

2014 Geology Department Newsletter

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The geology department has a blog - follow our field trips, research projects, and other misadventures at geology.blog.gustavus.edu

JOIN OUR BLOG!

We'll happily include alumni news in our blog: send updates to Laura Triplett: ltrippet@gustavus.edu

VISIT US!

If you're in the neighborhood, stop in and chat. If you've got some interesting work going on, we'll sign you up for a formal or informal talk. Contact Julie Bartley: jbartley@gustavus.edu

Thanks again to Joe

Carlson, who helps the news keep coming.

Greetings!

Welcome, alumni and friends of Gustie Geology! We bring you a report of what has been happening around the Geology department and include the news you have been so kind to submit. I have enjoyed reading about your life adventures, and hope that I have not lost, garbled or over moderated them. We appreciate your continuing support.

--Joe Carlson

Departmental News

2014-15 DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Well, we're a little behind with the news. It's great to see so much news from all of you, though! Don't worry; if we missed you in this round, it won't be so long until the next call for news. Scout's honor! The past two years have been a bit of a whirlwind for the department. So, to borrow from Inigo Montoya... no time to explain. Let me sum up.

2013-14 seems an awfully long time ago right now; maybe that was because I was on sabbatical, replaced by Hilary Christensen, a vertebrate paleontologist. Hilary's just finishing another 1-year stint, this time at Bates College in Maine. While she was here, she worked with students on a project involving sub-historic bison bones in the Des Moines River and on some of her own research on mammal herbivory. We renamed a few of your favorite courses, mainly to make the titles clearer to our intended audience: Principles of Geology became *Our Planet: Introduction to Earth Science*; Geomorphology became *Earth Surface Processes*; Sedimentology & Stratigraphy became *Sedimentary Systems*.

This past year has been full of energy. I thought we were full to the brim in 2012, but this year was even bigger. Eight seniors graduated last week and seven juniors became seniors! In all, we had 26 declared geology majors at the end of spring semester. Laura guided 20 students from Evolution of the Earth on the Spring Break field trip to Utah and New Mexico, with the able assistance of senior TAs Mike Dickens and Zach Van Orsdel. That field trip was so full that Jim led another one in May to the Black Hills, for the students who couldn't be accommodated on the spring break trip. Maybe we have a new tradition (or have revived an old one).

The geology museum got a facelift, too, thanks to the hard work of student intern Rachel Mohr and departmental museum curator Emily Ford. They rearranged cases, redesigned the lighting, identified major themes for the display cases, and we added an EmRiver stream table to the space they created. We had a big party for the campus to christen the "new" museum. The stream table, hands-down, was the biggest hit – kids of all ages couldn't tear themselves away! Check out the column on the museum grand reopening.

The summer promises to be an active one, too. Laura's headed out on sabbatical for the year. I'm headed out for field work in Wyoming at the end of June with some stromatolite-loving students.

Keep sending news – we'll eventually get it turned back around. As always, if you're on campus, give us a shout, even if it's for a brief visit. And come play in (ahem, *study*) the stream table.

Julie Bartley – June 2015

Faculty

JIM
WELSH:

Greetings. Being that the last newsletter came out early last year, Julie has asked me to summarize last year, as I was chair during her sabbatical. The 2013-2014 academic year was a challenging one. As the College was struggling with financial issues, we were charged by the Provost in the late spring of 2013 to consider a merger with the Geography Department (with an expectation that a merger would be accomplished, but without any guidance as to advantages for such a merger). After numerous discussions both internally and with Geography, and with the help of an outside consultant, we failed to find significant advantage, and communicated to the Provost that we desired to remain separate. Thankfully that recommendation was accepted.

But there was good news. Overall, our course enrollments have been improving, with many of our upper level courses at or near capacity. And though our graduating class was small last year, our graduating classes appear to be quite healthy for the foreseeable future. We are one of the leading departments on campus with respect to student-faculty research (see graduate notes). Lance Erickson '14 spent part summer 2013 in northern Sweden studying the relationship between methane and mercury levels in a Swedish lake, as part of an REU project sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Lance presented results of his study at the annual American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco last December. Andrew Choquette '14 reported on findings of his work studying the source of sediment in the LeSueur River at the AGU meeting in San Francisco last December. Andrew's work is part of a study sponsored by the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Utah State University, and mentored by Laura Triplett. Zachary van Orsdel '15, Emily Ford '15, and Rachel Mohr '16 presented findings on their work with Laura Triplett at the AGU in San Francisco on their work as part of Laura's NSF-funded study of silica sedimentation in the Platte River (Nebraska). Zachary spent the spring semester studying in New Zealand. Rachel was Goldwater nominee.

As indicated, Julie was on sabbatical last year. Her position was filled by Hilary Christensen, a recent Ph.D. (in paleontology) from the University of Chicago. In addition to her regular teaching duties, Hilary taught a course on "Dinosaurs" during January, and took students to the Field Museum (in Chicago) as part of that course.

Lastly, we returned to Big Bend for our spring break trip. I led that trip with a nice group of 14 students.

On a personal level the year was fairly low key. I spent much of last summer in the Evanston, WY area where my wife was working (as reported in the last newsletter). Included in that was a trip to Moab and Santa Fe. And as indicated above I was able to return once again to probably my favorite spring break spot—Big Bend.

LAURA
TRIPLETT:

Hi everyone! What a rock star year we've had here in Nobel! I love having all three of our permanent faculty here (which, of course, only happens about half the time because of our sabbaticals). Here's a quick summary of what's been happening in my part of the geological world:

I led the spring break trip again this year: 21 students, 4 vans, 3000 miles and no breakdowns (vehicular or personal). Can you believe it? We followed the same route I traveled in 2012, camping near Arches National Park one night, in Canyonlands 3 nights, and spending two nights in New Mexico along the Rio Grande and in Los Alamos. And again, Carol and Vic Hogsett welcomed us joyously and generously into their lives for 1.5 days of field tripping, home-cooked dinner, indoor sleeping, and breakfast. I loved catching up with them, and the students were totally blown away by the stories of geology, archaeology and New Mexico culture that Carol and Vic shared. Also, I was THANKFUL to have Professor Lisa Heldke from the Philosophy Department join our expedition. Lisa hopes to spend her sabbatical in Antarctica studying what meaning food has to the scientists in that "intentional community" (her words). Just this month, Lisa won the Faculty Scholarly Achievement Award here at Gustavus for her work in the area of 'the philosophy of food'. So, I convinced her to do a pilot study following us around the desert southwest as we shopped, cooked, and ate together. She was a trooper!

I've been teaching my usual rotation of hydrogeology, climate change, earth surface processes, and intro courses. I like seeing how the student body gradually changes from year to year in terms of their interests and the skills and knowledge they have coming in. Our enrollments have been growing, too, which makes the classes bigger, more energetic and, yes, a bit more work.

Julie and I have been extremely busy running the InTeGrate Project. She'll probably write more about that, but in short, we're helping faculty across campus integrate climate science into their existing courses and curricula. I love learning about how professors in different disciplines teach and think, and this grant (through the Science Education Resource Center, funded by NSF) has helped us do that in a very intentional and collaborative way.

In 2015, we conducted our last fieldwork for my three-year NSF project studying how riparian vegetation in rivers controls silica flux downstream. For the final act, Rachel Mohr '16, Russ Krueger '17 and I traveled to Utah where, joined by co-PI Karin Kettenring from Utah State University, we canoed down the Bear River and hiked along the Green River collecting samples.

I've also continued to have students measuring sediment mobilization and transportation in the tributary streams and ravines in the Minnesota River watershed. That work will continue, focusing more on Seven Mile Creek watershed over the next few years. Stay tuned!

I was granted tenure this spring, and was surprised at how gratified and proud I was to be permanently accepted here at Gustavus. I love the faculty and students I work with, and feel entirely "at home" at this college. So, I'm heading into my first sabbatical beginning in June, feeling both reflective about my time so far and excited about all of the reading, data analysis, writing, thinking and planning I will do this year. Thank you to all of you who shared parts of your own life's journey with me, and to those of you who have supported us from afar!

JULIE BARTLEY:

Wow! Sabbatical is fabulous! A bit of a shame I had to wait 16 years before getting one, but I'll be sure to take them regularly now. I stayed local, spending most of the year at the U of M. While there, I forged some collaborations with Jake Bailey (geobiology) and David Fox (paleontology) and met a lot of great people.

It was a productive year, for sure. I finished up some old projects, with publications coming out in *Geobiology*, results of fieldwork I and my collaborators did nearly a decade ago, and in *Palaos*, results from work we did in the Andes of Argentina in 2009. I also wrote several grant proposals, three (!) of which were successful. That means I've got all kinds of great stuff going on this year, too.

Laura Triplett and I received funding from SERC, as part of an NSF project called InTeGrate. Our project brings climate science into non-geoscience courses that address climate change as part of the course. It's been a tremendously fun project, as we've gotten to know how faculty talk about the social, ethical, economic, political, and biological impacts of climate change. So far, a year into the project, we've worked in 10 courses and involved around 20 faculty members.

My second new project involves more traditional research for me. I received a three-year grant from the Petroleum Research Fund to explore similarities and differences in stromatolites in time and space. We started last summer, with work on stromatolites of the Sibley Group (Ontario, Canada) and the Shakopee Formation (MN). This summer takes us to Wyoming and the stromatolites of the Eocene Green River Formation.

The third new project emerged from an unsuccessful grant proposal. Last year, I was part of a team that proposed a mast-mounted, full-color, high-resolution camera for the next Mars rover (to launch in 2020). Although our camera wasn't chosen, we did receive NASA funding to develop sampling protocols for the rover. That mission is a sample-collection mission (with the samples to be picked up by a different mission), and it's important that we know the best ways for a robot to sample the surface of Mars.

It was great to be back teaching this year, though, as much as I enjoyed sabbatical. The Sedimentary Systems course had 17 very enthusiastic students, who provided a launch to the stromatolite research project by investigating the Shakopee Formation as part of a class project. Evolution of the Earth had two lab sections and 20 students. Laura did a great job shepherding them in the field out west. I was flattered to learn this spring that I will receive the Janet Anderson Lecture Award, given by the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science. Laura thoughtfully nominated me for this award, and, as it turns out, I'm the first geologist to win in the Physical Science division, the first woman to win in that division, and the first Gustavus faculty member to be honored in either division.

Our Newest Alumni

Andrew Choquette '14 did his senior research on sediment mobilization in the LeSueur River watershed. He's now working for Natural Resources Engineering Company.

Lance Erickson '14 did an REU project that took him to Sweden and New England, to study mercury dynamics in sub-Arctic lake sediments. He is now working for Monaco Services, a drilling subcontractor working in North Dakota.

Emily Ford '14 finished up with us in December, working on additional dimensions of the Le Sueur River sediment project with colleagues at University of Minnesota Duluth.

John Berger '15 did a senior project investigating phosphorus contamination of Crystal Lake in Hennepin County, where he worked during the summer. John also worked with Julie Bartley on the stromatolite project and presented at the North-Central GSA meeting in May.

Dominic Delmont '15 spearheaded our portion of a project to determine the source and history of pre-settlement bison bones in the Des Moines River. Dominic presented his results at the North-Central Section meeting of GSA in May.

Michael Dickins '15 reconstructed the rate at which a ravine of Seven Mile Creek is eroding by knickpoint migration.

Scott Hauer '15 investigated the nature of blue amphibole in an Archean greenstone from northern Minnesota.

Serenity Mahoney '15 used imagery from the Opportunity Rover to explore the nature of breccia from Victoria Crater on Mars.

Zachary Severson '15 sampled sediment from several locations along a ravine in Seven Mile Creek Park to determine the degree of fluvial modification of sediment in the ravine

Zachery Van Orsdel '15 explored the likely sedimentary setting of Mount Sharp and Gale crater on Mars, using orbiter and rover imagery.

Student Spotlight

Russell Krueger '17 was one of Gustavus' nominees for a Goldwater scholarship and he received an honorable mention. In addition, Russell was awarded an Ernest F. Hollings scholarship from NOAA, which includes both a scholarship and a funded summer internship. In the meantime, he's off to an REU summer research experience in South Carolina. Congratulations to Russell!



Spring Break



Geology Museum Re-Opening!

The geology museum has had a face-lift. As part of Laura Triplett's NSF grant, she, along with students Rachel Mohr ('16) and Emily Ford ('14), created an interactive stream exhibit, complete with stream table. To make room for the stream table, Emily and Rachel rearranged the rock, mineral, and fossil exhibits, organizing them by theme. In the spring, we hosted an open house to celebrate the new look of the museum. Campus and community members helped us celebrate.



Donor Corner

Our department is very fortunate to have had generous support from numerous alumni and friends. Thank you to those who have donated to the annual fund; your donations to the department allows us to offer scholarships to support the costs of the spring break field trip for three students; they also allowed us to update key pieces of equipment. Our long-standing endowment, established by Walter Youngquist and Chet Johnson, continues to support student field trips, travel to conferences for students, and equipment. In addition, a generous gift by Lee and Ginny Petersen contributed to the purchase of the stream table (above, left), several other pieces of equipment, has supported field and laboratory research of several students, and summer research experiences for one student and faculty mentor for the past two years.

Without this kind of generous support, we certainly could not provide the kind of experiences that make a Gustavus geology degree unique for our students. THANK YOU.

Former Faculty

MARK JOHNSON

Dear Joe and GeoGusties!

It is a dozen years that I have been gone from GAC—time flies! But I am greatly enjoying my time in Sweden and teaching at the University of Gothenburg. As Joe says, I have gone over to the dark side, that is, I am still in administration as the head of this department, which has about 85 people 'under' me. It is surprisingly interesting, and even though there are petty personality conflicts and a few that see education and research from a Games-of-Thrones perspective, it is a great honor to help lead a department and define goals and carry them out. We have successively employed some top people these last two years, a Quaternary geologist, a geomorphologist, and a high-temperature geochemist. Our department has won a number of grants this year, too (including me!), so it feels that we are doing some things correctly.

As you might know, there is a Gustavus Semester in Sweden during odd-numbered years, and they do some geology with me. This will be the 4th time I have met up with them, and it is always great to get a dose of Gustiedom and Minnesota. Jeff Jeremiason is leading the group this year.

My daughter turned teenager in numbers on the 13th of January and in spirit shortly thereafter. Anyone have clues how to best deal with such a beast, please feel free to write.

Recent geology highlights have been continued field work the last few summers on 'our' drumlin field in Iceland—Mulajökull. My extended family spent two weeks on Lanzarote at Christmas, and it is a fantastic place to see volcanic geology. I have a PhD student now (from the Swedish survey), and we will be investigating glacial landforms revealed by LiDAR in southern Sweden for the next few summers.

It has been awhile since we have been in Minnesota and St. Peter, but we plan to get back this summer in July.

I also must say that I am in contact with a number of GeoGusties on Facebook, and I welcome more contacts! It is a great way to keep in touch and to remember good times.

Thanks, Joe, for organizing this newsletter, and I look forward to reading others' comments!

RUSSELL SHAPIRO

I love your style Joe! No snow here on the west coast, drought conditions prevail. As you can see from my new label below, I made full professor and then woke up in a ditch and was crowned "Chair" as well. In better news, I had a paper on the Biwabik-Gunflint microfossils published in Geobiology and received an NSF grant to perform geochemical analyses on stromatolites from the Biwabik. So, even though I may wear sandals and bask in the sunshine of northern California, my field pack is still dusty red and thoughts are on the Iron Range.

Russell

CAROL (MOONEY) HOGSETT

The year I spent at Gustavus seems so long ago (mid 1992 - mid 1993), but yet, just the other day....

The GAC Geology Spring Field Trip brought 23 students and Dr. Laura Triplet to my home area near Santa Fe, NM. On their way back from Canyonlands in Utah, they came to our home (Vic and I) to learn about the Jemez Volcano and hot springs, anasazi culture, then on to the Harding Pegmatite Mine. In true NM fashion, my husband and I made the group Frito Pies for dinner. The house reminded me of my own college days... you know, that party when everyone had to just stay over? We had a grand time, and I am so pleased to be able to do this with GAC, after all these years. My husband Vic is quite knowledgeable in the archeology around here and he hiked us through the magical Tsankawi Indian Ruin (part of Bandelier National Monument). I will look forward to the next meet up! This is the 2nd visit from GAC geology department to my house. Since I did not know Dr. Triplet before... I can only guess that "someone" gave her my name? And for that I am very happy! We get along famously and I am so pleased to see a female professor again in the department! In 1993, I led the spring geology field trip to Colorado and NM with Heyo... some will remember that trip and sleeping on the floor at my sister's home in Denver and going to Ghost Ranch in NM? Fun trip!

Do you remember Heyo and Tatiana Vanlten (92-93)? He is still a Geology Professor at Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana (Tatiana is a black belt and a beader extraordinaire!). Heyo returns to New Mexico every May with his geology students to Ghost Ranch to study the Mesozoic section there. We always get together for a meal, and we have also done some field trips together to several fossil sites in northern NM. Yet another wonderful GAC connection I have made. FYI, Heyo is still.... Heyo!

My time has greatly freed up since October 2014, when I retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory - 17 years of service. My career(s) have always been fun and enjoyable. Most recently at LANL, I have spent my time recruiting the best and brightest computer science majors from selected universities. I have been so fortunate to not only travel to many wonderful destinations in the US, but to have met so many talented and interesting people. This part of "work" I will miss, but am confident that I will indeed continue to meet new people and be able to share my love of geology with them. I attended the Grace Hopper - Women in Computing Conference in October - in Phoenix, AZ, which is an incredible conference with about 5000 female computer science students, faculty, IT professionals, and IT employers.

I will say this about retirement, at first it seemed weird to not be driving to work! Not having someplace to be at some particular time. I am pretty much over that now. Just doing whatever I feel like. Ha - I think I have always done that anyway!

Plans for our retirement include camping in our Sportmobile wherever it takes us (Big Bend NP, Canyonlands, Minnesota, and the NW coast), gardening and landscaping at home (I just happen to have this huge outdoor collection of rocks LOL), traveling to exotic locations (Iceland, Peru) and revisiting others we liked very much (Viet Nam, Panama, BVI...). We both love to golf and hike so more of that for sure. Staying happy and healthy is a priority.

I am pleased to say that I have reconnected (FB) with several students from my GAC days; Bob Pruesser, Greg Reinhiller, Andy McGrath, Julie Fitzke, and Nathan Stamm. Good people, living a good life.

All the best to you, Carol (Mooney) Hogsett 92'-93'

JOE CARLSON

And let me add my greetings and salutations. I really have nothing exciting to report since the last Newsletter. I enjoy retirement and recommend it for everyone. I am still gardening, fishing, attending Gustie Geezers meetings and selected College events, all with a little less intensity than I used to. Marge and I are planning a major cruise either around the tip of South America or to Australia and New Zealand as part of an extended 50th anniversary celebration. We have gone as far as gathering the brochures and prices, but haven't been able to make the final commitment. I hope to have a report for you in next year's Newsletter.

Alumni News

WALTER YOUNGQUIST

Walt continues to be active, writing in Eugene, Oregon. He was honored by having an endowed graduate fellowship established in his name at the University of Oregon by a number of former students who Walt mentored into productive careers in the petroleum business.

KEN EMERTON '60

Ken passed away on April 13th 2015 in North Branch, Minnesota.

CHUCK LEWENSTEN '68

Life is very good, it is time to down size our life, we are selling our big house and moving into a townhouse. I am still in the gold and silver markets, but will cut back the amount of time I spend at the store spending more time at the lake and my hunting lodge in South Africa. I saw Russ Sharp at our reunion, he brought back good memories of GAC. Hope all is well with everyone.

KEN R. NORDLIE '70

I was a Geology minor graduating in 1970, and I was on the Geology field trip to the Southwest in January 1970 of which I have very fond and enduring memories (and photos).

Regarding Chester Johnson, If I remember correctly, he had a wry sense of humor, and gave enjoyable and entertaining lectures in Nobel lecture hall. I seem to remember that he insisted that students always sit in their assigned seats (maybe for attendance purposes?) and would take notice if they didn't. Does anyone else remember this?

As a side note, what happened to the Foucault pendulum in Nobel Hall? The last time I visited it was inoperative. Was it ever repaired?

Editor's note: the Foucault pendulum well is still there, but the pendulum has not been restored. Apparently, it wouldn't stay repaired.

WILLIAM BESOLOCK

--- Wow, Joe --- what is it? --- Global warming or global climatic change? That seems to be the inconvenient truth ---- or are we being duped? After viewing some of earth's history, in my biology sub classes as of late --- (on the history channel --- after going thru the two major mass extinctions in earth's history --- the Jurassic and the one before that --- the one with lower life forms), are we still able to eek it out for another hundred years or so? Hopefully, we can --- for our children's sake (and their hopes and dreams).

--- fortunately, my daughter (Christie) and her husband (Carlos) are safely in the Clearwater/ St. Petersburg area (which could be engulfed in h2O --- in the not too distant future --- via Nat'l Geographic predictions). However, we all had a great rainy day in Walt Disney World, with my ten year old son --- Jacob, over the Christmas/New year's break.

--- My older son, Billy, is making Mustangs and Fusions (down at the Woodhaven / Flat Rock Plant) --- and slip sliding his way to work.

--- Oh well --- happy next ice age Joe --- Wm Beslock

KARL MOLENAAR '76

Good to get your newsletter again. To dust off some cobwebs I graduated from Gustavus in 1976 with degrees in Geology, Biology and Chemistry. I was the only Geo Major in 1976. I attended one semester at Arizona State and then left and spent two plus years at Mayo as a research tech before going to University of Minnesota Medical School graduating in 1983 and then finishing my Family Practice Residency in 1986 from Hennepin County Medical Center. One notable from my Intern year was a patient who was diagnosed as one of the first patients in Minnesota with AIDS. I joined my father in his practice in 1988 and practiced with him till his retirement in 1996 and I continued to practice in Cannon Falls until 2010 when Mayo Clinic (who had purchased the Hospital in Cannon in 2006) and I saw "differences" in how to deliver rural health care and we parted ways. After sitting out a two year no-compete I built my own clinic in Cannon and then partnered with Olmsted Medical Center and we opened in August of 2013 where I continue to practice.

I have two children (twins). My son (Michael) graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2014 with a degree in Political Science and my daughter (Caitlin) will graduate this May from Kansas State with a Masters in Interior Architecture.

I have been married for 26 years and my wife, Cindy currently works for the local Library in Cannon Falls.

Though my childhood dreams were to work in the geology field I will have to do so in another life. One of my best friends, however, is a petroleum geologist who has been "commuting" to Russia for five years to work on developing a new oil field there.

One of my most exciting adventures was taking a trip to Papua New Guinea with my son (age 14 at the time) and seven other co-adventurers in search of MIAs (Missing in Action) from WWII. I took a second trip in 2008 with a fellow Gustie Steve Briggs (1977 graduate) and twelve others. We were successful on both missions in finding downed American Aircraft, dogtags, and some bodily remains.

That's all for now,

Dr. Karl Molenaar "76"

SARA MATTHIAS DOBBS '84(GEOLOGY) AND STEVE DOBBS '84(PHYSICS)

Steve and I have been living in Houston for the last 5 years and both work for Chevron. Steve is in a 4-D Seismic Group with much of the work focused off-shore Angola. He was lucky enough to head up a Seismic "Cruise" a couple of summers ago and accumulated so much compensation time he spent 9 weeks biking across the U.S. with the Fuller Center Bike Adventure last summer (Atlantic City, NJ to Astoria, WA.). I met him several times along the way, and biked to the Pacific Ocean with him on the last day. My job with Chevron is with the Intercultural Group utilizing my Geography Degree to help employees prepare for work in international locations with other cultures, but I get to draw on my Geology Degree occasionally and can always attend the lunch and learn sessions on a variety of energy-related topics. Our oldest son is married and lives in Houston (no grandkids yet...) and our youngest son lives in Lubbock and is working on a Master's degree in History. This May Steve and I will be celebrating our 30th Wedding Anniversary (where does the time go?)

Looking forward to next newsletter addition.

Sara

JULIE MILLER '85

Thanks for continuing with the Newsletter! Sorry I never had Chester but Jim did can't help you either with the people you are looking for as I am not in contact with too many people living here in Spain.

I am continuing my work in the European Trademark and Design Office (OHIM) as documentalist and Content Manager Assistant. My daughter is all grown up and in her first year of college studying International Relations and Management.

Take care, would be nice to hear what's going on with other folks.

Keep up the good work.... Gustie geezers??? really??? LOL...

RANDY HUNT '85

Hey Joe - I am frantically trying to get out for Spring Break but one bit of news to pass on. After almost 5 years of nights and weekends we have finished our text book, coming out in May-June (mock up of cover attached). The perfect graduation and birthday gift - coffee tables too. Seriously, I'll never do this again and now understand the corollary to "this too shall pass"....which is "like a kidney stone".

Hope all goes well with you and yours! - Randy



JACKI (LUNDBERG) ROSE '86

News: I'm still living in Alaska. With the drop in oil prices, I decided to leave my secure consulting job and join a new, small, oil company. I'll let you know next year if I still have a job. It's a great project in that I can develop everything new from the ground up. No more trying to work with standard procedures that make no sense in Alaska but are nevertheless required because "that's the way we do it in the Gulf". It's very exciting, and I love going to work every morning! My job is to obtain the necessary permits for the project and develop compliance programs. The company is BlueCrest Energy. We hope to have first oil in mid-2016.

I'm still heavily involved in my church and my kids' school. I'm still coordinating the school science fair each year. My kids are 12, 14 and 23, and as of about 8 months ago, I'm now the shortest in the family. They just keep growing and growing and growing...

I hope all is well with everyone!

MATT SCHERER '93

Major Matthew Sherer returned to Gustavus to give the MAYDAY! Peace Conference Keynote address in Christ Chapel on April 29th. Matt was in the ROTC program while at Gustavus and received a commission in the U.S. Army in 1993. After serving four years, Matt and his wife, Anastasia Norton '94 served in the Peace Corps in South America. He returned to active duty in 2001 and was accepted into the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy. Upon completion of his master's degree in physical therapy, Matt has served in a variety of clinical and leadership positions including an assignment as the chief of amputee physical therapy at Walter Reed Military Medical Center. Matt's MAYDAY address showed the amazing services provided at that facility. He presently is detachment commander at the Andrew Rader U.S. Army Health Clinic, Fort Myer, Virginia.

KATHY BONNIFIELD '94

I've moved from Minnesota to the Boston area, where I'm working at the Judicial Independence Program Officer for the Piper Fund. (The Piper fund focuses on efforts to address undue special interest/ dark money influence on democracy. I focus on fair and impartial state courts, where more and more dark money is being dumped into judicial elections.)

DAVE DAVIS '94

It is nice to hear that you are publishing the newsletter again. It is always nice to see what everyone is up to. I hope things are well with you. I'm not sure how long it has been since I provided news but I started a new job in 2013. I am a business analyst at Andersen Windows in the beautiful, and geologically significant, St. Croix river valley. I live in St. Paul and am married with a 3-year old daughter.

My geological endeavors are confined to vacations these days. Next week I am looking forward to studying reef geology in Key West, FL. The rest of my family is looking forward to the warm weather.



CARA LARSEN ALFERNES '94

Well I tried to turn my year's adventures into a Haiku to be clever, but that didn't work out so well. So instead imagine a clever Haiku about encountering a whale shark while snorkeling in Northern Costa Rica, going to Barrow, Alaska for my seventh summer for work, and generally enjoying living in the Pacific Northwest. Thanks for keeping up the newsletter –

ANDREW J. TARARA '95

It's nice to hear from you. No changes here. I'm sharing with you a picture of my family (it's from almost 4 years ago—so the kids are growing up fast and I have much less hair now). I'm still a geologist at AECOM. 16 years in May. Our office is now in Minneapolis.

Drew

ANDY MCGRATH '95 (<-- Can it really be 20 years!!)

Greetings Joe!

I always look forward to hearing from you and the rest of the department Alumni. Since last writing to you, the biggest change for me has been my job. I had been consulting as a software developer for about 3 years. For half of that time I was working on bestbuy.com at the corporate headquarters. I found I really liked the culture and pace there and decided to sign on full time. I am now an engineering manager for one of the product teams that support a portion of the website. It has been a big change from what I was doing. I now am managing people more than developing software, but it has been a welcome transition of my career. We are still living in Southwest Minneapolis. Family life is amping up with kids exploring varied interests. Life is exceptionally good.

My two oldest are now 9 and perfect age to take advantage of the National Park's "Every kid in a Park" initiative. I think next summer we will be hitting the road and seeing the American southwest -- revisiting some of my Spring Break memories. They get bored pretty fast when dad "gives too much detail" about the rock formations they are looking at but I expect it to be a trip to remember. Take care! Thank you for continuing with this tradition!

NATHAN SUURMEYER '04

News: Hello Gusties! I continue to work as a geologist for Shell Oil Company in Houston. Currently I'm working on the evolution and petroleum systems of accretionary prisms in the Caribbean. It's fascinating work but some days I long for the simplicity of the contact between the Jordan Sandstone and Oneota Dolomite. In my free time I've become fixated on exploring Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument with its slot canyons, dinosaur footprints, and big landscapes. Would be happy to give suggestions or take folks out if ever you plan to visit south central Utah, always looking for a reason to get out of Houston. Best of luck to y'all!

Nathan: Houston, Texas

ANDREW LEAF '05

I am still doing groundwater modeling for the USGS at the Wisconsin Water Science Center. I enjoy working closely with a few other Gusties in our group- Randy Hunt ('85) and Mike Fienen (who took some GAC geology classes in the 80's). We have a lot of interesting projects right now related to water issues in upper Midwest- everything from mining to irrigation pumping and climate change. Most are looking at the effects of these stresses on groundwater-surface water interactions. On the side, I am also collaborating with Evan Christianson ('05) on an open-source software project to improve visualization of groundwater model calibration.

In other news, I recently got engaged to Katherine Martin. We got engaged on the Porcupine Mountains escarpment overlooking the Mid-Continent Rift. We are enjoying life on the Madison isthmus, where we garden, bicycle and ply the waters of Lake Mendota and Monona in our canoe. Last spring we had a great trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, where we ate a lot of good food, explored the capitol city and beaches, and also soaked in an amazing travertine spring on the edge of a cliff.

Andy

ELEANOR BASH '07

This past September I embarked on a PhD in Glaciology at the University of Calgary. The focus of the project is using unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor surface change on glaciers in the Canadian Arctic and the Canadian Rockies. As part of my program I had the opportunity to study in Svalbard this winter and just returned from two months in Longyearbyen! It was a great adventure and I am already scheming how I can make my way back. In the meantime I will be starting fieldwork this summer north of Baffin Island.

JULIE (LANDKAMER) HELM '08

Ready to contribute my bit of news as requested: My daughter, Natalie, was born last February 2014. She's been a great traveler this winter. She had lots of fun out west with her parents at Jackson Hole, Grand Teton, and, our favorite, Big Sky Ski Resort.

ANN LINDQUIST

I recently accepted a job as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Geology and Physics at Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie, Michigan. It's a stone's throw from Canada, and the weather promises to be much colder than Arkansas has been. I really like the department. They're small and do a lot of project based learning and research projects with the students (they actually remind me of Gustavus, and the school is about the same size). I'm looking forward to starting in the fall and really hope that everything goes well.

Ann

JOHN LEAF '09

I'm currently in the middle of teaching my 2nd year at Hopkins North Junior High School. I added a couple sections of Physical Science this year to go along with my four of Life Science. Maybe someday I'll actually teach my major. I'm 3 for 3 on extended road trips around the country during my summers, though I'm planning a possible trip to Central America this summer.

- John

JONATHAN CARLSON

I'm continuing in my third year as the Science Librarian at the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University. This year I've become more active in the Minnesota Library Association, serving on the board for the MLA's Academic and Research Libraries Division. On a more fun note, I've been helping with the Saint John's Maple Syrup production this spring.

ROBERT HOLDER '12

In the last year I finished up my MS degree on the U-Pb dating of high-pressure metamorphic rocks in Norway, worked as a teaching assistant for the UCSB summer field camp in the mountains of Eastern Nevada, and started work as a PhD student (still at UCSB), which included 4 weeks of fieldwork in rural, southern Madagascar. It has been an exciting year! And to finish it off, I got to reunite with Julie Bartley, Laura Triplett, and several Gustavus alumni + current students at the AGU conference in San Francisco. Can't wait to hear what everyone from Gustavus is doing.

800 W. College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082
1-800-GUSTAVUS
Gustavus.edu

