



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY/GEOGRAPHY
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



2011-2012

Faculty and Student Excursions, Summer 2011



Lauren Jerkovitz, geography major and broadcast meteorology minor, meets the Weather Channel's Jim Cantore at the National Weather Association conference in Birmingham, Alabama.



John Stimac and Lisa New-Freeland led a Study Abroad trip to Turkey, Greece, and Egypt. Santorini caldera – view over a church in Oia on the island of Thira (Santorini), Greece. In the background one sees the caldera edge on the left and part of the resurgent dome, now an island, on the right.

Message from the Chair



Mike Cornebise, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geography, and Chair

Greetings from Charleston, IL! I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well. We've had a busy year since the last newsletter and I'd like to take a minute to get you caught up on some of the changes in the department and on campus. Our Geology/Geography family continues to grow with the addition of two new faculty members this fall. Dr. Barry Kronenfeld joins us as an Assistant Professor in Geography: he earned his Ph.D. from State University of New York, Buffalo (2004). He is a GIS specialist with research interests in historical land use change. He teaches GIS, Cartography, Human Impacts on the Environment and Weather and Climate. Mr. Nathan Webb came on board this year as a part-time instructor in Geology. He holds a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and is presently employed at the Illinois State Geologic Survey. Nathan has wide-ranging expertise in the geology of Illinois and teaches several sections of

ESC/GEL 1300. Welcome Barry and Nathan! Of course, our incumbent faculty have been very active this year as you will see below.

I'm pleased to report that our Colloquium Speaker Series was a big hit last year and is off to a good start this year. To date, we have sponsored several alumni speakers including Mike Drake (B.S. in Geology, 1985), Roy Funkhouser (B.S. in Geology, 1981), and most recently Allen Oertel (B.S. in Geology, 1978) who presented in September, 2011. If you would like to return to your Alma Mater and present on some aspect of your work experience or research, we would love to hear from you!

In terms of campus goings-on, the University and the G/G Department are abuzz with the recent opening of the Renewable Energy Center (REC) on 18th Street. The REC replaces a 1920s-era coal burning facility and the end result will be an 80% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions. We're proud to note that the REC is the only center of its kind in Illinois. The Center will begin by exclusively burning wood chips, but research into alternative fuels, such as switchgrass and

corn stover, has already begun. Our own Dr. Chris Laingen has been an active participant in the Renewable Energy Center and has been working with area farmers to study the potential for the production of alternate fuels in Charleston's hinterland. The REC is open for tours, so if you plan on coming through the area, it's well worth the stop!

I'd like to once again extend an invitation to attend our homecoming festivities this year. Our department will help coordinate the College of Sciences tent at Tent City (this takes place before the football game), so please stop by for a hot dog and a chance to catch up with several of our faculty. If attending homecoming is not in your plans, we would like to invite you all to attend our spring awards gathering. Look for an invitation in early spring after we finalize plans for the program. In any event, we would love to hear from you and find out what you've been doing since graduation from EIU. Feel free to contact me by phone (217-581-2626) or by e-mail: mwcornebise@eiu.edu.

Best wishes!
Mike Cornebise



Eastern's Renewable Energy Center

Message from the Dean



**Godson C. Obia, Ph.D., Interim Dean,
College of Sciences**

Greetings from the EIU College of Sciences! I am three months into my term as Interim Dean. The College of Sciences continues the tradition of excellence in teaching and research/creative activity. In response to the call from President Perry and Provost Lord to make EIU the best in the nation at integrating classroom and real-world experiences, COS departments, including Geology/Geography, have responded by developing curricula that foster student-centered learning opportunities, faculty-mentored research, interactive and investigative laboratories, and high-impact learning experiences. Our talented students in Geology/Geography

are among EIU students who are now immersed in Integrative Learning Experiences that give our students the opportunity for reflection and connection and for engagement in high-impact experiences. To this end, our geology/geography faculty and students are among campus leaders in study abroad programs, internships, service-learning, capstone experiences, and interdisciplinary studies. Plans are under way to establish a multidisciplinary GISci Center, while our faculty are primary contributors to the recently created Center for Clean Energy Research and Education as well as major participants in research associated with the Renewable Energy Center.

We are, however, not resting on our laurels. EIU, College of Sciences, and Geology/Geography recognize the challenges posed by reductions in state funding, economic realities that reduce family incomes for supporting students, declining enrollment, and inadequate science facilities for effective teaching and learning. We are following the lead of the President and Provost in exploring best practices for improving recruitment and retention while maintaining rigorous curricula, more efficient management of financial resources, and strategic plans to construct a new science building and renovate existing science facilities. In a recent College Convocation, I shared my vision for the College of Sciences with the faculty and staff, as the beginning of a conversation about the future of COS. I need your input. Go to http://www.eiu.edu/~colsci/about_mission.php and email your feedback to me or the faculty in G-G. We will continue to strive to make EIU, COS, and G-G a better place. Best wishes in all your endeavors!

Dean Godson C. Obia (gcobia@eiu.edu)

My Rewarding Journey



Alan Baharlou, Professor and Chair Emeritus.

After 38 years of a rewarding, exciting, and challenging academic & administrative career in private and public universities, the last 25 years of it at Eastern Illinois University, I retired on August 1, 2005. My experiences at Eastern brought me everlasting and uplifting memories. I extensively participated in the University's shared governance activities. I felt privileged to work with the most visionary and dedicated geology/geography faculty and the most accomplished majors.

Considering the present critical state of the planet Earth's environment, population, resources, and cultural tensions, our majors can chose two significantly relevant contemporary majors in the discipline of sciences, Geology and Geography. Many of our majors continue their higher education through pursuing MS

and PhD degrees. The department receives numerous complimentary statements from employers in a wide range of related fields throughout the country. These statements are always about our majors' comprehensive backgrounds, field, laboratory, and internship experiences. This department has always been fortunate to have an excellent dedicated, knowledgeable, and student-centered faculty. Our courses and laboratories have been and are up-to-date. The university now has decided to take advantage of our faculty's expertise and modern laboratories and establish a GIS center to accommodate all university majors and community needs.

My Eastern colleagues and students honored me with some of the most prestigious awards, particularly the garden with three Bald Cyprus trees and a bench by University Lake. I am uniquely fortunate that after all these years my immediate family still lives in Charleston. My two daughters graduated from Eastern, and my four grandchildren all live in Charleston. After my retirement, I stayed very

involved and active in the university and community. I have taught one or two courses each semester for the School of Continuing Education programs and participated as the guest speaker in some classes. In addition, I became Vice President and then President of EIU Annuitants Association and currently am the Newsletter Editor and Legislative Chair of the organization. I volunteer for university functions such as Commencements and Open Houses, and, of course, to relive my memorable experiences I visit the Geology/Geography Department quite often. I enjoy summer time at our house in Estes Park, Colorado, and hiking in the Rocky Mountains.

Alan Baharlou
Professor and Chair Emeritus,
Department of Geology & Geography



Dr. Kathy Bower zip-lining in Monteverde cloud forest canopy, Costa Rica

What's Happening With You?

From time to time we hear from our alumni and would love to share this information with all of you. Our last newsletter featured many such updates from folks telling us of their news jobs, changes in their families and the like. If you send us these news bits by August, 2012, we will put them in our next newsletter. You can either send them via postal mail to the department or via email to dmburns@eiu.edu.

Student Activities

Sigma Gamma Epsilon news -

Our honors chapter really took off this past year, with membership up to 14 and much more activity going on with the group. We held bi-monthly meetings, co-sponsored several alumni to come give presentations to the department and – most exciting of all – we won the first ever Quality Chapter Award from the national society! There are 153 chapters nationwide, so we are quite proud to be honored as the first chapter to receive this award. We are going to try for a second straight year...

To this end, we are stepping up the number of activities in which we are engaged. Already we had a fun outing to go horseback riding, we have tentative plans to go zip-lining and are setting up a fundraising event to help fund future activities.

Finally, congratulations to the Tarr Award winner for AY '10/'11 – Christopher Smith!



SGE Student Members go horseback riding. John Zearing on horse, Mary the Wrangler teaching him how to ride.

Gamma Theta Upsilon News-

Gamma Theta Upsilon has had a busy year. Last fall, the organization welcomed eight new members to our ranks. Grace Markwell Meier Research Award recipients for the year were Mike Boline and Trisha Rentschler. Mike as well as

Emily Sheehan presented their research at the Illinois Geographical Society meeting in the Spring. During Spring Break, GTU hit the road for our casual learning experience once again, traveling to Southern Illinois (Garden of the Gods) and Kentucky (Mammoth Cave National Park). Students and faculty bonded with the locals over Mexican food and karaoke. Finally, GTU recognized all of the department's graduating students with well-attended Last Supper events at the end of each semester.



**GTU Student Members
excursion to Black Slough,
Illinois**

Recent Graduates

We in the department extend hearty congratulations to this past academic year's graduates (F'10/S'11/Su'11) and welcome them to our wonderful alumni family! The graduates are:

Fall 2010:

Nicholas Buckles
Cameron Hopman
Allison Hudson
Kara Kookon
Samuel Melecosky
Nathan Rasmussen
Bryan Scher
Christopher Slater
Kelsee Viano
Patrick Wildman

Spring 2011:

Clayton Ballerine
Michael Boline

Colleen Duffner
Miles Dwiggens
Robert Foster
Michael Gavin
Michael Gismondi
Jena Happ
Charles (Adam) Hardesty
Darrell Hayes
Ryan Heerema
Zachary Huber
Darren Leeds
Emily Sheehan
Torrence Smith
Craig Westendorf

Summer 2011:

Jordan Connors
Crystal Hoornstra
Brandt Schisler
Greg Weber
Michael Whildin

Study Abroad: Gods, Sultans, and Pharaohs: Physical and Social Landscapes Across Three Continents

This 4-credit study abroad experience will take you to three continents and three countries to see how physical and social landscapes influence one another. Participants experience how geology and society help to shape each other in Turkey, Greece, and Egypt. Mountains, plains, rivers, seas, and valleys will provide the physical landscapes of study as we examine social landscapes of past and present including ancient and modern religious practices, governments, education, and family/gender roles. Co-leaders for this interdisciplinary program are Dr. John Paul Stimac (Geology/Geography) and Dr. Lisa New Freeland (Sociology/Anthropology). This past summer's (2011) program had 13 participants with students come from each of the four colleges at Eastern, as well as two students from out of state. This coming summer (2012), we will again be visiting Cappadocia in central Turkey to see how ash-flow tuffs helped the early Christians, the island of Thira (Santorini) in Greece to see the impact of volcanic eruptions on civilizations, and Istanbul to see how geography and plate tectonics have influenced cultures. Come visit our web site at <http://castle.eiu.edu/~edabroad/programs/facultyled/newfreeland.php>



Cappadocia ash-flow tuff homes – rooms, homes, and even churches are carved out of the ash-flow tuff of central Turkey's Cappadocia region

Help Support the Department

Would you like to help the Department in its mission of helping students learn about, and prepare for, a career in geology, geography, and the earth sciences?

A variety of opportunities exist. These range from simple donations to providing advice, datasets, or job opportunities for students. We are particularly seeking to increase the funds available for student support. Gifts to the Geology/Geography Gift Account allow us to:

- Purchase equipment for faculty/student research;
- Develop an undergraduate research fund;
- Support undergraduates presenting research at scientific conferences;
- Support innovative, inquiry-based laboratory exercises for class.

If you would like to make a contribution, several options are available. The simplest way is to send a check to the Department of Geology/Geography. Online donations with a credit card can be done via the University web pages at www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php.

Please remember to direct the gift to the Department of Geology/Geography. Other options for contributions are listed at the Office of Development's page, www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php. These gifts are usually tax deductible.

If you wish to support a particular scholarship or area in our department, that is also possible. In general, unless specified otherwise, we allocate most of our gifts towards student support and we have several pre-existing funds.

Existing scholarships and funds

- General gift account – unrestricted use towards student support or equipment purchases
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- Geography of Ecuador and Latin America Enhancement Fund -geography majors.
- Geology Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geology
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – outstanding junior in Geology or Earth Science
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – at least sophomore Geology major with plans to continue in geology
- Ruby M. Harris Award – senior in Geology, Geography, or Earth Science
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship – junior in Geography or Earth Science
- Grace Markwell Meier Award – outstanding member of Gamma Theta

Upsilon (GTU)

- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography, or Earth Sciences
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either mathematics (even years) or Geography (odd years)
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – given to students majoring in Geography who show outstanding scholarship and dedication to the field of Geography.
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in observing daily climate data for National Weather Service.
- Geology in the Schools Outreach Program - funds for this program go towards supplies and models used in the classroom demonstrations as well as support for the students who are doing the presentations.
- Other – such as establishment of your own scholarship or memorial fund.

We would especially like to encourage alumni to check for the possibility of matching funds from their employer, as any donation will be multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1 match. That means in order to meet the minimum amount needed to establish a scholarship, \$10,000, you might only need to contribute \$3,333 if there is a 3:1 match.

Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are also appreciated but must be prearranged with the department beforehand to ensure optimal use (and for conformance to University regulations). If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to email or call me.

Michael Cornebise, Chair

Email: mwcornebise@iu.edu

Phone: (217) 581-2626

Bereavement: Dorothea Vaupel McDonald

Dorothea Vaupel McDonald, 91 passed away on August 24th 2011 at Rosewood Care Center. She was the eldest child of Arthur and Mary Cralley Vaupel. She married Aviation Cadet Walter H. McDonald, EIU faculty Annuitant, on December 24, 1943. He survives. Dorothea's career was in education, teaching school counseling in the High Schools in the Charleston and Mattoon, IL school systems. After retirement in 1982, Dorothea used her counseling tools in hospice and led workshops entitled "Aging with Grace, Hope and Humor." Along with her husband, she is survived by her three sons and their wives.

The Faculty

Brett Anderson

I have joined the Geology/Geography Department as an ACF to teach Weather and Climate and the Senior Seminar - Spaceship Earth. I began my college career by attaining by undergraduate degree in Environmental Geography from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. I then moved to Kansas State University where I received my Master's in 2000. From there, it was on to the University of Kansas for my doctoral work. In the realm of geography I consider myself a historical-cultural geographer that focuses on cultural imagery. I am also increasingly interested in environmental history. Outside of school I enjoy exploring the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado every summer for a couple of weeks. In addition, I am a big music fan and Charleston's proximity to Chicago, Indianapolis, Champaign, Bloomington, and St. Louis insures that my appetite for live music will be well satisfied.

Kathy Bower

Last year I went on sabbatical. For the fall semester, I lived in San Jose, Costa Rica as a guest of the University of Veritas. I stayed with a host family and attended intensive Spanish language classes. I studied many hours but still seemed to have more trouble learning the language than the American Study Abroad students, some of whom were from EIU. On the weekends, I went on field trips with the environmental classes at the university. Best of all, I discussed Costa Rican water supply issues with professionals in the country.

It was very interesting learning about a different culture. The Costa Rican people are very family oriented. They also believe it is better to work without machines if it means more people will be employed. Of course, it helps that minimum wage is \$3/hr in Costa Rica. The country has much surface water and may generate enough hydro-electric power in the future to sell to other countries. The people pride themselves on their care for the environment but this does not include surface water quality. Urban rivers are very polluted. Thus, groundwater is the source of choice for water supply. Hydrologists are working to keep the groundwater clean for future use.

While I was in the country, I was able to visit several active volcanoes, several beaches including a sea turtle hatchery, agricultural co-operatives, rainforests, cloud forests and dry forests. After this adventure, I'd advise everyone to take a sabbatical.

Diane Burns

Greetings from Diane! This year has been busy – where has the time gone?! I got two new courses on the books, one of which – Geology of National Parks – will be

taught this coming spring and looks to be a popular one. I cannot take credit for the idea of this course, this is something that has been kicking around in the department for a couple of decades and I believe is the brainchild of Bob Jorstad. Now it is an official general education course that will fulfill the science with a lab requirement and – it is hoped – garner us a few more majors. I have been fortunate enough to start a project with Dave Viertel on the geomorphological changes to the Little Wabash River that is really starting to shape up, as well as continuing to investigate the source area for the sediments that compose the Pennsylvanian/Permian Casper Formation. We collected more samples this past summer from the contemporaneous Hermosa Formation outside of Silverton, CO to do a comparative study.

I wish you all of the best and hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. Cheers!

Bob Cataneo

Drove east for the 2010 holidays and beat the east-coast blizzard by a day.....for the 2009 holidays, drove east and tried to finesse two snowstorms, one moving east from the plains, and one running up the Atlantic coast; the result?....caught both, and wound up driving 400 miles in blizzard conditions...so much for weatherman immunity.

Had a wonderful, one-time opportunity to teach ESC 1300 for the Spring, 2011 semester; learned lots about rocks, and, under the tutelage of Lady Di, had two weekends of Geology field trips where we all learned much about Mother Earth's history, and how to walk on/in water.....thanks, Diane.

Spent a week in New London, New Hampshire (Twin Lakes Village) in early August....temps from mid 50s to mid 70s while the rest of the country was melting; higher latitudes really are generally cooler.....hmmmm (severe winter on the way?).

That's my news from Lake Wobegon.

Craig Chesner

Greetings alumni. I hope you are all doing well. The major news for me since the last newsletter is that I am planning a return mission to Lake Toba during Summer 2012. Following up on the success of recent bathymetric mapping at Toba, our next mission will involve sub-bottom profiling using "chirp" sonar in order to image the sediments and possibly the pre-sediment caldera floor. Our team consists of 2 alumni (Mike Dolan and Del Bohnenstiehl), an adjunct Field Camp professor (Sid Halsor), as well as another geophysicist and an Indonesian geologist. Should be a great adventure on the lake! As always, I enjoy hearing from you, so keep me posted!

Mike Cornebise

I have been at EIU since 2000 and am beginning my second year as Chair of the Geology/Geography Department. I am blessed to serve with the best faculty and support staff on campus! I continue to teach both introductory and upper division courses in the department. I currently serve as President of the Illinois Geographical Society (IGS) and I'm on the advisory board of the Illinois Geographic Alliance. After three years of service, I stepped down as Editor of the IGS publication which has been renamed the Illinois Geographer (formerly IGS Bulletin). I was pleasantly surprised this year to have received the IGS 2011 Distinguished Geographer Award at our annual meeting in Macomb.

Outside of the office, I am married to Roxanne (Baharlou) Cornebise and we have two active children, Sam (8 years old) and Sofia (6 years old). A highlight of our year was a family trip to Mackinac Island, MI where motorized traffic is forbidden. Transport is limited to bicycles and horse-drawn carriages during the tourist season.

Cameron Craig

Salutations! It has been a very exciting year in the department and most grateful to be teaching alongside many fine colleagues. After six years of commuting back and forth between Terre Haute and EIU, I finally moved to Charleston this summer. The total mileage that my MINI Cooper (two of them) and I traveled together was well over 150,000 miles. Now, I can save gas (and the environment) and can spend more time working with my WEIU SkyWatch Forecast students assisting them in their role as the public's scientist and advising them in-house during severe weather events. Of the nine broadcast meteorology students that have graduated from our department, eight have secured jobs throughout the country (WWBT, Richmond, Virginia; KEVN, Rapid City, South Dakota; WCJB, Gainesville, Florida; WLFI, Lafayette, Indiana; WITI, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and WAND, Decatur, Illinois). The program is growing with fourteen students this semester and continues to be in the spotlight among professionals in the broadcast meteorology industry. Continuing to find integrative learning opportunities that tie observation with forecasting, my students continue to record important climatological data for National Weather Service from the weather station that the late Dalias Price observed for many years. In the spare time that have in between the paragraphs of my dissertation, I work with the Center for Academic Technology Support (CATS) on several film projects, advising and filming. Increasing the collaboration between our department and WEIU, I produce a video weather/climate segment for the new weekly show, "The Four Rivers Ag Report." Once and a while, I have included my colleagues on such topics as glaciers (Vince Gutowski), food production, and the character of barns (Chris Laingen). I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Broadcast Meteorology Practicum, Climate & History, and Spaceship Earth.

Jim Davis

Hello alumni! The past year has been a busy, but productive year for me. I have continued to teach a variety of human geography and regional courses. I also added Weather and Climate to my list of teaching responsibilities in the spring. I also have continued to focus on sports geography research. Dr. Chris Laingen and I presented a poster on college baseball success as it relates to climate and distance traveled at last year's AAG conference in Seattle. The biggest news this year comes in service. In June, I was appointed as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for EIU. So in addition to my time in the physical science building, I spend a lot of time in Lantz Arena and on multiple trips to the Ohio Valley Conference offices in Nashville..

Outside the office, my kids have kept me busy with softball, basketball and soccer games. I hope you all are doing well and look forward to seeing some of you at homecoming!

Steve DiNaso

In this newsletter, I wanted to take an opportunity to tell everyone about a very special person, and a very unique mineral collection. Many years ago I met a French woman named Jacquelyn Theret-Bulat who lived in northern Illinois. We had been introduced by a mutual friend, apparently the result of our common passion for rocks and minerals. Jacquelyn had asked if I was interested in purchasing a mineral collection which, over some 30 years, she, her husband, Chester, and her son, Michael, had collected. Some of the minerals were from museum collections, while others were collected by the Bulat family. I began purchasing this collection one 'box' at a time, back in 2003. Eventually, with the sole intent of having the minerals on permanent display in our department, and over the course of the many years of her close friendship with my family and me, she decided to relinquish ownership of the remainder of the collection and stated that together we would curate the collection and move it in its entirety to the university. The process required several years of re-cataloging, cleaning, and preparation. The collection is enjoyed by the many students who daily traverse the north-wing of the second floor of the Science Building. Jacquelyn often visited Charleston for extended periods of time assisting in every aspect of the preparation of the minerals – each of which were accompanied by a lengthy story about its origin and the manner in which it was acquired. She was very passionate about her collection, often citing her favorite specimens and lovingly telling the many stories associated with them. At the time of this writing, Jacquelyn and I were discussing the details of the collection's notation in this year's department alumni newsletter. Sadly, Jacquelyn Bulat passed away only a few weeks ago. She recently celebrated her 88th birthday and was still very passionate about minerals and mineral collecting. Jacquelyn is survived by her sister, Monique, and her nephew, Frederic, who both live in France. Today, the stories of her many travels and expeditions to the far corners of the United States and beyond will live on in

the detailed notes and specimens of the Jacquelyn & Chester Bulat Mineral Collection. Her many travels, and the stories of minerals and other matters she conveyed to me and others, were always captivating and often very amusing. Jacquelyn's and Chester's passion for collecting rocks and minerals began after the birth of their son, Michael, in 1958 and continued for many years thereafter. The Jacquelyn & Chester Bulat Collection consists of over 2000 museum-quality mineral specimens, of which approximately 950 are displayed here in the Physical Science Building. My family and the close friends who knew her will miss her dearly...we treasured her company, and she was a wonderful friend to us all...



Jacquelyn Theret-Bulat, Donor of the Jacquelyn & Chester Bulat Mineral Collection.

Vince Gutowski, Professor Emeritus

Hello to everyone. It has been a little over a year since I retired but I find it a bit hard to wean myself of the university environment. I still spend a few mornings a week at school, finishing up some grants and contracts, and have maintained enough curiosity about things to collaborate in a few new research projects. I have yet to completely move out of the department, but hope to make some headway this year. It is tough to toss 28 years of your life overnight. The university is encouraging retired faculty to maintain their connections to the school in many different ways, which is a win-win situation for both the school and the annuitants. My afternoons are spent working around the house, the farm or golfing. There is always something to do at the farm and golf would be much more fun if I spent as much time on the short grass fairways, rather than the woods or water on the sides. On the home front, Pam and I have done some traveling over the past year to take care of aging parents. She lost her father this Summer and my mom passed this Spring. We are now the official old people in our families. Our son Frank has a

two year old boy and one in the oven, and our son Carl has a one year old girl and is looking at the cookbook. Pam retired in June, and is still in the mental transition between working life and waking up with no real commitments. We plan to do some leisure travel in the near future, hopefully south when winter hits Illinois. If anyone is stopping through Chucktown, please give us a call.

Katherine Johnson

Hello EIU Geology/Geography alums!

In the last year, some exciting things have happened. I began involving EIU students in my micropaleontology research. Kara Kooken, who graduated in Dec. 2011, conducted a study of changing population structure of benthic foraminifers from off the coast of Tasmania during the Pleistocene. Although Kara graduated and is now working for an environmental consulting company in the Chicago area, Brandy Guerrettaz has picked up where Kara left off and is continuing the research. I also continue to advise and mentor the science teacher certification majors. This past summer, I ran a workshop for middle and high school educators focusing on paleontology. The workshop was funded by a grant from The Paleontological Society. It was a three day affair, involving trips to the Illinois State Museum with a "behind the scenes tour" of the collections and a fossil collecting trip to the Charleston Stone Quarry.

Belayet Khan

Not a much has changed since the last newsletter. The Fall, 2011 semester has begun, and I am teaching the regular courses. In addition, am also teaching courses for off-campus students on the weekends. I greatly enjoy teaching, and it is always a pleasure to interact with students in and outside of the classroom. My current research concentrates on climate variability and weather anomalies with special emphasis on South Asia, and I am planning to present my research findings at the next annual meeting of the Association of the American Geographers (AAG). My service involvement continues, and this year I am serving on a number of committees in the department, college, and the university. I have given several invited guest lectures on campus in the past year and plan for some in the current year as well. I continue to serve as the co-advisor of the GTU honor society and looking forward to another great year. Currently I am in the process of organizing the National Geography Awareness Week for November 2011 and plan to invite outside speakers to the department.

Our family enjoys travelling, and we have visited several countries in recent years including Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, India, Bangladesh, and Australia. This past summer we visited Ireland and also had a short trip to historical Belfast, UK. By the grace of the God, our children are doing well and

they remain busy with their academic and professional activities. Our older daughter is currently employed as a full-time financial advisor in Indiana. The younger daughter is in her third year as a medical student. My seventeen year old son has graduated from the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) and started his undergraduate education at Northwestern University. While each of us is in pursuit of our own work, my wife puts her efforts into taking care of the family, and we would certainly be lost without her support.

Barry Kronenfeld

Hello! I just started teaching in Geology/Geography at EIU this fall. Allow me to introduce myself.

My academic career has taken me many places. I started out studying Economics at Cornell University. After three years living and working in Japan, I followed up with a Ph.D. in Geography from SUNY Buffalo. Before coming to Eastern, I was also a faculty member in the Geography and GeoInformation Science Department at George Mason University.

My focus areas are Geographic Information Science and Historical Ecology. That is, I study the science of mapping, modeling and understanding the earth, with a particular focus on how humans have impacted the landscape over the last several centuries. Currently, I teach three courses in these areas: GIS, Human Impacts on the Environment, and Weather & Climate.

My professional interests also include the regional geography of eastern Asia. I am fluent in Japanese and can speak Chinese at an intermediate level. Of course, as a geographer I love maps, and to spread the word I've created several custom globes printed on basketballs for youth programs.

I live here in Charleston with my wife and one "feline dependent." I like hiking and kayaking, and am looking to go out on the Embarrass River. Coming from the east coast, many people have asked what I think of eastern Illinois. The people here have been very welcoming, and I'm very impressed by the level of student interest and professionalism of the department, as well as the state-of-the-art resources and equipment.

I'm very excited to join a dynamic and growing program here at Eastern!

Chris Laingen

Greetings! Fall 2011 marks the beginning of my third year as part of the GEL/GEG faculty here at EIU. The past year has been extremely productive and enjoyable. Last spring I helped to bring back to the GEG curriculum an introductory course in Physical Geography. I also attended a summer teaching workshop in Boulder, CO along with fifteen other geographers from around the country. My second full year also saw a continuation of my research on the

changing geography of the Corn Belt, while Cameron Craig and I published a photo-essay of our previous summer's trip through the region. I continue to be heavily involved in EIU's development of the Renewable Energy Center, specifically with additions to EIU's curriculum on sustainability as well as working with local farmers to figure out future renewable biomass options for fueling of the REC.

This past summer my wife and I were able to travel to Estes Park, CO where we stayed at the summer home of Alan Baharlou, for a week-long vacation in Rocky Mountain National Park – something we hope to do again this coming summer. I also completed my first full marathon (in Minneapolis, MN), and with any luck, I'll complete it again on October 2, 2011. Lastly, I'm getting prepared for a big change – an addition (in early December) to our family, as my wife and I are expecting our first child.

Godson Obia

My name is Godson Obia. I am a sixteen-year veteran of the Department, having joined the faculty in 1994 after a seven-year stint at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In October 2000, I went off the beaten path by accepting to serve as Associate Dean of the College of Sciences at Eastern Illinois University. I still remain in that position. I have found my job to be as rewarding as it is challenging. After ten years as an academic administrator, I remain committed to the lofty goals of the Department and support new strategic initiatives in GISci to make the department more competitive. I stay in touch with the faculty and faculty leadership and offer advice and encouragement, when needed, to support departmental efforts to recruit and retain talented students and faculty. I have an active research and publication agenda and belong to several professional associations to enrich my scholarly and leadership experiences. Although these activities must play a diminished role in the life of a dean, they are important to me if I must lead by example.

James Riley

With a year under my belt at EIU, I look back and wonder where did the time go? The adage, "Time flies when you're having fun," is appropriate – I enjoyed a busy first year. Between the fall and spring semesters, I taught five different courses, most with integrative activities that expose students to field work. I became the Earth Science Division Chair of the Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS), and I am EIU's representative to the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science. In the spring, I presented some results from my dissertation research in a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Seattle and a poster at the Annual Meeting of ISAS here on campus. My summer was rather uneventful and consisted mostly of writing my dissertation, from which one of my chapters on confluent meander bends was published. I co-authored another paper with a group of collaborators on a software

tool we developed to process hydroacoustic data that is currently in review. My second year of teaching in the Department is off to a good start, and I am looking forward to pursuing a few ideas I have for river research.

Betty E. Smith

Currently on Sabbatical.

John Stimac, Dean, Honors College

It's just been a year since our last newsletter and as you are aware, the department has changed a great deal in that time. As of 1 July 2010 I have been the Dean of the Honors College. While that is a full-time job, I haven't stopped teaching in the department. This fall I am still teaching Structural Geology – now with 12 students enrolled. That is a good indication that the number of students interested in geology is increasing – always good news. I'm also teaching a senior seminar as well as two classes for the Honors College. As the semester began, I quickly came to the realization that with my four classes this term I am now teaching more as Dean, than I did as Chair. Oh well – it is something I enjoy and the reason I decided to stay in the academy. I know that many alumni have had changes in their lives in the last year, so please get in touch with the department and keep us updated.

Dave Viertel

Greetings. As I begin my fifth full year at EIU, it is gratifying to look back and reflect on how both the department and my life have evolved. The last year has been a busy one for me, as I assumed leadership of the internship program, in addition to becoming a co-advisor to GTU. The Little Wabash joint research project with Diane Burns continues to bear fruit (we will be presenting at GSA in Minnesota this Fall, as well as at AAG come Spring). Students Jena Happ, Brandon Bobal, and Olivia Barbee have provided excellent assistance. In addition, I've been working on a separate project comparing patterns of land use between Amish settlements in Illinois and Ohio. When not in the office preparing for cartography or remote sensing, you can usually find me chasing my two-year old daughter around the house. Life at EIU has been good to me.

Department Field Work, 2010-2011



Students measure stream flow in the Surface Water Course taught by Jim Riley. Spring 2011.



Students in the Field Camp course measure temperature of a thermal pool. Summer 2010.



Front row: Dave Viertel, Katie Johnson, Cameron Craig, Diane Burns, Brett Anderson, Jim Davis, Barry Kronenfeld, Michael Cornebise, Susan Kile, Chris Laingen, Jim Riley, Belayet Khan, Steve Dinaso, Godson Obia.

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