

The online Alumni Newsletter of the IUP Geoscience Department

Dr. John F. Taylor & Dr. Karen Rose Cercone, editors

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News Flash! Geo-Tidings finally enters cyber-space!

Well, it only took two decades after the arrival of the internet, but the IUP Geoscience Alumni newsletter has finally been brought into the new millennium. (The kicking and screaming you heard was Doc Taylor getting his arm twisted until he was willing to edit hyper-text.) We hope you enjoy the color photos and interesting links that this allows us to include!

The online newsletter is not yet interactive, but we hope to eventually add a guest comment book where alumni can leave updates and perhaps also post new photos of themselves and their families. In the meantime, continue to email your updates and photos to John Taylor (jftaylor@iup.edu). We'll format them and add them to the website every few months, then zap you an email to let you know that new alumni postings have been added for you to browse through.

If you received a postcard notifying you about this web site instead of an email, and you do have a working email address, please send it to the Geoscience secretary April Mazur (amazur@iup.edu) and she will add you to our low-volume alumni announcement list. You will receive only a few emails a month from us, announcing local job opportunities, department events and website updates.

One note about internet security: we will not share your private email address with anyone (fellow alumni, university staff, etc.) without first contacting you for permission. We have also taken all non-IUP email addresses off this page, since it will be accessible to the world-wide web through the Geoscience Department home page. We hope potential students who are applying to the department will be inspired to join us after reading about all of your success stories!



Tim Cejka '73 Awarded Honorary Doctorate by IUP

Tim Cejka, president of ExxonMobil Exploration and a 1973 graduate of the Geoscience Department, was the featured speaker at IUP's December 2005 commencement ceremony, where he also received an honorary doctorate degree to recognize his many accomplishments since leaving Indiana.

This was a significant honor, since the university has granted only of 43 honorary degrees in its history. Others receiving this honor include Congressman John P. Murtha, Oscar Arias Sanchez, Andre Previn, James "Jimmy" Stewart, Art Rooney, Fred Rodgers, former governor Richard Thornburg, and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Tim lives in Houston and also serves as a Vice-President of ExxonMobil Corporation. He began working for Exxon in 1975 as an exploration geophysicist, and has managed many off-shore exploration and production projects around the world, with particular emphasis on Europe, Russia, the Middle East and the Caspian Region.

Tim Cejka currently co-chairs the board of the United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, promoting Azerbaijan's transition toward a market economy. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Houston Museum of Natural Science, as well as the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the Institute of International Education Southern Regional Advisory Board, a group that believes prosperity in the 21st century depends on increasing the capacity of people to think and work globally.

Tim took time out from his busy schedule to visit the IUP Geoscience Department earlier this past fall (read the full story about his visit in IUP Magazine by clicking [here](#).) He toured our new lab facilities with fellow IUP grad John Taylor '75 and met with current students, answering their questions about employment prospects and career development in the energy industry. We hope to see Tim again this spring, when he will be one of the six people selected to receive Distinguished Alumni Award for their accomplishments since graduating from IUP.

For those IUP alumni who will be attending the 2006 AAPG Annual Meeting in Houston this April, Tim will present a talk called "Expanding the Search" at the [Monday All-Convention Luncheon](#) where he will address the future needs of energy exploration.

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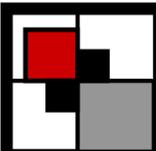
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Indiana University of Pennsylvania endeavors to maintain the accuracy of the information on its official electronic publications. Many links from official pages, however, go to information that is not directly approved by the university and does not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its officials, or the State System of Higher Education. The Geo-Tidings newsletter site is maintained by Karen Rose Cercone (kcercone@iup.edu).

This page was last updated on March 20, 2006.



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Ken Coles

Ken Coles joined the Geoscience Department in 2004 as an Assistant Professor. He fills the position formerly occupied by Professor Emerita Connie Sutton and filled during 2003-2004 by visiting faculty member Dr. Ralph Feather. Ken is a native of Pasadena, California. He reports that growing up in the shadow of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) during the race to the Moon (which he is old enough to remember) is coming in handy in his current teaching. He attended Caltech, earning both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Geology in 1979 and doing a senior project on sound velocity vs. age in granite boulders on stream terraces and glacial moraines in California. Ken attended graduate school at Columbia University in New York City, which he reports is a very fun place to be a student. His Ph.D. dissertation, supervised by Walt Snyder (now at Boise State) and Rich Schweickert (now at University of Nevada-Reno), was on the structure and stratigraphy of mid-Paleozoic marine rocks, primarily phosphate-bearing chert, in central Nevada.

[\[Click here for more\]](#)



Jon Lewis

Jon Lewis joined the Geoscience Department in 2004 as our new structural and environmental geologist. Prior to his arrival at IUP, Dr. Lewis was affiliated with the University of Massachusetts in Amherst as a senior post-doctoral researcher and adjunct professor. He had previously worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at UC-Davis. His research interests include measuring seismogenic strain along plate boundaries, and using kinematic inversion to study earthquake focal mechanisms at active subduction zones such as Japan. Dr. Lewis has already acquired internal IUP grant funding to begin a new pilot project in Costa Rica, and has recruited an IUP undergraduate student to participate in that research project (see page 7 for more on that). He has also joined as a co-PI on Michael Poage's NSF Instrumentation Grant for a new mass spectrometry facility at IUP, and plans to submit a larger grant proposal.

[\[Click here for more\]](#)



Michael Poage

Michael Poage, our petrologist and geochemist, spent the summer of 2005 at Dartmouth College where he is a Research Fellow of their Institute of Arctic Studies. He has been working in Antarctica with colleagues from Dartmouth and other universities and is currently preparing for his third field season over Christmas break. His work involves the soil chemistry of the Dry Valleys region and its effects on local nematode populations. He presented his findings at the Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco and is currently preparing a manuscript for publication in Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research. Michael has developed a new majors class, Soils and Soil Geochemistry, which will be taught for the first time this spring, and is in the process of developing a course in Forensic Geology. In addition, he will teach the Geology of the Northern Rockies field course in the summer of 2006 focusing on mapping projects in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and the New World Mining District in Montana near Yellowstone National Park.



Steve Hovan

Steve Hovan will return to the ocean in Spring, 2006 with 4 Geoscience students for a special course offering: Paleooceanography of the Pacific Ocean. The class will be taught aboard the research vessel R/V Roger Revelle during a cruise to the equatorial Pacific to study the closure of the Isthmus of Panama and its impact on patterns of ocean currents and atmospheric tradewinds. In addition to their studies, students will work alongside an international scientific party comprised of researchers from Sweden, United Kingdom, Columbia, and five other U.S. institutions. Students will perform routine "watchstanding" and navigation duties while at sea, as well as help to collect large diameter piston cores and geophysical seismic survey data.

[\[Click here for more\]](#)



John Taylor

John had a very busy and memorable 2005, owing in part to a sabbatical during the fall semester. Field work on the El Paso Group in New Mexico with Jim Loch ('83) in March, the Durness Group in Scotland with John Repetski ('70) in July, and the Conococheague Formation in Maryland with Dave Brezinski ('78) throughout the fall brought several long-standing projects close to completion, and set the stage for some new ventures as well. Much of his progress on several North American projects this past year was driven by exemplary senior research by recent IUP graduates Jeremy Bader and Brandon Klingensmith. Fittingly, their hard work earned them assistantships to begin graduate work in Paleontology at Texas Tech and Ohio University, respectively, in Fall 2005.

[\[Click here for more\]](#)



Karen Rose Cercone

Karen Rose Cercone graduated with her Master of Fine Arts in fiction from Pitt in spring 2005. She has just finished an original science fiction novel called Phobos Rising with her usual writing partner Julia Ecklar. It contains lots of gratuitous geology and features several IUP Geoscience faculty and students in supporting roles. Dr. Cercone continues to teach earth science to IUP's elementary education majors and spends weekends showing her Shetland Sheepdogs Brynn and Kirby in obedience, agility and herding. She had a great time taking six IUP students out to the southwest this past May with Dr. Jon Lewis (check out page 7 for a web link!).



Darlene Richardson

Darlene Richardson continues to serve as the Geoscience department chair, a position she has held since 1999. She was recently asked to create PowerPoint presentations to accompany the most widely used college oceanography textbooks in the United States: Thurman's Introductory Oceanography, and Trujillo and Thurman's Essentials of Oceanography. Her outlines, figures, and diagrams are now being distributed across the country as a fundamental part of the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM for those texts. Despite her heavy teaching load, Dr. Richardson finds time to continue her fiber and ceramic art projects, and her art work has been displayed in galleries at IUP and elsewhere. She is looking forward to her upcoming retirement to Hawaii, where she hopes to see many IUP alumni in the years to come.

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In the Spotlight: Dave Brezinski '77

A four year research project on sinkhole development done by Dave Brezinski was featured in several 2004 articles by the [Washington Post](#) and other Maryland papers. Among other things, the study showed that urban development actually increases the likelihood of sinkholes forming in areas and rock types that are prone to karst. The study mapped karst prone units in the Frederick Valley with field studies and GIS mapping, allowing urban planners and developers to know which areas would be most prone to sinkhole development. As part of his research, Dr. Brezinski examined an area between Frederick and Walkersville MD before and after urban development. "It looks like development tripled or quadrupled the number of sinkholes in the area," he said. Dave continues to work for the Maryland DNR while also serving as an Adjunct Associate Curator at the [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#).

Al Baker '73

The Baker's are alive and well in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We evacuated a week ago last Saturday. We have been back to visit our home and my office twice. The house survived with only minor damages and will be livable once the utilities are up and running. My office suffered major wind and rain damage and will be non-functional for some time. Once telephone communications are restored, I will be able to talk to my partners to determine our next course of action. Be sure to tell Tim Cejka that I said hello. I hear that he is a head-honcho at ExxonMobil these days. Is he going back to IUP to pick up his diploma? (Ha-ha!)

Phil Lacey '74

I am still teaching Earth Science at East Liverpool High School in Ohio. I am also serving as vice president of the Ohio Earth Science Teachers Association and I put together its newsletter which is published four times a year. Lastly, I help to teach two free online graduate courses for teachers which are sponsored by the American Meteorological Society. These are DataStreme Atmosphere and DataStreme Ocean. I will be offering DataStreme Ocean in western Pennsylvania next fall. Please feel free to contact me at placey61@msn.com if you are interested in taking either one of the two classes. You can also find out more at the [AMS website](#). I also present workshops in physical oceanography and weather which take about 50 minutes each. They are hands-on. My inspiration in all of this goes back to Mr. Prince back in the early 70's. I want to be able to provide training to current teachers by having them complete the free on-line courses or conducting workshops for newer teachers in physical oceanography/weather. I continue to be thankful about the wonderful preparation I received from IUP which prepared me to be an effective educator.

Jeff Mills '75

I'm still working as a Geologist Supervisor at the New Mexico Environment Department, Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau near Las Vegas NM. It will be 5 years in April. Debbie is the Payroll Manager at the local Luna Community College. We're having a very warm and most unfortunate dry winter here. Last year I had 78" of snow cumulative for the winter and so far this year I've had 1/4" total. Even the mountains are pretty bare. Our house is at 7,200' elevation and we will need to be concerned about forest fires this summer if things don't change. And you'll never guess who is coming here to visit this spring? Wild **Bill Hoover** (IUP '75)! He is a big turkey hunter and is only missing his Merriam's subspecies of wild turkey to complete what turkey hunters call the "Grand Slam" (that's getting 1 of each of the 4 subspecies of turkeys). Well we have Merriams here, so he and a buddy are coming to hunt with me and hopefully reach his goal. That will be fun and a great visit with Bill and Carol. As far as providing proof of where I live - I have learned not to reveal any proof and preserve my hiding place. Ha, Ha! Avoiding bill collectors, old enemies and revenuers!

Tom Moore '76

I have left the Illinois State Geological Survey to take a position as Senior Geologist for CDX Gas, LLC's Northern Appalachian Theatre. It's great to finally be working back in Appalachia after 25 years of geologizing in so many other parts of the world. Coalbed methane proved to be the "ruby slippers". They landed me, at least part of the time, back at home in Waynesburg PA --living in what was my grandfather's house. Although my current posting is in the CDX regional office in Charleston, WV, I get to spend at least half my time working out of the Morgantown office on prospects from SW Pennsylvania to Tennessee. My wife Muffie is still hanging on in Oklahoma, but when the kids are out of the nest, finally and completely, she'll be ready to move home as well. I have had a couple encounters with IUP Geosciencers: Pat Imbrogno and Steve Ruppert. It had been quite a few years since I had run into Pat...at a past Geoscience Day, probably the one that we did especially to launch the Granata fund. Steve I had not had interchange with since 1975. That was almost as much a surprise as running into Greg Smith in an Illinois Coal Mine a couple years ago.

Eric T. Yocum '78

I am still employed as an environmental engineer/ geologist by Mulry & Cresswell Environmental, Inc. in Downingtown, PA. Thank you for the departmental newsletter and updates.

Joan (Hancharik) Gawloski '79

I am now working at Midland College (Midland, Texas) as a geology instructor, and I really love it! I currently work part time teaching Physical Geology labs as well as an Environmental Science course. We are a 2 year college but have formed a bond with Sul Ross university in Alpine Texas so that we can teach some upper level courses. I have been approached to come aboard full time, and I think I want it to work out. They want me to teach a mineralogy course in spring 2006. The department head is a real sedimentary rock lover (carbonates I can handle, since I did my thesis on the Smackover limestone and lots of research on the Madison Limestone while working for Exxon). He thinks hard rocks are the devil, and I'm not too far behind him but no one else will do it, so I have accepted the challenge. Wish me luck!

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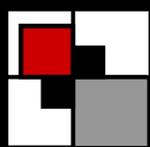
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In the Spotlight: Steve Van Horn '81

On January 6, 2005, Muskingum College assistant professor of geology Stephen Van Horn was awarded the key to the city of Cambridge, Ohio. Van Horn received the award in recognition of his role in the work that [Muskingum College](#) has done with Cambridge to complete a wide range of complex and important projects in city planning. Among these have been the city's constitutionally required redistricting, the redevelopment of its downtown area, and a study of the relationship between crime and geography. His specialty in these projects has been the use of geographic mapping software that allows for precise visualizations of statistical data as it applies to the geography of a region. Steve Van Horn lives in New Concord, Ohio, with wife Debra and children Megan and Bennett. For more about this story, check out the [IUP Alumni Extra Magazine](#).



In the Spotlight: James D. Loch '83

We're pleased to report that Jim was selected this past year as the first recipient of the Kyle R. Carter Graduate Faculty Research Award at Central Missouri State University (CMSU), where he has served on the faculty since 1994. The award was established in honor of a former provost of that institution for his efforts to further graduate education and research on the CMSU campus. It will be awarded annually to a faculty member who has distinguished him/herself through outstanding research. As author or coauthor of over a dozen publications and more than thirty presentations at national and international meetings, and recipient of eleven research grants over the past decade and a half, Jim obviously was an excellent choice as the inaugural awardee. Congratulations Jim!

Gary M Smarsh '81

Nothing at this time to report very new other than being able to credit the vast amount of knowledge I was able to obtain while at IUP/Geology Dept which has allowed me to still be here at the NJDEP officially for 17 years this past October 22nd. Would have been nice for it to have been in the western PA area...maybe sometime in the future!

Dave Martin, '85

I hope all is well at IUP. Dr. C. was a new prof when I took her hydro class (1984?), which happens to be the class I have used the most as an environmental consultant. I received a MS from CMU in Management & Finance and am now figuring out what to do with a degree from such an acclaimed school. The consulting work gets thinner and thinner each year (I should have been a civil engineer-LOL). My company (Michael Baker Corp.) is branching out into international work, mainly Afghanistan & Iraq. I am going to Pakistan for 3 months to remediate fuel contaminated soil (at the Shahbaz Air Base) resulting from US operations during the Afghan war. Should be interesting, Pakistan boasts of some the oldest archeological sites (Hindu - 4,000 yrs old) in the world along the Indus River. Hopefully I will get a chance to visit some of them.....or maybe get a chance to climb K2.

Marty Albertin '86

As for my career in the oil patch..I started work with Amoco in Dec. 1987, while finishing up my Masters work at UT Austin. Survived numerous layoffs, including the Big One at the BP/Amoco merger in 1999. Prior to the merger I had leveraged my experience with depth imaging, velocity analysis, and pressure prediction into an assignment as a geophysical interpreter with the Amoco Sub-salt Exploration team working the Gulf of Mexico shelf. After the merger, I continued working sub-salt, but in deeper water (Garden Banks/Keathley Canyon). For the past 4 years I've gotten back to more technical geophysics, working with BP's North American Exploration (NAX) Team on pre-drill depth, pore pressure, and fracture gradient forecasting for wellbore planning.

Mark Thornburg '86

I completed a dual teaching certification at the University of Texas in Math and Earth Science after getting married and working outdoors for a couple of years. After my second daughter was born I resigned my teaching position in 1993. Since then, we have increased the Earth's population three more times. Kelly (also an IUP grad) and I now have five children, which to date I consider my greatest accomplishment. My children all like to visit caves in the area. We stopped at Mammoth last year and toured the dry section. Odds are good that one of the five may follow my interest in the earth sciences. I currently run a web-based business from home.

Matt Valentine '87

We had our third child (Lydia) about a year ago and she's been fantastic. Her brother (Charlie-11) and sister (Abby-9) can't get enough of her. I recently became a partner in our firm (Cummings/Riter Consultants) which is a small (30-person) environmental consulting firm located in Penn Hills, PA. We recently opened an office in the Delaware Valley (near Philadelphia) and are looking to grow there. I was thrilled to pass the ASBOG test last year (after being out of school for 13 years) which I attribute to my foundation in geology from IUP. I'm a registered PG in PA, MO, and FL (and soon to be in WI).

Ron Dowey

I am a professor now at Harrisburg Area Community College. I am teaching Astronomy during the fall and spring semesters and I have been doing intro Chemistry and intro to Geology during the past summers. I really enjoy this a lot better than teaching high school and a lot better than being an assistant principal!

Jamie (MacBlane) Camargo '88

I have recently married and continue to work at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, along with several fellow IUP alumni. Thanks for taking the time to send along announcements and updates from time to time!

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In the Spotlight: Aaron Steinley '98

As of December, 2005, IUP alumni Aaron Steinly became the newest member of the administrative staff at United School District. His first assignment is that of assistant principal at the high school building. With a teaching and coaching background of seven years, Mr. Steinly joins with Mr. Lewis Kindja in the commitment to make sure each student is challenged and gets a good education. Soon after his appointment, Aaron was recently featured in the Indiana Gazette for participating in the American Library Association's "Teen Read" challenge. Always a good sport, Aaron agreed to exchange places for a day with the two top readers at his school.



In the Spotlight: Barbara (Osgood) Kutchko '96

2004 was a busy year for Barb: She defended her master's thesis at Pitt on August 19th and had a beautiful baby boy September 10th! Barb says, "My committee was scared to death that I would go into labor during my defense. Aidan is a wonderful baby. I couldn't be happier!" In 2005, Barb began work on a PhD thesis in Environmental Studies at CMU. She says, "My first semester has been exhausting and exhilarating. I love working with Dr. Dave Dzombak. He is a great professor and advisor. Aidan is now a toddler with all the toddler tendencies. He loves his "doggy" Dozer (our American Bulldog) and Dozer has found a permanent home under the highchair during mealtimes. It is a great relationship!"

Pat Perfetta '96

Anyway, I'm now with ConocoPhillips since the Phillips Conoco merger about 1 1/2 years ago. Currently making my living in the "frontier" exploration group, working on various Russian basins. As far as the personal life goes, I'm now married (coming up on 1 year) to what else but another geologist. No kids yet, maybe someday.

Marty Arford '97

Greetings, fellow geo-folk! A lot has changed since my last newsletter submission. I am now a resident of Michigan, where I have accepted a tenure-track position at Saginaw Valley State University as an assistant professor of geography. In May, 2005, I defended my dissertation "Mid to Late Holocene Environmental Change and Human Impacts in Tropical Dry Forest of Northwestern Costa Rica: Sedimentary Evidence from Six Lakes," at the University of Tennessee. The first publication from my dissertation appeared in the Journal of Latin American Geography in 2004 ("Pollen Evidence of the Earliest Maize Agriculture in Costa Rica"). Now I'm working on the big manuscript to be submitted to Ecological Monographs (wish me luck!). I will be traveling to the Dominican Republic in November 2005 for collaborative research in reconstructing prehistoric hurricanes from lake sediment records. My most recent research trips have taken me to the Amazon lowlands of Bolivia and back to Costa Rica. Next summer, I plan to offer a field-based course in physical geography here at SVSU. Go pollen!

Alex Boughamer '98

Alex stopped by the department over the holidays just long enough to report that he's accepted a position working as sports director and dance instructor for a four-month cruise around the world on the Radisson Seven Seas Voyager. Alex departed in late December from Fort Lauderdale and will be heading through the Panama Canal and then across the Pacific to Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, then on to Dubai and Rome, Italy before returning to Fort Lauderdale. We hope to be getting internet updates for future alumni newsletters!

Mark Zellman '99

I'm doing well and living in Los Angeles now. I found work with William Lettis and Associates (WLA) - a geologic consulting firm specializing in seismic and geologic hazards. I'm doing a mixture of GIS and geology for the firm. Most of the field work I've been doing has been trenching for mapping/dating faults. I'm finding this work much more enjoyable than drilling holes into plumes VOCs. It's been a crazy year in terms of moving and work for me. After finishing up my MS at Pitt in GIS I moved back to Berkeley, CA in May 2004. I lived there for 10 months and was unable to find full time work in GIS. I ended up finding work in DC with Dewberry and Associates. They hired me to do GIS and Remote Sensing. Work there was fun and I was doing a lot of LIDAR data processing. While in DC I was offered a job by WLA, and I accepted it. Two months after moving to DC from Berkeley I was moving to LA. Needless to say I'm quite tired of moving and ready to stay in one area for a while. Outside of work I've been up to some serious recreation in the Sierra's (rock climbing and snowboarding).

Tom Buterbaugh '00

Hi all! It has been 4 years since I've been at IUP. I spent a year with Dupont Environmental Remediation and am now in my 3rd year with the Southeast Regional Office of PA-DEP. Things have been very educational and productive so far!

Brad Mikula '00

Things are going well for me but my days are very hectic because of grad school. Right now I am working on my thesis which consists of using a computer model to predict zinc and sodium chloride migration in the vadose zone. This is part of the research I have been doing on storm-water infiltration. If all goes well, I will graduate in 2005 from Penn St. Harrisburg with a Master's degree in Environmental Pollution Control. Then I hope to continue with my career as an environmental professional.

Bryan K Sell '00

Things are really good here at the University of Syracuse. I'm working on the geochronology of the Mid to Late Ordovician for my PhD, so anywhere I can find a bentonite and its nearest index fossil makes me happy.

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In the Spotlight: Yvonne Branan '01

I am trying to get my PhD finished up, but have had a few stumbling blocks recently. I did a lot of traveling in 2004 (three weeks in Guatemala gathering field data, two weeks at Cambridge University in England, five weeks in Hawaii where I saw my first active lava flow and two weeks in where I helped the Alaska Volcano Observatory build a new piece of equipment to measure SO2 gas fluxes. This equipment has been the basis of my research project and I was really excited since I got to spend 10 days in the Aleutian Islands field testing at 4 active volcanoes! Then in November of 2004, things came to a grinding halt as my husband Jason developed some medical problems. We spent most of November at the famous Mayo Clinic, where they decided that surgery was needed. We were hoping for a quick "in-and-out" kind, but exploratory surgery showed that he would need open-heart! This was done on December 7 and went perfectly! He has already fully recovered and is even back to snowboarding already! Amazing what they can do today. But the best news of all is that Jason and I had a baby girl this year! Her name is Kiley Kate and she was born on August 5. She's absolutely beautiful and mom and baby are doing fine. Right now, I am planning to graduate from Michigan Technical University in May or August of 2006. I am planning to continue in academia after that.



In the Spotlight: Steve Smith '02

After the three years of Graduate School at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I graduated in May 2005 with my Master's of Science degree in Geology with an emphasis on Volcanology and Remote Sensing. Back in March 2005, I had an interview with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for a position in their organization. Around May 2005, I found out that I got the job, but then had to go through the security clearance process. Since I had to wait several months for the clearance to be granted, I was able to stay on with the Alaska Volcano Observatory's Remote Sensing group to help in their volcano monitoring duties. This was what I did during my Master's, so it was pretty good to still get paid. Clearance was granted at the end of September 2005 and we are excited to get started with our professional lives in St. Louis. I will finally get to work with the GPS constellation of satellites as an orbital Analyst for NGA. We do have an extra room available for those of you who will be traveling west from the east coast, or east from the west coast in the new year. Only two people managed to make it up to Fairbanks to see us over the last three years, so since we are now in the lower 48 and in the middle of the country, there will be no excuses! Check out the [Ice Wolf web site](#) for photos.

Greg Anthony '01

I am no longer Recruiting with the National Guard. Instead, I have taken a job training and supervising all of the new recruits that come into the Guard from the Johnstown Area. It is a lot less stress. I am also applying for Flight School to be an Apache Pilot here in Johnstown. Kristy still works for CTC at IUP's weapons of mass destruction program. No kids yet, just working on our addition!

Shawnda Whittenberger '01

I am teaching 6th-8th grade at Avondale School District in Phoenix Arizona where I have created an elective called Exploring the Universe (please don't tell if there are any copyrights with IUP's version!). I am teaching a little astronomy, but I really got the idea from the course I took with Mrs. Sutton ("NASA and the Internet") so it's more about space exploration. We are flying a mission at the Arizona Challenger Space Center. It is called Rendezvous with a Comet. I'm really excited and my kids are gonna love it. All of the students in my class chose the elective, so they really want to be there every day! Also, we are competing in the Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge. I don't know if you've heard of it, but we are creating a "new" generation International Space Station. The grand prize is a trip to Houston with a behind-the-scenes tour of NASA facilities. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. At the competition, we will get to meet some astronauts!

Christa Ziegler '01

I'm still at Boston University, working on my dissertation in Chemical Paleocyanography in the Tropical and Equatorial Pacific Ocean, and have hopes of graduating in December 2006. I did a 3-month internship with ExxonMobil this past summer (in the Exploration Company) down in Houston, TX and received a job offer in return. The way things look right now, I will be a full-time employee with ExxonMobil as soon as I complete my PhD.

Bob Kervin '02

I have been living in Orange County California for about the last year and a half now. I'm slowly but surely plugging away at my masters in geology at California State University Fullerton. I also work as a full time geo with an environmental company named Brown and Caldwell. I should be finishing up my degree in roughly one year, which at that time I hope to go back to the petroleum industry. Beyond that though, theres not a whole lot new since last year. After growing up in Pennsylvania its just sometimes hard to put up with this consistent 75 degree weather! All sarcasm aside though, I really do miss the good old IUP days.

Heather Rogers-Kline '03

Heather Rogers-Kline has had two popular geology articles published in a local newsmagazine, the Laurel Mountain Post. Her first article was titled: The Iceman Cometh and it focused on the local glacial geology of Pennsylvania. This article can be found on page 17 of the archived Winter 2005 issue, available as a .pdf download [here](#). Heather's second article was entitled The "Wonder Years" of Coal Mining in Pennsylvania and can be found on page 16 of the archived Spring 2005 issue of the Laurel Mountain Post, available as a .pdf download [here](#). Heather recently accepted a teaching position at Fauquier County Schools in Virginia.

Charlie Burger '04

I am working for Mountain Research, LLC, a A small to medium sized environmental consulting company here in Altoona which just became a completely employee owned firm. My title is Environmental Technician. Things are going rather well. I received my first raise after only 6 months — Strat class has definitely paid off!!! I'm using a good bit of my Hydro class too. Logging wells is great fun!!

Paul McCarthy '04

Starting in Fall 2005, I will be attending graduate school at Queen's University in Belfast, UK. I will be studying environmental engineering with a thesis in geophysics. Julie will be going with me, if not for the company, at least to keep me in-line!

Sammi Jo Cooper '05

I just wanted to pass on some wonderful news to you. As you know, I accepted a job a few weeks ago as a part time 9th grade Earth and Space Science teacher at Franklin Regional High School but on Wednesday there was a last minute resignation at the middle school and I was called in for another interview. I got the job! I will now be teaching full time 8th grade physical science at Franklin Regional Middle School starting in the Fall of 2005.

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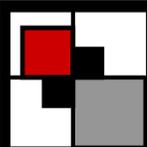
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2004 Regional Trip: Florida and the Bahamas



In May 2004, Geoscience Professor Steve Hovan traveled down the east coast with a group of 12 IUP undergraduate students to explore and study clastic and carbonate beach processes. They spent a week exploring and trenching barrier islands of Maryland and the Outer Banks, followed by a brief stopover at Cape Canaveral on their way down to the Florida Keys. For the next week, they almost braved 20ft choppy seas to snorkel Florida Bay, but in the end, opted for the much more stable environment of the ancient Key Largo Limestone in quarries and along road cuts. For their final week, they flew over to Andros Island, Bahamas. The Forfar Biological Field Station served as a base camp for snorkeling adventures along the barrier reef and studies of classic carbonate environments such as the famous oolitic shoals of Joulter's Cay, oceanic blue holes, tidal flats and mangrove swamps.

[\[Click here for more photos\]](#)

2005 Regional Trip: The American Southwest



Geoscience Professors Karen Rose Cercone & Jon Lewis combined their expertise in stratigraphy and extensional tectonics to create a new version of the Southwest trip. After touring the usual stops in the Four Corners region (Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, etc), Dr. Lewis led the group to several new parts of Death Valley (Mosaic Canyon is seen in the photo) and then onward to the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada where they studied volcanic and tectonic features around Mono Lake and Big Pine. From there, the group explored Lehman Caverns, Zion, Bryce and Arches before heading home to IUP. Six IUP students kept an internet journal of their travels — we set a new IUP record for number of laptops on a regional trip (5).

[\[Click here for our internet journal\]](#)

The next regional trip in 2006 will be run by Professor Michael Poage and will focus on the Northern Rockies and Yellowstone. If you can take off a few weeks in August, please consider enrolling — especially if you are an earth science educator!

Mark this date on your 2006 calendars! Geoscience Day will be Friday, April 28. The annual Geoscience Banquet will be held that night at Luigi's Restaurant in Clymer.

Student Research: SPLAT – South Pacific Latitudinal Transect



During Spring, 2005, Dr. Steve Hovan and sophomore Geoscience student Matthew Bolyn set sail for the high seas of the South Pacific aboard a 267ft research vessel, the R/V Melville. For the next 5 weeks they endured 90 knots winds, 40 foot seas, and the wrath of Typhoon Percy to help collect geophysical survey data (multichannel seismic, 12 kHz echosounding, and SEABEAM swath mapping) and sedimentary piston cores in large areas of the Southern Pacific Ocean south of Tahiti and east of New Zealand. From these data we hope to learn more about the paleoceanographic and paleoclimatic conditions in the southern hemisphere associated with the Earth's transition from warm polar climates in the Paleogene through the Cenozoic development of Antarctic ice. For some wonderful pictures of the South Pacific, [click here.](#)

Student Research: Earthquakes of Costa Rica

In October, 2005, Dr. Jonathan Lewis and student Adam Boozer of the Geoscience Department presented a coauthored poster entitled "Strain above subducting topography: What do earthquakes in Costa Rica tell us?" at a conference in Price, Utah. The meeting, [a Penrose Conference](#), was organized and sponsored by the Geological Society of America, the British Sedimentological Research Group of the Geological Society of London, and the International Association of Sedimentologists.

The theme of this focused meeting was the geology of tectonic boundaries where volcanic chains have collided, or are currently colliding, with continents. Of the ~50 participants from around the world, which included only a handful of students, Adam was the lone undergraduate student. The meeting organizers were pleased that Adam was an active participant and they even helped defray some of his expenses. Adam was similarly pleased when many of the seemingly basic questions that he formulated during talks were asked by scientists at the meeting!

The penultimate day of the meeting was spent in the field looking at the geology in and around Arches National Park. This was Adam's first trip west of the Mississippi and seeing rocks very much like those we have in western PA, except without any vegetation covering them up, was quite surprising to him. Indeed even many of the well-traveled meeting participants found the geology of the Colorado Plateau to be both scientifically exciting and breathtakingly beautiful.

For those of you wondering about the results of the alumni questionnaire we sent out last year at this time, we've attached the results [here](#). The Geoscience Department used the questionnaire results as part of its required review by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. We're delighted to report that the department was given a very positive review from our two outside evaluators. We are currently in the process of using what we learned about ourselves to completely redesign our curriculum for increased flexibility and deeper involvement of our undergraduate students in cutting-edge research.

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