Letter from Department Head

Dear Alumni:

Welcome to this year’s edition of Upper Crust, which may be the thickest one yet! I won’t delay you too much from getting to the good stuff, but there are few things that I wanted to chat about briefly.

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you who were able to make it to town for our Centennial Celebration, which included a full range of activities that took place April 25-28. Among the highlights were a spirited alumni roundtable discussion, chaired admirably by Todd Stephenson, Jennifer Loos, and Steve Holland; an engaging talk by author Simon Winchester; a celebratory dinner attended by some 200 people; our annual John L. Rich lecture presented by noted geochronologist Samuel Bowring of MIT; a riverboat dinner cruise; and field trips. I hope that those of you who attended enjoyed the opportunities to reconnect with faculty and old friends, and to get a sense firsthand of how we are doing. I know that many of you were amazed to see a campus that is virtually unrecognizable if you haven’t been here in the last five years, let alone 48 years, which was the case for David Sommers (BS 1959). Many thanks to Warren Huff for his tirelessness in overseeing the planning for this wonderful event.

Our faculty, students, and alumni had numerous notable achievements and milestones during the past year, many of which are reported in Upper Crust. But I did want to offer up a few highlights of the year, albeit in rapid-fire fashion.....alumnus Thomas Klekamp and his wife Amber established our newest endowment fund, the Thomas C. and Amber W. Klekamp Student Travel Fund to support the research travel of undergraduate and graduate stu-
Letter from Department Head (Continued)

and upper-level students, and is heavily field-oriented. We advertised the sequence last summer with a letter sent to all incoming freshmen in Arts and Sciences, and with brief presentations and picture-laden pamphlets handed out at freshman-orientations sessions. Although it is too early to fully assess how we did during the first year, I can already report that we saw more interest among students in becoming geology majors than we’ve seen in many years, including several declared majors among the freshmen. For the coming year, we will be tweaking things a little based on lessons learned in the first year, but there already appears to be little doubt that this is a valuable new addition to our curriculum.

Planning has begun to move forward for the 2009 North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC), which we will be hosting on campus at UC. We have now firmed up the actual dates of the meeting, June 20-26, 2009, and we have contacted a broad range of paleontological societies, as well as faculty at neighboring schools, about helping in the organization of the meeting. We look forward to a wide range of activities, including symposia devoted to cutting-edge topics such as exopaleontology (the search for ancient life on other planets) and molecular paleobiology; a diverse roster of field trips; plenary sessions focused on commemorating the bicentennial of Charles Darwin’s birth and the sesquicentennial of the publication of The Origin of Species; and a slate of “fun” activities, including a banquet in the spectacular rotunda of the Cincinnati Museum Center.

I am very pleased to report that, at the start of the academic year, Kate Cosgrove came aboard as our departmental financial administrator. Given Kate’s acumen with electronic management tools in general and, especially, with the complex online accounting system that UC now uses, the management of our financial resources is in very good hands. With Alice McDade now well-ensconced as our graduate secretary, we have a terrific front-office staff in place that will hopefully carry us well into the future!

At the same time that he was working to plan the Centennial celebration, Warren was actively collecting material for this year’s Upper Crust. Many thanks to Warren for everything he does to help us maintain contact with all of you, and to our graphic designer, Tim Phillips, for putting this newsletter, as well as many other items that play integral roles in our mission.

Even though our Centennial celebration is now behind us, I hope that many of you will still want to pay us a visit. Please don’t be scarce, and let us know if you are planning to be in the area. And, if you are going to next Fall’s Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, please join us on Monday evening for our alumni party!

Warm regards,

Arnie Miller

Faculty & Staff News

Thomas J. Algeo

A major focus of my research during the past three years has been the Permian-Triassic boundary (PTB). My goal is to better understand the underlying causes of this event horizon through multiproxy chemostratigraphic analysis of key boundary sections in China, Vietnam, India, New Zealand, Canada, and elsewhere. I also have an NSF-funded project to apply new isotopic systems (Mo, Os) to the Frasnian/Famennian and Devonian/Carboniferous boundaries. Folks interested in these projects should visit my website: http://homepages.uc.edu/~algeo/. Anyone interested in discussing them can email me at: Thomas.Algeo@uc.edu

Carlton E. Brett

By all counts, 2006 was one of the most exciting and rewarding years of my life. I continued studies of Devonian cycles in Germany with colleagues from the Senckenberg Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. This has resulted in a cooperative research project to document cycles and bioevents and compare them rigorously with those in North America. I was one of three earth scientists, globally to receive an Alexander Humboldt Research Prize at ceremonies held in Bamberg, Germany in March, 2006 and again in Berlin during early July. I did initial fieldwork on Devonian sequence stratigraphy with colleagues from Senckenberg in March and continued that field study during a six-week stay in Frankfurt during July and August. During this time we established a cooperative working group to examine the sequence stratigraphy, microfacies faunal changes, and palynofacies of the Middle Devonian succession in the Eifel region, the Sauerland, and Kellerwald areas. A large number of samples collected for microfacies have been processed and are currently under study. This very generous award will permit me to make several further trips to Germany for further collaborative research.

My German colleagues and I also formulated plans to extend studies of sequence stratigraphy and bioevents to the Lower to Middle Devonian of southwest Morocco. We received a National Geographic Grant to document the taphonomy, stratigraphy, and paleoecology of world-famous Moroccan Devonian trilobite beds. I have recently returned from a fantastically interesting trip to southwestern Morocco. Fifteen people participated, including my New York colleagues, Gordon Baird, George McIntosh, former student Alex Bartholomew,
now professor at SUNY New Paltz, present PhD student Jay Zambito, and Brenda Hanke and Glenn Storrs of the Cincinnati Museum Center, as well as colleagues from Germany, and Morocco. This international collaboration and synthesis of many specialties produced unexpected wealth of results. We have detailed data on nearly 1000 trilobites and have measured and correlated five sections of strata over nearly 70 kilometers. Fossil, rock and geochemical collections of nearly 600 lbs were retrieved and are being shipped to laboratories at Cincinnati and Germany for further analyses. Beyond our expectations, new sections were explored, resulting in discovery of a large (~1 meter) head of a very ancient fossil arthrodire (armored fish) and the first discovery of Devonian blastoids and edrioasteroids from northern Africa.

In a completely different realm of research, we were very busy with our SSETI project (Shelf and Slope Experimental Taphonomy Initiative), a long term team project on preservation patterns and processes in modern marine environments now coordinated, in part, by former doctoral student Karla Parsons Hubbard of Oberlin. In 1993, we placed a large number of replicate samples of gastropod and bivalve shells, sea urchins, crabs and various types of wood on the sea bottom at many locations along shallow to deep transects at Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas and on the Louisiana and Texas shelf/slope in the Gulf of Mexico. In January, 2006, aided by UC graduate students Austin Hendy and Chad Ferguson, we returned to re-sample Bahamas transect to after 13 years with cooperation from the RV Johnson Sea-Link, a manned submersible run out of Harbor Branch Marine Labs in Florida. Later, in August to September 2006, working with UC graduate students Kate Bulinski, Devin Buick, and Brad Deline, we returned to several sites in the Gulf of Mexico where, again working with the submersible Johnson Sea-Link; in contrast to the extraordinary hurricane season of 2005, the Gulf was dead calm in 2006 and we had unprecedented success, retrieving nearly all of our sites and several that had been deployed even earlier in 1991. We were stunned that our sample arrays at over 300’ in the Gulf had been tossed around by Hurricane Rita and by the discovery of a giant pillar of methanogenic carbonate akin to the Cretaceous Teepee Buttes of Colorado, studied by one of our colleagues (and former PhD student) Karla Parsons Hubbard. All told, we successfully retrieved and analyzed samples from some 30 sites stations. Before the year was over we had processed nearly 3000 shells for evidence of encrustation and bioerosion yielding over 200,000 data points. The net result: after 13 years on the sea bottom, exposed shallow water shells are more than 100% encrusted and some are breaking down into fragments; surprisingly, our shells below about 100 m are nearly as pristine as the day they went down. We are in the process of analyzing an enormous database ranging more than a decade: by far the longest running taphonomic experiment of its kind.

In June 2006, with Arnie Miller and several of our UC students, I attended the Second International Paleontological Congress in Beijing, China. I also participated in field studies of the Devonian in the spectacular tower karst of Guilin and learned of more similarities of sea level and bioevents in yet another and fantastic venue. The meeting was very interesting and we even had a stroll on the famed Great Wall.

Former graduate student Pat McLaughlin, Warren Huff and I, are moving ahead with NSF funded research on Silurian sequence stratigraphy in eastern Laurentia. Especially because of Pat’s extraordinary efforts we now have detailed correlations of all Silurian drill cores and major outcrops in Ohio and in a number of sections in Kentucky and Indiana. New bentonites have been identified and are being processed. We are working to link with carbon isotopic studies of Brad Kramer and Matt Saltzmann at Ohio State University and through this joint work we are moving toward intercontinental correlations with classic sections in Great Britain and Gotland, Sweden.

On other fronts I am working on Cambrian cycles and trilobite taphonomy in Utah with student Tony Kramer in

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“...discovery of a large head of a very ancient fossil arthrodire (armored fish)....”

Carl Brett on lecturing on Centennial Field Trip.
Brett (Continued)

Utah. In May I worked with Tony in the Drum Mountains on linking paleontology of cycles with gamma ray and magnetosusceptibility studies with geophysicists Sue Halgedahl and Rich Garrard of University of Utah. We squeezed in a good deal and learned a lot. I am wrapping up work on taphofacies of Jurassic ammonite beds in England with Peter Allison. We are bringing these old projects to closure and have already submitted a couple of papers on these topics.

Several graduate students also brought their projects to closure and are off to new lives. Pat McLaughlin, who defended his dissertation in May has had a temporary teaching position (filling in for another former student, Jeff Trop, already on sabbatical!) at Bucknell University but has recently accepted a permanent position as Paleozoic stratigrapher for the Wisconsin Geological Survey.

Alex Bartholomew completed and defended his dissertation on Devonian sequence stratigraphy and paleoecology; he also accepted a tenure track position at State University College of New York at New Paltz where he seems to be flourishing.

Sean Cornell, also intending to finish a dissertation on Ordovician basin analysis soon, is in a first year of a tenure track professorship at Pennsylvania State University at Shippensburg, PA.

Jessica Bazeley, who will soon complete her masters thesis, accepted a position as assistant collections manager at Yale’s Peabody Museum. And PhD student Austin Hendy, who is jointly advised by Arnie Miller and myself, has just accepted a two-year post-doc at Yale, as well. Mike DeSantis will finish his PhD this year and he will then have an NSF post-doc with Warren Huff and myself.

New PhD students Jay Zambito and Brad Deline are also making good headway. Jay just received word that his grant proposal, submitted to the Paleontological Society, was judged the best of all 69 proposals this year. Masters thesis candidate, Tony Kramer received a two-year fellowship for K-12 teaching internship through the STRP program, an NSF sponsored program to enhance high school education in science and engineering. Tony has made good headway in developing creative methods for teaching science in secondary schools. New masters student Trisha Smrecak is working on an exciting project that will bridge our studies of modern encrusters in the SSETI project with those of Ordovician fossils in the Cincinnati area. All in all, I couldn’t be more thrilled with the success of our outstanding students.

Do you have any recollections of field trips, social events, classroom experiences or other experiences during your UC days that you would like to share with your alumni colleagues? Send them to Warren D. Huff, Dept. of Geology, UC, Cincinnati, 45221 and we’ll include them in next year’s issue.

Carl E. Brett - Publications 2006-2007


Hello Everyone!

It was good to visit with you all during the centennial! MY very best wishes for a great summer.

Until next time.

Au Revoir ■

Sandi Cannell

For those of you who missed talking to me in the Department, I retired last June. I have been very busy since then. Mostly enjoying myself. Don and I spend time every month at our cabin near Lake Cumberland where life is peaceful and very relaxing. Don enjoys getting away from work and I enjoy winding down from all of my volunteer activities. I can be seen answering questions at the Flying Pig Marathon, judging costumes at the Jingle Bell Run, serving Saturday Morning breakfast for my church group, delivering lunch on legs Over-the-Rhine, or playing my Dulcimer at Bethesda North Hospital. I belong to the Cincinnati Dulcimer Society and the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimer Society. We play all over town. I recently saw geology students at the Natural History Museum when I played for their Appalachian Days Festival and hope to see more of you at the Appalachian Festival at Coney Island.

The following article appeared in the recent issue of Dulcimer Doin’s:

While on vacation last summer Don and I were traveling south on I-75 south of Berea, Kentucky when we came

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Carl E. Brett - Publications 2006-2007

PAPERS (continued)


Guidebook Articles:


upon a tragic accident. All south bound lanes of I-75 had been closed while fire fighters were putting out the fire of a motor home (there were no personal injuries).

There were two young children in the van in front of us and I could see they were getting restless as we were speaking to their father. To make the best of a terrible situation I got out my dulcimer and started playing children’s songs. The children and I sang songs until it was time to move on!

Craig Dietsch

The past year has been full of India, teaching, good times with Dream Team II, and other happenings. In June 2006, I was already back in India with Lewis Owen, my graduate students Becky Reverman and Byron Adams, Lewis’ students Jason Dortch and Sarah Laxton, and Lewis’s colleague from Montana State, Ulli Kamp. We spent a week in Ladakh exploring the Indus Suture Zone where blueschists and ultra-high pressure rocks of the Tso Moriri Crystalline Complex (subducted to over 100 kilometers!) are exposed and Tso (Lake) Moriri itself, which occupies a Neogene extensional basin. More days were spent in Lahul with Byron, hiking up side valleys off the Chandra River to collect more samples for (U-Th)/He apatite thermochronology. Hiking far into the Kulti Valley was particularly enjoyable with wonderful, Hobbit-esque scenery. The outcomes for this trip were several.

Byron completed his M.S. degree — he successfully defended in late May. Byron research was truly groundbreaking for the Department: he was the first to combine apatite thermochronology with cosmogenic surface exposure dating of strath terraces. His data constrain the exhumation history of Lahul and make an important contribution to our understanding of landscape evolution there. Byron’s thesis was recognized by McMicken College as the Most Outstanding M.S. Thesis. Congratulations, Byron!

Becky is going to focus her research on the P-T-t evolution of the ductile Zildat shear zone and the brittle Ribil Fault that likely control the exhumation of blueschists of the Indus Suture Zone and control formation of the Tso Moriri dome (Becky’s creative ideas). We are going back to India in just a few days with the second running of the Geology of the Himalaya field course: we will be seven undergraduates, three graduates, and faculty colleagues from Purdue and Mexico. Come join us in 2009. My teaching highlight was a spring break fieldtrip to New England. We were in NY, CT, RI, MA, NH, and VT seeing evidence in the rocks for the Taconic, Acadian, and Alleghenian orogenies. Camping at Promised Land State Park in northeastern PA in 20 inches of snow and a nighttime temperature of -6 degrees Farenheit was…cold (wonderful stars, too).

The Department’s Centennial was great – thanks to Arnie Miller for asking me to introduce Simon Winchester for his talk which led to spending the afternoon and evening with Simon — a great bloke, as they say. Also, thanks to Warren Huff for inviting Sam Bowring of MIT to give the John L. Rich Lecture talk during the Centennial. I learned that Bowring’s lab is producing accurate U-Pb zircon ages as young as 600,000 years! Incredible. Collaborating with Sam to date young monazites from Ladakh is an important part of our latest proposal to NSF.

This summer I’ll be separating apatite from samples collected in Ladakh as part of my University Research Council Summer Faculty Fellowship. I’ll be teaching a new tectonics, mineralogy, and petrology course for majors in their second-ish year in the fall – don’t worry, we will look at 100 thin sections.

Markus Fuchs

Dr. Markus Fuchs is an assistant professor of geology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, and is spending the year on a post-doc leave with support from the Max Kade Foundation to work with Lewis Owen. Markus writes:

Coming from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, I started my one-year sabbatical in the Geology Department at UC in March 2007. The overall support from the faculty, staff and students of the department made it possible that a ‘European Freshman’ like me could easily find his place in this extremely enjoyable atmosphere of the ‘New World’.

Together with Prof. Owen, several projects are already in progress, all dealing with the temporal determination of environmental change during the young
Quaternary. In California, the Santa-Barbara project deals with the reconstruction of recent fault activity and its effect upon topographic development. Based upon optical stimulated luminescence, sediments that were redistributed due to fault activity are being dated to constrain the timing of fault movement. Also situated in California, but in the semi-desert environment of the Saline Valley, pulses of alluvial fan activity can tell stories about past climate conditions, which lead to a better understanding of climate change and its driving forces. To date alluvial fan activity, surface exposure dating is applied using the cosmogenic nuclide 10Be. A third project located in Panama deals again with the determination of fault activity using luminescence dating techniques. Here, knowledge about past fault activity in the vicinity of the newly build Panama Canal is of great importance for the Canal’s safety.

Warren Huff

Teaching

This year I have continued to teach two courses per quarter plus I have added a third, distance learning (DL) sections of Geol. 101-102-103. The DL course began with 30 registered students and has grown to 90 in 103. The workload turns out to be non-trivial, but I attribute some of that to a beginner’s learning curve. In addition to podcasting my class lectures, I have worked very successfully with the software folks in the FTRC to enable audiovisual communication during evening online live chat sessions.

Research

I continue as co-PI on a NSF grant with Carl Brett: High resolution sequence and event stratigraphy of mid Silurian strata in eastern Laurentia and Avalonia: 2005-2008. That project is moving along well with some assistance from Pat McLaughlin and Mike DeSantis. I have several publications to report for the past year and the citations are listed below, including several in press manuscripts.

I have two PhD students working under my supervision, Ozlem Toprak and Brian Nicklen. Ozlem is making good progress in her research and she expects to complete her work this year. Brian has tackled a research project focusing on zircon age dating of Guadalupian bentonites from the Marathon Basin. There are three GSSPs with very poor age control in that section. Our plan is for Brian to learn to do the age dating himself in Scott Samson’s lab at Syracuse. In preparation for this Brian attended a short course on geochronology at Oxford (UK) last summer.

Service

At the department level, I continue as alumni liaison and editor of our annual newsletter. This role included my participation in working with the Geography Department in planning the centennial celebration covered elsewhere in this issue. I also serve on the Undergraduate Policy Committee.

At the college level I am a member of the A&S Distance Learning Committee (still with ad hoc status but destined to become a standing committee in the fall).

At the university level I serve on the Blackboard Advisory Committee (VP Fred Siff, Chair), The Great Beginnings Steering Committee (ICL) (Pamela Person, Chair) and the CET&L Advisory Committee (Wayne Hall, Chair).

At the professional level I am serving a three-year term as secretary for the Clay Minerals Society. I am an associate editor of Clays & Clay Minerals and also of American Mineralogist. In addition, I was a co-presenter at GSA last fall, along with Tom Olszewski (Texas A&M), of a Paleontological Society short course entitled, Recent Developments in Geochronology.
Huff (Continued)

Publications


Su Wen-Bo, Li Zhi-ming, Shi Xiao-ying, Zhou Hong-rui, Huang Si-jii, Liu Xiao-ming, Chen Xiao-yu, Zhang, Ji-en, Yang Hong-mei, Jia Liu-jing, Huff, W.D., and Ettensohn, F.R., 2006, K-bentonites and black shales from the Wufeng-Longmaxi formations (Early Paleozoic, South China) and Xiamaling formation (Early Neoproterozoic, North China) – implications for tectonic processes during two important transitions: Earth Science Frontiers, v. 13, No. 6, p. 82-95.


J. Barry Maynard

Two big efforts this year – sulfur isotopes as tracers of the Archean atmosphere and sources of lead in drinking water. On the sulfur isotope project, I’ve been working with a group at the Carnegie (see photo) analyzing the 33 and 36 isotopes of sulfur from Archean paleosols using laser fluorination. The analysis is exacting (I can do 4 or 5 a day), but we now have a robust data set and are writing up the results. We consistently see mass-independent S in the ancient soils, indicative of an oxygen-free atmosphere, which we expected, but also with consistently negative “cap delta” values, telling us that the S is transferred from the atmosphere to the soil as sulfate.

For Pb in drinking water, David Mast of Physics and I are finishing up a big project on relative contributions of plumbing components. It turns out that brass faucets and water meters can be significant sources of Pb. Typical brass has 4 or 5 % Pb as separate inclusions. As the brass corrodes, these Pb “pockets” are released at irregular intervals to give high Pb detects in water samples (see backscatter SEM image – the bright white spots are metallic Pb).

Dave Meyer

First, the really big news of the year for me! On March 4, 2007, Kani and I became the proud grandparents of Bailey Jonathan Meyer, born in Brooklyn, NY, to Emilou and Ross! We visited during spring break and they were home for two weeks in May. He is such a great joy to us! Back to last June, when I expected to teach a course for our new Masters of Teaching Science program, and stayed in Cincinnati when many from the paleo group journeyed to China for the big paleo conference. It turned out the class had insufficient enrollment to be taught, so I used the time to work on the Cincinnatian book. Progress has steadily
continued through the year, and Richard Davis and I are hoping to turn it over to the publishers this summer. I also had time for fieldwork with Ben Dattilo on our Rafinesquina research, so it was back to Stonelick Creek, one of the best natural outcrops in the region where so many exciting discoveries have been made in the Cincinnatian. The results of our work were presented at a poster session this past April at a regional GSA meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, and also to Dry Dredgers in May. The Dredgers are always a helpful and critical audience for anything about the local fossils!

During the Autumn quarter I taught Age of Dinosaurs and helped lead the 4-Day Fieldtrip with a great day on Lake Cumberland. In the Winter quarter I organized Paleoseminar around the diverse works of Dolf Seilacher, and got quite a lot of work done on the book. It was wonderful to see many alumni and friends of the Department for the Centennial. We now begin planning for NAPC in 2009. This Spring I have had my two sections of Coral Reefs. This summer I will be returning to Curaçao for the Miami Univ. coral reef ecology course for NAPC in 2009. This Spring I have had my two sections of Coral Reefs. This summer I will be returning to Curaçao for the Miami Univ. coral reef ecology course with one of our students as well as helping grad student Liz Dame with her Diadema research. I am looking forward to our Maine trip in August, and some good boating!

**Arnie Miller**

Yes, yes, I know that year after year, I keep mentioning Principles of Paleontology, 3rd Edition, co-authored with Michael Foote (University of Chicago), but I promise that this will be the last year; because it has been PUBLISHED (August 2006, but with a 2007 copyright, W.H. Freeman and Company). The end game was quite something, and I learned a lot about the book business, which is very different from publishing research papers. Remarkably, we went from finalization of our manuscript all the way to a printed book in about five months, and this involved everything from copy editing, to drafting of artwork, to acquisition of photos and copyright permissions, to assembly of “front matter” (fancy trade lingo for table of contents, preface, etc.) and “back matter” (glossary, index, etc.), to assembly of galley proofs, to multiple rounds of corrections on everything, etc. I shudder to think about how long all of this would have taken without the modern tools available for electronic publication and communication, but it’s all done!

I’ve actually started working on another book (NOT a textbook), but, this time, I think I’ll refrain from discussing it until it is published.……

Last year, I mentioned a set of developing collaborations with colleagues in China, and a then-impending trip to China, to chair a symposium on Geobiodiversity at the June 2006 International Paleontological Convention (IPC) in China. The meeting was terrific, and the symposium went quite well, including a plenary presentation by Carl Brett, along with 1.5-days worth of talks from a broadly international contingent. All of my graduate students presented talks at IPC, and we then traveled to Nanjing, at the invitation of Chinese paleontologist Rong Jia-Yu, where I presented a lecture on the study of Phanerozoic diversity trends to colleagues and students at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology (I don’t know whether it was any good, but I can safely say that it was the lengthiest talk of my life…). We also had a very nice roundtable discussion at Nanjing about the Ordovician Radiation, during which several Chinese colleagues presented summaries to us of their recent findings, and this now appears to be leading to meaningful collaboration. A grant proposal to fund the beginning of this work has been submitted by my colleague Fan Junxuan to the National Science Foundation of China; we will be exploring ways to acquire American funding as well. In the meantime, our manuscript for the Geological Journal on the history of marine biodiversity in South China, mentioned last year, is now in press.

My graduate students are progressing very well, and they continue to inspire me with their remarkable creativity and energy. Austin Hendy (co-advised by Carl Brett) and Chad Ferguson are nearing completion of their Ph.D. degrees, and have several papers published, in press, or accepted pending final revisions. Next September, Austin, who has focused mainly on the Cenozoic history of biodiversity in the New Zealand region and beyond, will be moving to Yale University; he has been awarded the Gaylord Donnelley postdoctoral position in the Institute for Biospheric Studies. As of this writing, Chad, who is working on the use of the subfossil record in coastal marine settings to diagnose recent anthropogenic changes, is interviewing for two different academic positions for next year. Kate Bulinski is progressing well on her Ph.D., which is focused on the assessment of numerical properties of communities and their relationship to the diagnosis of broader scale, global transitions in biodiversity. Kate is currently revising her first peer-reviewed paper based on this work (we anticipate that the paper will be accepted after minor revision), and she just published another paper based on a side project conducted at Friday Harbor marine labs on aspects of the behavioral ecology of hermit crabs. Devin Buick is really pushing the outside of the analytical envelope in his ongoing Ph.D. research on the history of the...
Miller (Continued)

prolific bivalve genus Cucullaea. He is developing an entirely new set of methods to analyze and, especially, to visualize morphological variation in ways that far transcend Cucullaea; these methods are likely to inspire a wide spectrum of paleontologists and biologists who are interested in the morphological variations of individuals.

Vanessa has completed her first year at Tufts University, where she wants to major in economics, even after discovering that she will have to use Calculus from time to time in some of her work. She is also a member of the Women's basketball team and was getting significant playing time until she blew out her knee in the fifth game of season. She is well on the road to recovery from ACL reconstruction surgery, however, and should be cleared to play in time for fall practice. Nate just completed tenth grade, which included AP courses in U.S. History and Latin, and he is currently learning to drive (!!!). Mary Jo's work as a school social worker in the Cincinnati Public School system is evolving to include an increasing role as an advocate for the growing number of Spanish-speaking families in the system. Given her background, this is work that she finds particularly interesting and rewarding. Chico (our Jack Russell Terrier) continues to chase the squirrels, not to mention the gentlemen who are currently ripping up our street whilst putting in new gas pipelines.

David Nash

Nash gratefully handed over the mantle of Director of Graduate Studies to Barry Maynard this year. He worked with Mike Menard to set up our new beautifully-equipped computer lab with PCs and Macs in Room 601. Despite Nash’s reticence about foreign travel to non “American-speaking” countries, in July, 2006 he traveled to Peru to visit his doctoral student, Ana Londoño, near Moquegua in extreme southern Peru. On his way to Moquegua, Nash made a side trip to visit Machu Picchu (see photograph) and the Inca structures around Cusco. He was amazed by the workmanship and scale of the stonework at Sacsayhuaman. As described in his “blurb” in last year’s newsletter, Ana is studying and modeling the erosion of pre-Columbian agricultural terraces (see accompanying photograph) in the hyper-arid environment of southern Peru (immediately adjacent to the Atacama desert). Nash says the experience has opened his eyes to true aridity and that the Mojave desert is a veritable jungle in comparison.

So many alums and friends of the department have stopped by to say “Hey!” to Nash during their visits to the department that he is afraid to list them for fear he will mortally offend by omitting someone. He was very touched and proud that so many of his former and present graduate students made it to the department’s centennial. Jim Beaujon, Rick Bullard, Kris Fields, Bruce Patterson, and Mary Riestenberg all attended the festivities.
Nash (Continued)

During the coming academic year, Nash will work with Ana and Rick to finish their doctoral degrees. He is also looking forward to Geomorphology once again being part of the required undergraduate curriculum for geology majors (and increasing from 3 to 4 credit hours to boot!).

Lewis Owen

Lewis Owen continued his research on the Quaternary geology and geomorphology of tectonically active mountain belts and their forelands during the 2006-2007 academic year. This involved fieldwork in northern India, Tibet, the Atlas Mountains, the Scottish Isles and the western USA. He received a grant from the NSF to hold a workshop on mountain glaciation and landscape evolution in Tibet, which involved a field excursion across the Tibetan Plateau during September 2006. Some of his research in the western USA was partially support by the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program. This work involves examining slip rates for the central and southern San Jacinto Fault Zone, southern California to assess the role of this fault in deformation along the San Andreas transform plate boundary. During 2006-2007, Lewis published nine research papers appearing in the Journal of the Geological Society, London, the Geological Society of America Bulletin, Quaternary International, Quaternary Science Reviews, and the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. Copies of some of these papers can be seen on his website at http://www.uc.edu/geology/faculty/owen.html.

Paul Potter

Another busy year, just as I like it. This year I took one trip to Brazil to work on a paper with a researcher from PETROBRAS, to keep up my Portuguese, to visit friends and to relax. Here in the U.S. I attended two meetings of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (the national meeting in Houston and the sectional meeting in Buffalo) and started some carbonate research on the Mississippian Salem – St. Louis Limestones along the Cumberland River in western Kentucky with members of the Kentucky and Illinois Geological Surveys. I published “Big Rivers Worldwide” with Kenneth Hamblin of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and also the second edition of “Exploring the Geology of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Region.” The Big Rivers volume was published by the Brigham Young University Press and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky volume by the Kentucky Geological Survey. The “Exploring” volume has been my major task for the last two years.

In addition, at the suggestion of colleagues at the Kentucky Geological Survey, I bought a Garmin GPS receiver and have been going around Kentucky obtaining the longitude and latitude of the many field pictures I have taken of Kentucky since the 1960’s. These are to be added as a separate layer to the digital version of the more than seven hundred geologic quadrangle maps that cover Kentucky. The is a good example of a “fun project that serves a most useful purpose.”

In the coming 2007-2008 school year I want to finish a paper on global Miocene tectonic events, publish the study of the Mississippian limestones on the Cumberland River, finish a paper on small valleys in the coastal escarpment in Brazil and, with Barry Maynard and Warren Huff, publish our “Timeline for Mudstones,” a history of the study of and the contributors to mudstone research in the late 1500’s. I am also helping Barry and Mark Bowers of the UC College of Engineering complete a treatise on ores in mudstones.

I much appreciate the support of both the department and the University for these opportunities.

Paul Potter received the “Best Unpaid Employee” award of the Kentucky Geological Survey for 2007!
Which of your UC professors had the most profound effect upon your education? Give us a few anecdotes and we’ll include them in next year’s issue.

**DR. E. LUCY BRAUN**  
**Crusader for Conservation**  
1889 - 1971

Between 1910-14, she earned an undergraduate degree, a master’s degree in geology and a Ph. D. in botany at UC. She also taught geology, botany and ecology at UC until 1948, when she retired to devote more time to research.

The first woman president of the Ecology Society of America, a Natural Areas Bill passed in the Ohio Legislature in 1970 incorporating many of her ideas. She also led efforts to acquire and preserve many natural areas in Ohio.

Dr. Braun lived her entire life with her elder sister, Annette Braun, the first woman to earn a doctorate at UC in 1911 in zoology. The Braun sisters lived in Walnut Hills, then in the 1940’s moved to Mount Washington surrounded by undisturbed natural woods.

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**John “Cliff” Lee (MS ’79)**

The following announcement appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer on January 18, 2007:

John Clifford Hodges Lee III, known to all as Cliff, passed away Sunday night in a sudden way, at 56. (see 20 for complete announcement).

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Aureal T. Cross (MS ’41, PhD ’43)

Aureal completed his Masters in 1941 and a PhD thesis in 1943 at the University of Cincinnati with J. H. Hoskins on Pennsylvanian age plants from coal-balls. Aureal replaced K. E. Caster, his paleontology mentor, for three and one half years (1946–1949) in the UC Geology Department, and did field mapping for the Ohio Geological Survey during the summers.


Cornelia Kline Riley (BS ’58)

Hi Warren,

Congratulations on one of the more interesting Upper Crust issues. I am particularly fascinated by the Seminar Series (171...) to teach feet-on-the-ground, hands-on-the-outcrop geology. All too often I was more spiritually enriched than intellectually instructed when faced with even simple sequences. The logistics of the course would challenge many, but after noting what great campers your students were last fall, I am sure that even the lesser adaptable will fall in line - or fall out. Best wishes to Sandi.

I found this old photo of Dan Sass and myself from a field-trip circa 1957. Humorous experience? I do not recall one offhand, but on one fieldtrip someone lost the keys to his car. Instantly Mathew (Sam) MacLeod shimmied under the dashboard to hot wire the ignition. I had to suppress laughter when the keys were found - the look on Sam’s face was one of supreme disappointment. Sam was my hero; he could fix anything.

Regards to all,
Lolly

F.D. “Bud” Holland, Jr. (PhD ’58)

As many people know, I have taken over from the late Jim Parks the task of editing his book on the life of our advisor at KU (before he went to Wisconsin in 1948), Doc Laudon. Hurrah!! It is being published by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will be available at the GSA meeting this fall. Look for Bushels of Fossils (The Influential Life of Lowell Robert Laudon (1905-1993)). It’s full of anecdotes of the adventures of this popular and fun-loving prof while teaching at Tulsa, KU and UW and on the numerous related field trips. This is a good read for any stratigrapher or paleontologist.

In addition, since I retired in 1989 I have been working much of the time on Cretaceous shark teeth from North Dakota with two more learned former students. Also, Mardi and I drove with son Del to Alaska in July 2004 and took a cruise up the Inland Passage to Alaska in July 2005 to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. In late October we will attend the reunion of my WWII destroyer-minesweeper shipmates, as we do each year.

Fred Schwartz (BA ’59)

Hi Warren-

We are going to be in Cincinnati in March, but we are going to miss the Centennial in April. We will be going on to D.C. and the east Coast. I recently came across a bit of UC Geology memorabilia and thought that the Department might like to have it for its archives.

I don’t know who did the collage, or how I wound up with it. It was done in the late 1950’s.

Here is a pix and my recollection of who’s who.

Middle left and right might be Mark Schweinfurth (?). I also recognize my own rear end (BS1959) in the picture just below the Flexicalymene meeki. Left center is Irv Bass (BS ~1955) with the chimp who resided in the museum. Lower left is Harvey Sundermann and Dick Durrell and also pix of Harvey? and (unknown) taking pictures of each. On the left is Ken Caster, with one of his teaching assistants. I think that the character in the top right cartoon is supposed to be Dick Durrell leading a road crossing.

Fritz
**Bob French (MS ’61)**

Hi Warren,

It was good to catch up with you last week and I hope that all is well at UC. After our conversation I was snowed in at Golden and spent a couple of days at the USGS library, which was very worthwhile. As mentioned, our company GTL Energy Ltd. (Adelaide, South Australia) is interested in beneficiating low rank coal, mostly lignites from North Dakota, Texas and New Zealand. Each has unique properties and special issues to consider. Re the coal processing, we recently received our second patent, the third Patent Application is being reviewed by the USPO and we hope to submit a fourth within the month, all are assigned to our Australian parent company.

Shall look forward to visiting with you at the next GSA meeting. We live about 75 miles north of Denver but I spend time in Golden where the Hazen labs are located. Perhaps you would care to visit if you have any spare time after GSA?

Best regards,

Bob

**John Pojeta (PhD ’63)**

**CASTER AWARDS**

At the 2006 GSA meetings, several of us decided to establish a CASTER FUND under the general umbrella of the Centennial Fund of the Paleontological Society (PS). The Society will celebrate its centennial in 2008, and by the time of the GSA meeting in that year, PS hopes to raise $250,000 to support student research. Within the Centennial Fund, named funds can be established. If a named fund reaches $10,000, one of the student awards will be called by that name. Each $5,000 above the $10,000 results in an additional student award being called by that name.

As of May 9, 2007, the Caster Fund reached $14,800. In addition a pledge of $1,000 has been made. Thus, in 2008, there will be two Caster Student Awards. The monies came from 28 contributors and ranged from $50 to $2,000.

We encourage all students, friends, and colleagues who remember Ken and Annie to add to the Caster Fund to see if we can reach $20,000 and have three Caster Student Awards. Please send contributions and pledges to: Mark Patzkowski, PS Treasurer, Department of Geosciences, 506 Deike Bldg., Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, U.S.A. brachio@geosc.psu.edu. The PS is a non-profit corporation registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

John Pojeta, Jr.
pojetaj@si.edu

[http://www.paleo.geos.vt.edu/SJG/Caster.html](http://www.paleo.geos.vt.edu/SJG/Caster.html)

**Henry “Hank” Schoch (BA ’66)**

Dear Warren:

Thanks for sending The Upper Crust. It’s great to hear to what’s going on around the Department and to catch up on the whereabouts and doings of old acquaintances. As for me, I’m well into my second retirement now, following ten years of employment as a production planner for a cabinet manufacturer. I keep busy hiking and snowshoeing, volunteering at Colorado National Monument, building furniture, keeping up with the house and yard, spoiling four (soon five) grandkids, taking certification courses in field archeology and, most recently, writing another The Story Behind The Scenery book, my second title in the series. After reading my bio, the editor on the project asked me if I knew Department alumnus Gerry Schaber, with whom she and her ex used to socialize in Flagstaff. Gerry and I were at Old Tech at the same time (he as a grad, and I as an undergrad), so how many degrees of separation is that?

Last summer, Judy and I celebrated our 40th anniversary with a second honey-moon back to Cape Cod and lots of places in-between. We stopped by the Department to say hello, but it was high summer and also lunchtime, so nobody was around. Below is a fairly recent picture of us at the Grand Canyon, where my Park Service career began back in 1967.

This fall, in anticipation of my 65th birthday, I climbed 14,048-foot Handies Peak in the San Juans. I thought it would be a breeze after breezing up 13,300-foot Trico Peak as a warm-up a few weeks earlier, but it was a real grind – plenty steep, and not much air up there. Even so, the views from the summit and my sense of accomplishment were worth the effort, and I look forward to doing more of Colorado’s 14 ers.

You’ve asked for humorous stories, so here are a couple that hark back to a required two-week field trip in June, 1961:

Ken Caster, assisted by Dick Osgood, led a bunch of us in a big loop down to Denton, Texas and back, with lots of stops along the way. Nightly accommodations were varied and rustic. Norm Hester and I shared a pup-tent that belonged to Don Ault, who had opted to go-it-alone in a jungle hammock. A bunch of folks, including Caster, Osgood and Reuben Bullard, occupied a big army surplus pyramid tent. Tom Weaver slept under the stars.
Hank Schoch (continued)

One night, we camped at Queen Wilhelmina State Park in the Ouachita Mountains near Mena, Arkansas. The park is elevated, and the campground was quite exposed. Sometime during the wee hours, the skies opened. It was raining buckets, and there was so much lightning that it was almost continuously light outside. Norm and I awoke immediately and were soon joined by tent-owner Ault, who thought it better to become the third person in his two-person tent than to wait in his hammock for a lightning strike. Strength in numbers, I guess. So there we lay, in whatever minimal protection the little tent afforded, watching the spectacle outside. Through all of this, the big pyramid tent looked like the Rock of Gibraltar, and I imagine the people inside were faring pretty well, but not poor Tom Weaver. At first his form in the sleeping bag was motionless. Then he began to squirm about like a monstrous caterpillar. Finally, after a minute or so, he suddenly leaped up and ran with soggy sleeping bag in tow toward the pyramid tent. At first, we thought he was intent on gaining entry. Instead, he pulled out enough stakes so that the whole thing collapsed in a big glistening pile and then made a mad dash for the shelter of a nearby restroom.

After the pyramid tent went down, there were signs of a growing commotion beneath the wet formless canvas. Then Dick Osgood, with flapping raincoat draped over his PJs, tentatively emerged into the deluge with flashlight-in-hand to survey the scene. Of course, Tom was nowhere to be seen by then, so I’m sure Dick and his fellow occupants thought the wind and rain-softened ground were to blame. It was glorious. Though wet and miserable, Norm and Don and I just about died laughing at Tom’s antics.

A week or so later, we were at Sequoyah State Park near Muskogee, Oklahoma. Following our evening conference, a bunch of us decided to cool-off and clean-up in the lake by the campground. It was well after dark, but we waded in and had been enjoying our quiet ablutions for several minutes when something beneath the surface suddenly and firmly grabbed my ankle. Breaking loose, I let out a loud shout, scrambled frantically over the unknown creature and dashed for the safety of dry ground. The creature turned out to be Norm, whom I trampled and nearly drowned while making my escape. He said my hollering surely inspired the others, because in the starlight he could see the dim outlines of everyone else leaving frothy wakes as they headed hastily to shore.

With kindest regards,
Hank Schoch
H1schoch@cs.com

John L. Carter (PhD ’66)

Dear Warren,

After many years at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and University of Pittsburgh Libraries I and my wife Ruth are now retired and living in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. We enjoy the Low Country’s history rich environment, climate, and food (both seafood in particular and Southern food in general!) 2006 was a banner year for me. Volume 5 of the brachiopods of the Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology was finally published. I was the lead author for the spiriferids. For my contributions to paleontology, I was honored to receive the 2006 Leonard Medal from the Department of Geology at the University of North Dakota.

Thanks and best wishes,
John

Edward O’Donnell (PhD ’67)

Warren,

I’ve been cleaning up and found the attached. Thought you’d get a kick out of them.
O'Donnell (continued)

Attached is an image that appears on the USGS web site for the Astrogeology Branch. It was taken at the dedication of the Gene Shoemaker Center a few years ago. The image has Gerry Schaber and Jack Schmitt.

Here are three more (above l to r). They date to around 1962. You'll recognize Phil Ziegler and me in Rm 21, the Graduate Bull Pen before it was turned into a Petrology Lab. The one of the outhouse is a cover we made for Phil Ziegler's microscope. The last shows (l to r) Dave Lenhardt, Phil Ziegler, and his fiancée Diane Gilham.

As I clean up, more pictures will surface and they will be sent to you for the Department collection.

Ed

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Richard R. Alexander (BS ’68)

The following was posted on the Rider University web page at http://www.rider.edu/172_1906.htm#alex

(Editor's note: A session in his memory has been set for the GSA Annual Meeting in Denver)

It is with the deepest sorrow that we announce the sudden death of Dr. Richard R. Alexander, Chair of the Department of Geological, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. Dr. Alexander died tragically in a swimming accident on Monday, December 11, 2006 while vacationing with his wife, Jeannie, in St. Lucia. The department extends its heartfelt sympathy to his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

Alex, as he was known by everyone on campus, had a distinguished career at Rider. He joined the geological and marine sciences faculty in 1981 as an Associate Professor. He rose to the rank of full Professor in 1986, and served as Department Chair from 1983 to 1991 and again from 1993 until his death. He was named Assistant Dean of Science in the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences in 1997 and served in that position until the start of the 2006 fall semester. Alex, who continued as Department Chair, then had more time to concentrate on teaching and research, which were his passions. As you all know, Alex was the consummate professor – innovative and demanding, yet always dedicated and accessible to his students. He was instrumental in creating field courses for Rider at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS), Shoals Marine Lab off the coast of Maine, and the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences in Honduras.

Alex also was one of the most prolific researchers in Rider's history and was the author of more than 100 published papers, presentations or abstracts at regional, national and international meetings. However, he took special pride in student research and over the years sponsored dozens of independent research projects. He and his students were also co-authors of numerous papers in professional journals. Recently, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Natural Resource Education Foundation of New Jersey, an educational consortium that operates the Lighthouse Education Center on Barnegat Bay, a marine field station where Rider maintains facilities.

A memorial service for Alex, attended by hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and family members, was held on Friday, January 26, 2007 at 3 p.m. in Gill Chapel on Rider's Lawrenceville campus. A reception followed in the Cavalla Room of the Bart Luedeke Center. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to be made in Dr. Alexander's memory for the Richard R. Alexander Marine Aquarium Laboratory. Checks may be made payable to Rider University, c/o The Development Office, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. There should be a notation that the check is for the Dr. Alexander Marine Aquarium Laboratory.

Bill Hock (BS ’70)

Hi Dr. Huff, I've just retired after 35 yrs of teaching earth science at the high school level in the Cleveland area. I remember the 4 day fall trips and the end of summer 2 week trips as some of the highlights of my UC studies. Thanks, Bill
Letter to Warren Huff

Dear Warren,

Thanks for your email and inquiry regarding my activities. Here is my attempt at a synopsis.

Following completion of my MS at UC, I took Larry Lattman and Attila’s advice and set out for a PH.D. in Mineral Economics at Penn State which I accomplished in the Spring of ’75. I then took a job with Gulf and Western (now Viacom) and traveled the world looking for viable mining operations. In 1979 I joined Exxon’s minerals group evaluating uranium and oil shale in Australia. In 1983 following another two years with G+W, I started my own company, Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. here in Sonora, California. In 2007 we are an employee owned company of 115 people in four offices. We provide geotechnical and environmental services throughout central California. Among other work, we have the distinction of being the largest designer of wine caves, yes, wine caves, in North America with about 200 completed or under construction. We have also developed some fascinating technology, based on GPS, which is used around the world for real-time mapping and real-time deformation monitoring of dams, oil fields and other structures. My wife Tracey and I met at Penn State and are celebrating 33 years of marriage. We have two wonderful daughters and now two brilliant grandsons. I am quite active in our local community and am a director in our only local bank. I remain passionate about motorcycling and have ridden though much of the US, Europe, South America, New Zealand, etc.

My best to all for a wonderful Centennial Celebration. I wish I were able attend.

Best regards,
Barry

Stephen Reidel (MS ’72)

Steve visited in November, 2006, and presented a department colloquium talk entitled, The Geologic Evolution of the Columbia River System - how flood basalts, tectonics and ice age cataclysmic flooding shaped the rivers of the Pacific Northwest. He also signed copies of his popular book, Big Black Boring Rock.

From the Publisher

Written in the same vein as well-known author John McPhee’s books, Big Black Boring Rock is a collection of highly readable and witty essays that focus on the geology of the Pacific Northwest. Author Steve Reidel is a geologist with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, and an expert on Columbia River Basalt, the primary rock of the Columbia Basin – the semi-arid region of Washington State where most of the essays are set. The book collects a series of captivating essays Reidel has been writing for more than a decade for the Tri-City Herald, the daily newspaper of the Tri-Cities (Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick), Washington. Written in plain language, Reidel makes geology, an often difficult field to understand, accessible for all readers.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I: The Making and Shaping of the Columbia Basin covers the creation of the Basin from the massive flows of lava covering 100,000 square miles—the largest on Earth—to the walls of water 600 feet deep created by Ice-Age floods that sculpted the region. Landmarks, Part II, describes the creation and stories behind Tri-Cities landmarks such as Rattlesnake Mountain and the Two Sisters. The essays included in Part III, Geohazards, focus on Cascade Mountain volcanoes, such as Mount St. Helens; area earthquakes; and regional tsunamis. And, Part IV takes readers from the Tri-Cities to explore geologic wonders scattered around the region, such as the Gorge at George Washington, Gingko Petrified Forest, and Beacon Rock State Park.

Whether you are local to this area or an armchair traveler, Big Black Boring Rock offers a fascinating foray into the forces that shaped the northwest corner of this geologically diverse country.

About the Author - Geologist Steve Reidel has studied Northwest geology for more than 30 years. His interest in "big, black, boring rocks" began in the early 1970s with a doctoral fellowship to study basalt. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in geology from the University of Cincinnati and a doctorate from Washington State University. He is a geologist with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington.
Ken Beem (PhD ’73)
Letter to Warren Huff

Hi, Warren! It's been a while, hasn't it? I have now been at Montgomery College - Rockville for 35 years, and am likely to last another couple before pulling the plug. The problem is the traffic – I have a horrendous 30 mile commute each way, and the Washington area traffic becomes more appalling each day. So, retirement in two years is on my short list. My wife Barbara and I are writers for a number of magazines, mostly on antiques, but we have been appointed travel editors for a local "lifestyle" magazine called The Grapevine that gets circulated throughout the Baltimore-Washington region. This position requires trips to various destinations around the Mid-Atlantic region about every other month. Yes, we get free lodging and meals at the finest restaurants, and guided tours of the most interesting museums, galleries, etc., but we do then have to write complimentary articles about even places we wouldn't return to on a bet. We just got back from a 3 night whirlwind tour of Pittsburgh which was very interesting, but the scheduling was really a gruelling endurance test – our host was "Visit Pittsburgh" who set up an incredibly demanding dash through all the sites they wanted us to see. Anyway, this looks like the way I'll be spending my retirement until exhaustion takes its toll. It beats watching the soaps.

Ken

Jojok Sumartojo (PhD ’74)

Jojok writes from his home in Marietta, GA, “I’m still alive and kicking. Still working, albeit part-time, in the environmental area.

Best wishes to all,

Jojok

William B. Harrison (PhD ’74)

Dear Warren,

I have been busy creating a new subsurface research and core storage facility here at Western Michigan University.

http://wst023.west.wmich.edu/Photo%20Images%20from%20New%20Core%20Laboratory.htm

It is about 28,000 sq. ft. and will house most of the subsurface cores, samples and data for the Michigan Basin. Our Grand Opening and building dedication is Oct 13, 2006.

Hope to see you all soon,

Bill

Ric Caster (Class of ’75)

Hi, Nice to hear from you. Hope that everything is going ok.

Still here in Tarsus and signed up for another year. Any chance that you will get to Turkey again in the summer. We are planning to stay here instead of doing the long haul to Australia again.

I’m in the process of updating our website http://www.randr2go.com so you might want to have a look. I also post new photos on a blog that you can get to from the website. Hope you enjoy the photos I’ve attached. All were taken on our last trip to Cappadocia over the New Year weekend.

Take care and keep in touch,

Ric

Stephen G. Wells (MS ’73 & PhD ’76)

Distinguished Alumni Award.

Wells is president of the Desert Research Institute (DRI) of the University and Community College System of Nevada. From state-of-the-art facilities in both Las Vegas and Reno, Wells leads three core divisions and three interdisciplinary science centers that serve the state of Nevada and every continent in the world. He is the current president of the Geological Society of America and a graduate faculty member in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno.

At the Arts and Sciences Spring Awards Banquet Wells (below) was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award, current student Byron Adams (far right photo, center) received the outstanding Master’s Student Award and Prof. Carleton Brett (far right photo, right) received the McMicken Dean’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship. A banner day for UC Geology!
Bill Van Wie (PhD ’76)

http://www.devonenergy.com/about/bios/william_vanwie.aspx

William A. Van Wie, Vice President and General Manager, Exploration, Devon Energy Corporation

William A. Van Wie was elected to the position of vice president and general manager, Exploration, in 2005. From 1999 to 2005, Van Wie served as Devon’s vice president and general manager, Gulf Division. Van Wie previously served as senior vice president and general manager, Offshore, for PennzEnergy. Van Wie began his career as a geologist for Tenneco Oil Co.’s Frontier Projects Group in 1974. Following the sale of Tenneco’s Gulf of Mexico properties to Chevron in 1988, he joined that company as division geologist. In 1992, he moved to Pennzoil Exploration and Production Co. as vice president/exploitation manager. He then served as manager of Offshore Exploration for Amerada Hess Corp., before he rejoined Pennzoil in 1997. Van Wie is an active member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and serves as a Trustee for the American Geological Institute Foundation, vice chairman of IPAA’s Offshore Committee and as a board member of the National Ocean Industries Association. He also serves on the board of the Greater Houston Partnership, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. Van Wie received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, and a master’s degree and Ph.D in geology from the University of Cincinnati.

Wayne Goodman (MS ’76)

Marty and Wayne have begun the transition into empty-nesters. Alex started his freshman year at WMU in September, and we look forward to catching up on all the details of Semester One in a matter of days. We know he’s been thoroughly busy on campus; Meanwhile, we are preparing for a trip to Kalamazoo next weekend, as Sean will reach a milestone when he starts the fall term at WMU. Our first time back there in several years, and we had a blast. Perfect weather, enough fish for fresh catch dinners each day andembellishment stories, a great week in the quiet wilds, and lots of revitalized memories. On the home front, we made a significant upgrade to our 30-year old lakeside house when we built a new deck, with a terrific lake view, and new access-swimming dock on the water. We enjoyed terrific swimming through the summer this year, and Marty’s summer office became the deck with laptop in tow, made nicer when we got access to DSL internet and joined the 21st century after a bit of a delay. Our newest addition, Shadow, a 1-year old golden retriever/black lab mix, has become the daughter Marty (in particular) never had. Be careful if you wish for a 60-pound lap dog and be prepared for the consequences! She has become Wayne’s summer walking and winter skiing/snowshoeing buddy and is a terrific “country living” dog. Well, there’s your nutshell of 2006 in the woods. If you’re in these parts, stop by. It’s a special place that’s a surprisingly short hop from Interstate 75. Drop us a note and keep us caught up on your adventures. If any of you don’t have our email address, drop a line at wrgnle@alphacomm.net.

Wayne, Marty, Sean, and Alex Goodman.

IN MEMORIAM

John “Cliff” Lee (MS ’79)

The following announcement appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer on January 18, 2007:

John Clifford Hodges Lee III, known to all as Cliff, passed away Monday night in a sudden way, at 56. MADCAT, as his license plate read, was a Bengal fan through and through. He literally lost his voice cheering on many a Sunday in the south end zone, and befriended players, their families, and all those around him. An exceptionally likeable man, and a fine but timid singer,
Cliff supported the local Blues scene, and had many close musician friends as well. With advanced degrees from the University of Cincinnati in geology and finance, Cliff worked as a consultant in both gulf and inland gas exploration. He was a member of the American Society of Professional Geologists, the American Society of Petroleum Engineers, as well as several other professional associations. He enjoyed travel, scuba diving, book collecting, furniture restoration, and of course, music. Cliff was the son of the late Col. John C. H. Lee Jr., and Patricia S. Lee, of Hyde Park, who passed away just a year ago. He was the grandson of Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee, the WWII commander of Supply and Service Forces in Europe. He is survived by his loving sisters Mary Anne and Sarah Jean Lee, his devoted brother Thomas, his nephew Rob Donnellon and family, of Denver, and his uncle and many cousins in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, 2936 Vernon Pl., Cincinnati, 45219, or to the LifeCenter Organ Donor Network, 2925 Vernon Pl., Suite 300, Cincinnati, 45219. Visitations at Gilligan Funeral Home, 2926 Woodburn Ave., East Walnut Hills, Friday January 19th, from 5 to 8 P.M., and a memorial Mass at St. Francis DeSales Church, Woodburn and Madison, Saturday January 20th, at Noon, followed by a light luncheon for family and friends. Condolences may be expressed at: www.gilliganfuneralhomes.com

**Roy Van Arsdale (PhD ’79)**

Warren,

You had asked for any pictures. I have attached one of Susan Caminish Eriksson and me from one of the Christmas parties (faculty roasts), from 1972 or 1973. I also have to put a plug in for myself. A colleague and I have an article in this January Scientific American magazine that you may find interesting. You can find it at:

http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa006&colID=1&amp;articleID=9346CA87F-E7F2-99DF-32CD319973C0B8BC

Regards,

Roy

**David A. Lienhart (PhD ’79)**

Letter to Barry Maynard

Dear Barry,

It was good to see you last week. As we discussed, I am sending some photos that were taken by Bob "Barney" Barnett, my supervisor at the Corps for about six years in the late 60s, early 70s. When Barney retired he gave me these photos along with a lot of historical data from the TVA projects. Barney was quite an engineering geologist. He worked directly for Berlen C. Moneymaker, Chief Geologist at TVA back in the 30s. In 1941 Barney came to the Corps where he worked for Bob Nesbitt, the second chief geologist of the Corps. Barney was one of the original founding members of the Engineering Geology Division at GSA back in 1947. He worked in Morocco and Algeria and wrote up the first geologic study of that area in terms of strategic planning. He also did the foundation studies for Oak Ridge National Labs and his geologic reports are now considered the best source of geologic information on the hydrogeology of the Oak Ridge area. In addition we both worked on a portable drill design for the lunar rover for NASA. He was a true gentleman and a great geologist and teacher.

Best regards,

David A. Lienhart

**Bob Lenhart (PhD ’79)**

Here are a few photos:
Gregory Schumacher (MS ’84)

Greg and fellow Ohio Survey geologist, Dennis Hull, published the lead article in the 2006 issue of Ohio Geology, published by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey. It is entitled, The Value of Geologic Maps to Ohio Homeowners.

Donna Herring (MS ’86)
Letter to Barry Maynard

Dear Barry,

I have just read the Departmental newsletter cover to cover! I miss the fun of the Department, and of geology.

Since we last corresponded, I have acquired two kids and been a stay-at-home mom. That’s why you never heard back from me about that potential shale study: it sounded fascinating but I just couldn’t do that and the mom thing too. I did appreciate your suggestions and encouragement very much, and am not beyond hope. Our daughter came home from Guatemala very ill and I had to quit work entirely, and since I wasn’t working we thought we’d adopt her a brother as well, the debt be damned. Anna Maria starts first grade this fall and Carl will start kindergarten, and when they’re both in school fulltime I think I’ll be likely to get itchy for fieldwork again, although I have to say I can’t yet see a way to make it happen. I did have fun doing the redesign for the Denison Geosciences Department webpages last year, though they need updating again: http://www.denison.edu/geology/

David is tenured at Denison and enjoying teaching as well as research. Being married to a geologist is *almost* as fun as being a geologist; the kids and I went out bush in Australia with David for an amazing year (well, we were in Canberra part of the time, where he was adjunct at Australian National University). Of course it’s sediments that float my boat, and his rocks are the squished high-temp ones, but I think of them as sediment-source rocks and they seem more interesting that way! ;)

While I was still actively working as a geologist I gave local school presentations, and have continued with those. During this past Earth Day I was one of eight presenters at the local elementary, and during the presenters’ lunch the Bug Lady said, ”So where is that geology guy, I want to have a word with him!” I said, “That would be me,” which comment was met with such frank disbelief that the herpetologist across the table laughed so hard he spurted Mountain Dew out his nose. Turns out Bug Lady was unhappy I had given the kids rock salt as a take-home, because she was afraid their salty hands had poisoned her giant preying mantis.

I did go back to work part-time last year, as a grant writer. Eons ago I had written some small museum grants, and edited/wrote parts or all of some NSF and lesser things while at U Nevada Reno, and had recently taken a couple of seminars in grant writing for museums (I volunteer at the local museum in our village). My neighbor happened to know that I was looking for part-time professional work and had grant experience, and she also happened to know the director of a health center who asked her if she knew a part-time grant writer. My healthcare learning curve has been steep but interesting, and my job is to find funding for a clinic that serves low-income and uninsured people on the northeast side of Columbus. The thing the folks at the clinic have most remarked upon is that I figured out how to do research in health information so fast, and ferreted out data sources they didn’t know about. Persistence and curiosity are useful tools, as Paul Potter I’m sure would agree.

I hope you and yours are doing well, and look forward to being in better touch in the coming years, as the kids grow and my time gets more flexible. My hellos and fond good wishes to Dave Meyer and Warren Huff, too.

Cheers,

Donna

HerringD@denison.edu

Almerio Franca (PhD ’87)
Dear Prof. Huff,

I am preparing a long ppt file with several pictures from 1984-87 that I have from UC campus, students, field trips and so. I will bring these with me in April and will give
them to you. Here I am enclosing some of these pictures, so you can use them as you wish for the party.

All the best,
Almerio


Richard (Rick) Bray (Class of ’88)
Letter to David Meyer

Dave,

After all these years I don’t know where to start. I guess where I left off. After working in Houston from 1980 (although spending much time in South American and the Caribbean), I went to Libya from 1988-1990 and from there went to Saudi Arabia where I “found a home” for 10 years. I took early retirement in 1991, just before the World Trade Center event. I bought a sailboat, moved back to NY and took a part time job at the NYS Museum in the Reservoir Characterization Group. At 60, I just reentered the workforce taking a position in Kuala Lumpur with Petronas Carigali, the Malaysian national oil company. At Carigali I am a “Principal of Sedimentology”, kind of an advisor for any carbonate work that may require assistance. Regardless, Petronas neither has significant production from carbonates nor much exploratory interests in carbonate provinces (only Cuba, one of the “stans” of the former USSR and here and there in SE Asia).

My entire career entire time I have been employed as a carbonate geologist extensively evaluating the Tertiary in Libya, South America and the Caribbean, the Jurassic in Saudi Arabia and the US Gulf and the Cambro-Ordovician of New York. Since leaving Saudi Arabia I have consulted in the United Arab Emirates for the Japanese. Throughout my career as a geologist I have never waved much beyond carbonate deposition and diagenesis. I leave the arcane subjects of seismic and logs to those that are interested. At the NYS Museum I got back to some Paleozoic rocks, after years working in the Mesozoic and Tertiary. In addition to the Cambro-Ordovician section I even managed to describe an Onondaga core, which I was peripherally involved with (through Don Kissling) some 30 years ago! At the Museum I became enmeshed in the issue of hydrothermal diagenesis. Certainly a provocative subject and one that has gone largely unrecognized and underappreciated by petroleum geologists. Although I’m not among the “true believers” it is amazing how many reservoirs have been affected to some extent, either positively or negatively, by hydrothermal processes.

I always think back and reminisce about the “long ago and far away” days at UC in Old Tech. Last year I saw Pete Purrazzella who is still employed in the petroleum service industry. Up until my move here I regularly saw Tim Bryan who is now a first officer with Southwest Airlines. Tim married a friend of mine from Binghamton. Last year Duff Kerr, an early1950-something UC grad, spent some time in Albany with me reviewing a project and providing some great insight on the Trenton-Black River. I’m still fascinated by echinoderms and marvel whenever I can identify an ophic vertebral ossicle in thin section or on core. Haven’t been diving too much, though I did get to Lizard Island in 2001 and may resume diving here.

Rick

Bill Hanneberg (PhD ’89)
Letter to Warren Huff

Consulting still provides an endless supply of interesting and challenging projects. At least I hope it’s endless. I’m coming up on my eighth anniversary as an independent geologist in Seattle, although I do more work out of state than in Washington. This week I’ve been working on the structural geology of a failing slope in Franciscan melange overlooking San Francisco Bay and writing a proposal to do 3-D modeling of rock slopes along I-90 in the Cascades. I’m also waiting to hear about another project in Papua New Guinea. My first Papua New Guinea project, using LiDAR to map landslides around a gold mine in a collapsed caldera with an active geothermal system, was an
opportunity that I won’t forget. I’d say it was the project of a lifetime, but that would make everything yet to come anticlimactic. Another recent project involved 3-D modeling of fractured rock in a quarry straddling the San Andreas fault. It’s quite a geological experience to do fieldwork literally inside the fault zone.

Most of my projects involve earth movements—especially slope instability—at one scale or another, these days more often than not using airborne lidar or digital photogrammetry for computer modeling and virtual mapping. Technology sure has changed since my time in Cincinnati, when it was quite an accomplishment to have one IBM PC for the graduate students to share, although the underlying need for good geology is still the same. Nobody had heard of InSAR or LiDAR or knew what a gigabyte, let alone a terabyte, was. I’m also keeping up my academic contacts, serving on the PhD committee for a Simon Fraser University student doing terrestrial laser scanning, developing models of groundwater flow through variably saturated tuff with colleagues at the University of Wisconsin, and participation in GSA activities.

I enjoyed the chance to participate in the UC Himalayan geology trip in 2005, and am looking forward to returning with Lewis, Craig, and a new group of students next month. Amazing geology, culture, food (on most days), and company. I recommend the trip to anyone who has the chance and a taste for out of the way places. As an added bonus, I had some great photos to use when I updated my consulting web site earlier this year. While I’m in India this year, my wife Lisa will be on a 10,000 mile solo motorcycle trip to the east coast and back to promote her latest book. She’s self-employed, too, doing business and organization development consulting in addition to writing and studying for an MFA in creative non-fiction.

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**Alumni/ae Reports**

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Thank You!
This past year was very gratifying in terms of honors and awards. First, I was invited to spend some time as a visiting scholar at Western Michigan University. Next, I received the Claire P. Holdredge Award from the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists for my book on computational geology and the Meritorious Service Award from the GSA Engineering Geology Division. Finally, a rock slope stability project along Interstate 90 received two statewide awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies: Gold for "Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations" and Silver for "Originality or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques". Our project team used 3-D digital outcrop modeling and virtual structural mapping as part of a fast-track project to stabilize some potentially dangerous road cuts after two rock falls killed three motorists and completely closed the interstate for several days in late 2005.

Seattle has an active community of environmental and engineering geologists, and beyond that is a great place to live. We had an unusually wet and cold winter (although Lisa and I had the good fortune to be on holiday hiking and kayaking in New Zealand during the worst winter storm in decades), and there's nothing like the view across Puget Sound towards the snow-covered Olympics on a sunny day. We do have sunny days. Sometimes.

That's all for now. If anyone wants to get in touch, they can do it either through my web site (www.haneberg.com) or sending email directly to me at bill@haneberg.com.

Regards,
Bill

William C. Haneberg, Ph.D.

**John Haynes (PhD ’89)**

It was good to be back at UC, if even for just a short time, at the 100th Anniversary celebration, and to see friends and faculty once again!

I’m finishing up my first year as a member of the geology faculty at Kent State. My primary teaching responsibility is at the Geauga campus, one of the seven Kent State regional campuses, where I’m teaching Physical, Historical, and Environmental Geology courses. In the fall term, I also taught a section of Historical at the main campus in Kent, and a section of Physical at the Ashtabula campus.

The family news is that Janette had total hip replacement surgery this spring, and is continuing her recovery, which is going quite well as of right now (early May). Bobby will be 14 in June, and he has been accepted to Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire for next fall, which he will be attending as a boarding student in the 9th grade.

Email is jhaynes3@kent.edu

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**Kenan Cetin (PhD ’92)**

Dear Warren,

I hope this finds you well. The last of issue of Upper Crust brought a nice spring breeze from Cincy, and what a remarkable job you are doing with it! As for me, I have been very busy (more than I would like) with work this summer, and looking forward to a vacation break in Turkey in the Fall. More news will follow later. Best wishes to all in the department. I also want to wish Sandi the best in her retirement, and express how grateful I am for all the friendly help and little push on the back she gave to me and all the other students during my years there.

Kenan

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**Peter Holterhoff (PhD ’93)**

Texas Tech University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Peter Holterhoff to the College of Arts and Sciences. He will begin his duties as Assistant Professor of Petroleum Geology in the Department of Geosciences in the fall.

Holterhoff received his B.S. in Geology from Ohio University, and then earned his M.S. in Geology from the University of Nebraska. He then returned to his hometown to earn his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Cincinnati. Heading west to Tucson, he then accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with...
the Research Training Group in the Analysis of Biological Diversification at the University of Arizona. During this academic period, his research interests focused on patterns of paleocommunity and evolutionary ecology as preserved in the rock record. After several years at Arizona, Holterhoff joined Exxon Exploration Company as a Petroleum Geologist. During his nine years with Exxon and ExxonMobil, he worked in all phases of upstream geoscience, from regional exploration to mature field production. However, most of his tenure was spent conducting research on petroleum reservoirs with the Upstream Research Company. As a researcher he also taught corporate technical courses in various geoscience disciplines and in 2005 earned an Outstanding Instructor Award. His current research interests involve integrating elements of paleontology, stratigraphy, and sedimentology to better understand the sedimentary rock record and to fully describe and model the distribution and character of hydrocarbon and aquifer reservoirs.

Holterhoff is also quite interested in science education, and was very active in the ExxonMobil Foundation Science Ambassadors Program. This is a community outreach program that teams ExxonMobil scientists and engineers with K-12 science and math teachers.

Holterhoff is fortunate to have found a vocation that is also his avocation, and will head out into the field with very little prodding. His wife, Jennifer, and children, Erich, Andrew, and Rachael, join him in the field whenever they can – needless to say, he has been blessed with a wonderful family. He also enjoys music and plays bass and guitar when he has the chance. He enjoys reading, and recently has been working on his disc golf game.

Ben Dattilo (PhD ’94)
Letter to Warren Huff

For the past two years I have been teaching (geology AND college algebral) at Alice Lloyd College, just east of Hazard in the eastern coalfields of Kentucky. During that time Sheri and I have learned lots about Appalachian culture and history, and learned what it is really like to get away from it all!

As some may know, my sister, Molly has been missing from Indianapolis for about 3 years. After a rather harrowing time dealing with apathetic law enforcement, our family has lobbied for laws to help families of missing adults. Recently we have had significant success in the passage of “Molly’s Law” in Indiana, which requires law enforcement to take certain measures when adults are reported missing.

It has been good to get back east, and finally pick up on some old projects in the Cincinnatian rocks. After getting some Great Basin work out of the way, I have been working with Carl Brett Pat McLaughlin and Brian Kirchner getting some old data published. Over the last summer, Dave Meyer and I worked on his Rafinesquina moats, and I think we made some serious advances in understanding them, which we presented at the NC/SC section GSA meeting this spring, and these should soon be incorporated into a paper or two.

Next fall I will be starting a tenure track (finally!) position at Indiana U.-Purdue U. at Fort Wayne (IPFW), Indiana. I am really looking forward to it!

Note: email for the summer will be ben.dattilo@gmail.com. It is permanent (as emails go), but I will be using the professional email from IPFW as soon as I get one.

Tony Pace (BS ’96)

Hi Dr. Huff,

I’ve been at Parsons (http://www.parsons.com/) now for almost nine years now! Over the past five years, I was working full time at the former Gulf Refinery here locally overseeing the construction and managing the operation of their constructed wetlands. It was a great experience and continues to offer various opportunities in site remediation and wildlife habitat restoration. I’m currently there one or two days a week managing the wetlands and assisting in the installation of a barrier wall along the Great Miami River among other things. I’m also managing several former and active service stations for BP, so that keeps me busy when I’m not at the refinery. As always, I’m keeping my eyes and ears open for any opportunity in the petroleum industry. I’d love to get back home to Texas and be nearer my parents in Dallas.
Tony Pace (continued)

Since the last time I wrote, I’ve been divorced and have since remarried a wonderful gal from Canada. Having no children of my own, I was thrust into fatherhood kicking and screaming! Actually, both of Randy’s kids are good kids. Deanna gave us our first grandbaby (the best part of the deal) last April. Little Maranda is now walking and talking (although she’s the only one who knows what she’s saying!). She does know C-A-T and says it with authority and has begun mimicking Pa-paw as she learns what the animals say. Michael has just graduated from Colerain, completed two AP exams in Biology and Psychology and is planning on attending UC in the fall in the pre-pharmacy program. Randy and I bought a camper last fall and hope to put it to use this summer. She’s never seen the Rockies, so hopefully we’ll be able to get out to Wyoming with a couple of stops along the way.

Terry Acomb (MS ’97)
Letter to Barry Maynard

Barry - I’m back from Venezuela, it went great. Spent 20 days shooting scene after scene in the “observational documentary”. Cast is 2 geologists and 1 (college educated) indian guide. Had 3 helicopter days flying around and landing on the Tepuis. The object of that stage is to get as much raw footage as possible to edit and construct the episode.

Series is to be broadcast next fall (?) on the discovery channel. Series title is “Natural Wonders”. There are 6 one hour episodes. Episodes are: Grand Canyon, Great Barrier reef, Angel falls, Sahara, Hawaii and Alaska/Northern Lights.

UC geology was mentioned by me in an “interview” scene. It may or may not get used.

Thank you sooo much for all your help.

Terry

Mark Krekelker (MS ‘98)
From George Mason University

The Oct. 26 Mason Gazette carried a number of advertisements for GMU - this one featuring Mark Krekelker and student - was sent out as picture ads in national magazines.

At a special dinner on June 6, 2006, Matt Kluger, vice president of research and economic development, acknowledged the achievements of Mason inventors and licensed technology creators. He cited Mark Krekelker, assistant professor, Environmental Science and Policy, and Cynthia Tselepis and Stephen Elmore, Mason alumni, for their licensed patents pending, “Counter Weapon Containment Process for Small Scale Release of Radioactive CsCl, and Related Materials,” “Synthetic Soil Material System for Improved Created Wetland Performance,” and “Secondary Process for Radioactive Chloride Deweaponization and Storage.” See http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/8518/

And also see http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/6934/
Nicole Yarger (Class of 2000)
Letter to David Nash

Dr. Nash,

I just wanted to drop you a line to say hi and see how everyone is doing back at UC. I’m still out in Denver, working as a pharmaceutical sales rep, which is incredibly fun! I absolutely love Colorado and am working hard to recruit other Ohio natives to move to this beautiful state...believe it or not, I may have actually succeeded in one case! There are a couple of other Cincy geo grads out here that I know of: Dave Mixon and Todd Roberts. Hope everyone’s doing well, talk to you soon!

Nicole

Mike Ragsdale (Class of 2000)

We are well on the way to Jordan (Navy Seals deployment) but we had to make an un-official stop to take a dip in the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is 400m below sea level and is the lowest spot on earth. I knew it was salty and that you would float due to the density of the salt water but had no idea. It is physically impossible to drown in this water. The picture of us with our heads and hands out of the water as though our feet are touching the sea floor - no just floating. And check out the picture where we are floating on our stomachs with both hands and feet out of the water! Across the sea is Israel and we did not have time to stop and see where Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river (but hey we saw Job’s tomb - can’t have it all). Here are a few pics from a place in Jordan called Petra. Anyone who saw the last scene in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade might recognize some of the pics, particularly the first few. This sight was amazing as the people carved these structures from cliff faces and either lived in them or used them for municipal purposes, and even as burial sights.

We got some good underwater pics in Egypt. We were there to train the Egyptian navy mine recovery and building ordinance to take care of things underwater. In the pics my buddy and I are diving on a mine, which is thirty feet in depth and a mile offshore. We took down 15 pounds of C4 and I placed them on three points to take care of the mine. The det cord coming out of the C4, once lit, travels at 20,000 feet a second, so after placing the shots we travel the length of the line to make sure all is clear for travel. Once on the surface I attach a time fuse to give us time to get out of the water. With that much C4, we witnessed a plume of water 30 feet off the surface, from a shot thirty feet below the surface. Hope you enjoy.

Michael

David Ray (PhD ’01)
Director of Study (Geology, Geography & Environmental Science).
Bexhill College. Penland Road, Bexhill-On-Sea, East Sussex. TN40 2JG UK.

Dear Warren,

How are you? I trust all is going well within the department. The reports from Carl seemed most encouraging. Things are going well here, particularly as I’m reaching the end of a very busy academic year. I’m currently working on a paper with Ken Dorning and Mikael Calner looking at 3rd order sequences within the Wenlock of the England and Sweden and hope to have it finished soon.

Cheers,
Dave

Todd Roberts (MS ’01)

Hi Warren,

All is well in Colorado. I am still working for a geotech engineering company. Recently, I have been assigned to a large development site in Grand County, Colorado. We are constructing the infrastructure for a 1500 acre mixed-use development site including an Orvis golf course and fishing facility. We are working in wetland environments associated with the Colorado River. These Tertiary deposits are aptly named the Troublesome Formation. The underlying bedrock is better suited for construction and is composed of the Morrison and Dakota formations.

Well, take care and give my regards to the staff. Next time you are in the Denver area, feel free to contact me. I would love catch up or give a tour of my last mountainous highway project, full of mine shafts, metamorphic rocks, and ghost stories.

Laura Gilpin (BS ’02)
Letter to David Nash

Hello!!

I am still in the US at the training center here in Virginia. Though I am leaving this week for Moscow. All is going well at the moment. I got through my language training and tested well at the end (I even get more money for my score, woo hoo!). And this week I’m in security and emergency medical training as my last classes before heading out.

I’ll be sure to update you guys though once I get to post, I’m really looking forward to it. The nice thing too is that
Laura Gilpin (continued)
there are quite a few ex-NASA people there as well who are already ushering me into their enclave. And I’ll be happy to get out of this DC summer heat. This stuff just kills me, really makes me cranky!

Anyway, more later from Russia! Laura

Janet Bertog (PhD ’02)
I’m just back from field work in Utah and about to head out again. I hope all is well. Here is a recent photo of me on my new BMW.

Susan Barbour Wood (MS ’02)
Susan earned her PhD from Virginia Tech and has subsequently joined the faculty at Colby College in Waterville, ME, where she is scheduled to teach The Record of Life on Earth in the fall term, and both Understanding Earth and an upper-level elective course in the spring.

Lisa Fay (BS ’03)
I just posted some photos, etc., from my recent trip to Kenya.
http://lisafay.googlepages.com

Mike Nicholis (MS ’03)
Hi Warren,

I graduated from Brown in December, and started my job with ExxonMobil. I have been meaning to contact Attila and inform him of my move, and job. However, things (as you can imagine) at first have been very busy. I have also wanted to contact you as well, since your work on bentonites has come up in my project at work. I was very proud to state to my group that I knew you, and that UC was were I did my undergraduate/masters. Thanks for the great education!

Please pass on my best wishes to the Department.

Cheers,
Mike

Kimberly Stonesifer (MS ’03)
Congratulations!

Kimberly Stonesifer and Matthew Magnuson were married in Morrilton, Arkansas on May 20, 2006.

Rebecca Hamilton (BS ’04)
Hey, UC Geology Department!

I graduated from UC in 2004 and have since headed west to the Columbia River Basalt of Portland, OR, where I work as a geologist/environmental scientist with an environmental consulting company. It’s interesting work; I’ve collected sludge samples, mapped geologic units for multi-million dollar remediation project sites, and next month I’ll be out drilling wells on a barge in the Willamette River. I’m also working on the design of a new sampling apparatus that will improve the accuracy of dioxin measurements in groundwater. Other than that, I’m climbing around in the Cascades, playing kickball, and trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up (it should involve Antarctica in some way...). Say hi to the Platystraphia for me if you’re in the Ordovician strat - I miss those little guys.

Cheers,
’Becca Hamilton

Brian Kirchner (PhD ’05)
Hello all,

I’m enjoying my teaching work immensely - we are about to start Winter Semester here at HFCC (Henry Ford Community College), so as of Monday campus will be overrun after three weeks of quiet. My kids are now 7 and 5 (they were 2 years and 1 month when I started at UC - how long ago that seems!). My wife Rachel has become an expert in autism advocacy and resources (our son has autism) and is seriously considering a career in helping other families with autistic kids find the resources they need. We do miss Cincinnati, but not the grad student poverty - finally having a decent income is a good feeling.

I hope everyone there is well.

Yours,
Brian

Alejandra Bonilla (MS ’05)
Hello Dr. Huff,

I’m still in the middle of the desert enjoying the hot weather and the wild life. Everything is going well here and I’ve been busy with many groundwater projects in Arizona and New Mexico. Ana Londono keeps me updated with everything in the Department and I’m happy to know everything is going well.

Regards to all my friends in the department.

Alejandra
Hello All -

We said good-bye to Africa and are back in the States. I wanted to let everyone know; we arrived home safely and had a great time while we were there. So, soon your inboxes will be overwhelmed by the photographic masterpieces I was able to capture throughout the trip (by masterpieces, I mean snapshots taken while we were driving at 50 kph on a bumpy, rocky road). Unfortunately, no one was able to get a picture of Chris punching that monkey or accidentally sneaking up on a flock of birds or getting clawed by a giant cat - and yes, they all happened.

We were able to see so much while we were there. We saw the Snows of Kilimanjaro; we went on safari at the Mara, the Serengeti, Amboseli, and Tsavo West parks. We relaxed on the coast and sailed and snorkeled in the Indian Ocean (which you all should see). We climbed Mt. Longonot and hiked the lower gorge in Hell’s Gate National Park. We saw the rift valley and made our way to see some rift lakes (one freshwater and one a soda lake). We spent our money at the local markets and we enjoyed the local brew, Tusker. We were able to go to Jill’s work and meet her co-workers and see what she is doing.

Jill is working in Nairobi with Grass ROOTS (GROOTS) Kenya, which is a non-profit organization that deals with women’s issues in Africa. Jill is currently involved in implementing programs in local towns that are combating HIV/AIDS, disinheritance, helping orphans and educating women about sexual reproductive health. My eyes were opened to the many problems Africans are dealing with and some of the root causes of these problems. It is hard to notice or understand how things work in someplace you’ve never been to, and even harder to find a way to fix the things that don’t work. The work Jill is doing is very important and aggressive. They are identifying some of the factors and the leading causes of the problems many are facing in Africa, and are working in those towns, with the people to help and change it. I feel very fortunate to have had this experience. I’m glad Jill was placed with this organization.

If you have the opportunity to travel you should always take it. You’ll learn more about yourself, the person or people you are traveling with and more about the world. Africa has certainly secured a place in my heart. I hope you can see from the pictures how beautiful it is.

Love,
Christy

Kathryn Pritchard (MS ’06)

Hey Dr. Huff!

I’m living and working downtown (Cincinnati) currently at URS Corp with Christy Reuter. We’re both here working as Field Geologist’s, mainly collecting groundwater and soil samples at various sites and providing oversight for monitoring well installation and remediation projects. Then every now and again we’re in the office writing reports. A lot of former UC grads work here with us - John Alten, Tom Hudson...It’s a fairly mixed bag - and we’re both getting along pretty well.

I’ll look forward to the newsletter and the Centennial Celebration. Christy has mentioned it to me several times. She’s been running into Dave Nash around town pretty frequently and he keeps sending the reminder.

Good to hear from you, Take Care
Katie

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**THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP**

The spring 2006 issue of McMicken Magazine carried a lead article that began, “Last September members of the McMicken College’s Geology Department embarked on a unique expedition to one of the world’s most imposing regions. Professors Lewis Owen and Craig Dietsch, along with four undergraduates, nine graduate students, and two alumni, made the 500 kilometer trek from the Indian capital of New Delhi to the northern Indian city of Leh, a route that took the group into the heart of the Himalayan mountain range.

The trip presented an exceptional opportunity to explore the dynamic geology of the world’s greatest mountain belt. Perhaps more importantly, it offered the chance to gain a new perspective on life from the other side of the world.” See the adjacent cover photo. You can read the entire article and see more photos at http://www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni/magazine/mcm_mag.html.
Atique A. Baig (Post Doc)

Dear Prof. Huff,

Thanks for your last E-mail in January, congratulating me for my job in Karachi University. You will be pleased to know that now I have joined Department of Geology at the University of Karachi as an Eminent Professor/Researcher. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Commission (HEC) in Islamabad has selected me for this assignment. HEC is the Central Government’s body that takes care of all the Universities in Pakistan just like the University Grants Commission. My job wants from me to teach/supervise research students and deliver lectures to the students of geology in other universities.

I am keen to undertake a research project on the DSDP samples if you can kindly guide me that to whom I should contact in this regard. I hope that you and your wife are fine and I wish you sound health.

With regards,

Dr. Atique A. Baig
Eminent Professor/Researcher
Department of Geology
University of Karachi
Karachi, Pakistan

At the 2006 GSA National Conference, Philadelphia Tracy Brockman (above), Jay Zambito IV (l), Kate Bulinski (c) and Alex Bartholomew (r) below.
Many thanks to all lecturers for an interesting year!

**Shannon Mahan**, USGS Denver  
New advances in the application of luminescence dating in the Western USA

**Paul Koch**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Ecological and Evolutionary Responses of Terrestrial Animals and Plants to Paleogene Warming

**Ken Hinkel**, University of Cincinnati - Department of Geography  
Environmental change in the Arctic

**Tom Algeo**, University of Cincinnati - Department of Geology  
Evidence for recurrent upwelling of sulfidic deepwaters at the Permian-Triassic boundary

**Stephen Reidel**, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
The Geologic Evolution of the Columbia River System - how flood basalts, tectonics and ice age cataclismic flooding shaped the rivers of the Pacific Northwest

**Isabel Montanez**, University of California - Davis  
$CO_2$ - Climate - Glaciation Linkages during Late Paleozoic Deglaciation

**Arun D. Ahluwalia**, Panjab University  
Geological history (Proterozoic to Holocene) and landscapes of Himachal Himalayas

**Phil Novack-Gottshall**, University of West Georgia  
Long-term ecological trends in Cambrian/Devonian marine assemblages

**Linda A. Hinnov**, Johns Hopkins University Baltimore  
Assembling an Astronomical-Calibrated Time Scale for Earth History

**Lewis Owen**, University of Cincinnati - Department of Geology  
Quaternary glaciation of the Himalaya and Tibet

**Denny Hubbard**, Oberlin College  
Holocene Coral-Reef Development: A Changing Paradigm?

**Dan Smith**, University of Victoria  
Holocene dendroglaciology in the British Columbia Coast Mountains

**Jason P. Briner**, University of Buffalo  
Fjords and ice sheet dynamics: Lessons learned from applying cosmogenic radionuclides to the northeastern Canadian Shield

**Richard Law**, Virginia Tech  
Internal flow and extrusion of the Greater Himalayan Slab, Mount Everest Massif: a Cook’s tour of the world’s highest rocks

**Michael J. McPhaden**, NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
*George Rieveschi Geolecture*  
El Nino: Causes, Consequences, and Misconceptions

**Sally Walker**, University of Georgia  
Taphonomy and Vrabs

**Dave Moecher**, University of Kentucky  
Melting of wall rocks by frictional heating during earthquake-generating fault rupture: How hot, and how wet?

**Steve Wells**, Desert Research Institute  
Desert Pavement Development and Landscape Evolution: Long-term Surficial Processes at the Atmosphere - Soil Interface in Aridlands

**Greg Retallack**, University of Oregon  
Global greenhouse crises of the past

**Markus Fuchs**, University of Bayreuth  
Luminescence dating application for studies of paleoenvironment change

**Attila Kilinc**, University of Cincinnati  
A thermodynamic model for explosive volcanism
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
&
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

100 YEARS OF DISCOVERY & EXPLORATION

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
APRIL 25TH - 28TH, 2007

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1907 - 2007

100 YEARS OF DISCOVERY

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Messages to Carl Brett following the Centennial Saturday field trip

From Bill Howard
Carl,
I was enormously stimulated by the field trip along the AAA highway last Saturday. While I mull over the mass of material I was exposed to, let me send you a few photographs I took that day. Most of them are right out of the camera (with some compression to make the file sizes more manageable), so they could easily be improved by some Photoshop work.

As I mentioned to you on the bus ride, I am not a geologist. I majored in biology (molecular & cellular) at Caltech, and was a graduate student in the UC. math department when I was assigned to Norman Hester (PhD '68) to assist him with some number crunching on his thesis. But my interest in geology, especially paleontology, has always been significant, since I spent a lot of my Saturdays at the old Cincinnati Natural History Museum on Central Parkway, studying rocks & fossils with Ralph Drury.

I am greatly in your debt for the time and enthusiasm you brought to the field trip last Saturday.

What impressed me a great deal was the difficulty of guessing what geologic processes might have resulted in the layer or layers we were looking at. It also impressed me that you weren't at all dogmatic about any of this - you laid out plausible scenarios, but left room for alternative explanations. What is too often missing in science (as in politics) is the concept of hypothesis - an idea to be tested against experiment and/or many more observations.

While I understood your excitement with what we examined later at Route 11 near Maysville, for me this was the most dramatic thing I saw that day. This was truly a "Wow!" moment.

Bill Howard

From Mary Riestenberg
Dear Carl,
I had such a great time on your fieldtrip Saturday, and I learned so much. Thanks ever so much for all your effort, generous sharing of your knowledge and studies, handouts, and even a box lunch! It was great! Please let me know when you plan to look at rocks in or around Adams County. I would love to tag along again!

Mary Riestenberg
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<td>Coordinated Faunal Turnover in the Middle Devonian of Eastern North America</td>
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<td>A Test of Ambocoeliid (Brachiopoda) Spinosity as an Adaptation for Soft Substrates Using Abundance Patterns Through Transgressive-Regressive Cycles and Within Pyritic Shale Beds</td>
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<td>Ecosystem Dynamics and the Sedimentary Record: Assessment of Faunal Patterns and Environmental History from Cross Bank, Florida Bay</td>
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<td>Modeling of Alkaline Rocks: Kula Volcanics</td>
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Recent Student Activities

Theses Defended 2006 - 2007

Adams, Bryon - MS
Exhumation and incision history of the Lahul Himalaya, northern India, based on (U-Th)/He thermochronometry and terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide dating techniques. Craig Dietsch, 2007

Barthlomew, Alexander - PhD

Bonilla Ramos, Alejandra - MS
Geochemistry study in bedrock, outwash fill material and groundwater from a buried valley aquifer in Southwestern Ohio: The uses of sulfur isotopes for identifying the source of arsenic. Barry Maynard, 2006

Deline, Bradley - MS
Inter- and Intraspecific Morphological Variation of Crinoid Columnals in Relation to Water Depth in the Type Cincinnatian (Upper Ordovician). David Meyer, 2006

Dortch, Jason - MS
Defining the timing of glaciation in the central Alaska Range. Lewis Owen, 2006

McLaughlin Susie Taha - MS
Sequence Stratigraphy and Faunal Patterns of the Middle Lexington Limestone (Upper Ordovician) in Central Kentucky. Carlton Brett, 2006

McLaughlin, Patrick - PhD

Merk, Brendan - MS

Pritchard, Katherine - MS
Relationships and Patterns of Channel Formation During Deglaciation of the Miami Lobe, near Piqua, Ohio. Thomas Lowell, 2006

Seong, Yeong Bae - PhD

Toprak, Funda Ozlem - PhD

Solpuker, Utku - PhD
Petrology of Kula Volcanic Province, Western Turkey. Attila Kilinc, 2007

Congratulations!