeology or Geophysics. If you or someone you know might be interested, more information can be found at our web site: <http://www.iup.edu/geoscience>.

APRIL 2004						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

CALL FOR PAPERS!

Northeast GSA Meeting 2004

Anyone interested in submitting an abstract for a session on the teaching and promotion of Honors Geology courses in American high schools, please contact IUP Alumni **Heather Renyck** at hrenyck@yahoo.com. Heather hopes to organize and submit a topical session for this spring.