



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Geology &



Geography

2023-2024 Newsletter

Greetings from the Chair

Greetings Alumni! I hope this newsletter finds you all well. As I moved into the chair's office this past summer, I reflected on the leaders that have come before me in the Department of Geology and Geography and the great things that have been accomplished by our programs. Recently, I came across newsletters dating back to 1972 and after reading through them, it is evident that the history of our department on the campus of Eastern Illinois is a long and distinguished one. Geographer Annie Weller began her career in 1903, just four years after the founding of the school. Ruby Harris and Rose Zeller were outstanding faculty members that joined the staff in the 1920s and 1930s. The first newsletter that I found had a welcome message written by Dalias Price, long time geographer and weather enthusiast at Eastern Illinois. In his message to alums at the time, he talked about how the department recently moved into the space that we currently occupy today. He described the view of Old Main from his office and even though the trees have grown a bit in 50 years, that view is still amazing today. As I sit in the same office as Dr. Price, I am also reminded of Dr. Alan Baharlou who hired me 21 years ago. Dr. Baharlou had a passion for this department and University that was unmatched. He would often tell the stories of how he decorated the chair's office and laid the carpet that still is in the office to this day. He would also remind all of us of just how lucky we are to be teaching in higher education and how great Eastern Illinois University is. Indeed, Dr. Baharlou was correct, we are all very lucky to have the honor to be educators at EIU and to impact our students' lives every day. I'm sure that as you think back to your time at EIU, there are current or former faculty members you remember having a profound impact on your life and career.



This past year has seen some changes for the university and our department. Dr. Jay Gatrell, a geographer in our department was named President of Eastern Illinois University and began the role on July 1st. Dr. Diane Burns stepped down as chair of our department after 6 years of leadership at the end of June. Heather Todd began her duties as our office manager in late June. Through all the changes, some things remain the same. Our faculty and staff remain committed to providing quality educational experiences for our students and continuing to display excellence in the fields of teaching, research, and service. The department has continued the long tradition of providing research opportunities and field experiences for our students. Seven undergraduate students conducted independent research projects and three of them won URSCA grants for their work. Our faculty have been recognized by the university for their accomplishments. Dr. Jake Crandall was named the Faculty

Laureate and gave an outstanding speech at the new student Convocation this fall. Dr. Diane Burns won the Luis Clay Mendez Award for her service to the University and Dr. Katie Lewandowski received a student impact grant that allowed her students to present their research at the regional GSA conference.

Homecoming is the weekend of October 6-8 this year. I hope that you can make it back to campus and visit us. Fall is a great time to visit Charleston and EIU. If you can't make it for homecoming, please stop by the department the next time you are back in Charleston. It is always great to catch up with our former students and hear about your experiences after EIU. The Department of Geology and Geography has a great history and very promising future. I want to thank all of you for your support of the department. Donations from our alumni allow us to continue to support student research and field opportunities that enhance their education and prepare them to be professional in the field of Geology and Geography. Please stay in touch with us and let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Hope to see you soon!
Jim

Greetings from the Dean



As the Department of Geology and Geography enters a new academic year under new management, it can proudly reflect on its many successes under the guidance of Dr. Diane Burns, to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude! We now look forward to the new leadership of Dr. Jim Davis who is a longtime member of the department's faculty and has a proven record of dedication to faculty and student success!

As every year, I congratulate the department on its achievements and look forward to celebrating more successes this year!

Barbara Bonnekessen
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Spotlight On: Kevin Jeanes



Clockwise, starting upper left: The Jeanes Family: Lisa, Evelyn, Eddie, and Kevin; Kevin enjoying time with his son, Eddie; Lisa and Kevin received an EMMY for their 30-minute special on monsoons; Kevin as a high school reporter and NBC 5 meteorologist.

Full Circle, EIU Geography Grad Begins and Ends up in Chicago

Cameron Douglas Craig

When we enter university, our path toward the future is unknown. We take general education classes to see what the world has to offer. Sometimes, it is easy. Sometimes, it is not. Other times, we simply take the chance from what our advisers suggest.

Without a preliminary idea of his career path, Kevin Jeanes ('10), from Naperville, Illinois, had experience broadcasting in his Neuqua Valley High School media club. During his time in high school, he would report on athletic games, or other featured happenings in the school halls. He had no idea that this seed would take him on a journey, ultimately ending him back home in Chicago.

In the summer before his first semester at Eastern, his adviser asked Kevin if he would be interested in taking Weather & Climate. "Sure, why not. Let's give it a try," he responded enthusiastically.

Fall 2005 was my first semester at Eastern, too. The department's new Broadcast Meteorology minor was just written into the undergraduate catalog. Having prior experience in training students in broadcast meteorology at Indiana State University, the department allowed me to take the program under my wing. In that first semester, Kevin and two other students, Jeff, and Phil, were in my Weather and Climate class. "The department has a new minor in broadcast meteorology. If any of you are

interested in giving it a try, see me after class,” I announced. Right after class the three expressed exploring the opportunity.

They all enrolled in a six-hour independent study the following semester. We initially met in my office in the first four weeks to learn forecasting techniques. Then, we began getting in front of a primitive webcam attached to a struggling computer, not built for video production, with a green shower curtain as the backdrop. Kevin and the others determined their forecasts, filled-in predesigned PowerPoint slides showing current temperatures, the regional conditions, a seven-day forecast, and, using less-than-state-of-the-art weather graphics, a surface map.

In the “dungeon,” as we called the map storage room down the little hallway behind the main office on the third floor, we began recording broadcasts. You know how 19-year-olds get candid when a camera turns on. His personality blossomed, and the path toward a career in broadcast meteorology commenced.

Following the spring semester course, Kevin was the only one that went on to broadcast at WEIU’s “News Watch” that airs live five nights a week to central Illinois. He grew from his experience at WEIU and had additional experiences in film production.

Jeanes and I teamed up to form “Tempestas et Caelum Productions,” a documentary film company to provide students of geography, history, and other fields a medium to explore their world. The opportunity was extraordinary, filling his resumé for the future. In the fall of 2006, he, and a team of three, produced their first production, “An Illinois Winter.” Not only did WEIU air the film, but Kevin’s hometown television station, Naperville Community Television (NCTV17), aired it nightly during the winter months for several years.

Jeanes and I then produced, wrote, directed, and composed the music for our second production, “Expedition Nature’s Realm.” It was a major work for us. The series was created from a trip we took to Yellowstone National Park and Badlands National Park in May of 2007 to explore our co-existence with nature that is Earth.

Our next film, in fall of 2008, that is still used in classrooms around the world, was “Stinging Dust & Forgotten Lives: The Dust Bowl.” This shorter film, co-researched, and narrated by Jeanes, was featured by the American Library Association as an alternative to Ken Burn’s film “Dust Bowl” for the traveling exhibit, “Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry.” The film also aired on regional PBS stations in Illinois and Indianapolis, Indiana.

While working toward his declared majors in Geography and Communication Studies, he attended the National Weather Association conferences. These meetings are attended by professional broadcast meteorologists and representatives of NOAA, National Weather Service, and various private weather companies such as the

Weather Channel. His first appearance at the conference in fall 2007 in Cleveland, Ohio was a little frustrating for him.

During the annual conference, there is a “Tape Swap” that allows television personalities to show their segments for constructive criticism. The session always begins at 7 P.M. He submitted his tape from a broadcast at WEIU prior to the session. Two hours turned into two more hours, waiting for his tape to be seen for a critique. Finally, at 11:30 P.M., his tape was shown for a reduced audience of a dozen dedicated professionals.

You could see his nerves working overtime as the tape played. I was nervous. We all watched his three-and-a-half-minute segment. I smiled. He smiled. Then the moderator said, “Wow! Where is Kevin, and where is WEIU?” Kevin stood, announced himself, and received extremely positive comments about his performance. In fact, some asked how old he was. “Nineteen.”

In the following year, we went to Reno, Nevada for the same conference and showed his tape of another weather broadcast. This time his tape was shown earlier in the session. Afterwards, several professionals, including chief meteorologists from Miami, Florida and Norfolk, Virginia approached him with offers. He was just a junior at the time. My response to them, “Would you allow him to finish his degree at EIU in two years?” They were surprised that he was not a senior! He was excited about his future at this point.

During his time at EIU and WEIU, we would discuss his future. “Where do you see yourself doing weather?” He always responded with, “Chicago.” “It’s a bit far but possible,” I said optimistically, “We both know it will happen.”

While at WEIU, he received the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) award for his weather broadcasts three years in a row from the National Association of Broadcasters. Jeanes continued to work hard at his studies at EIU and in the department, broadcasting the weather as much as he could at WEIU’s “News Watch,” participating in documentary film productions, and enrolling in the summer internship program at WEIU, twice.

EIU was an extraordinary time for him. After graduation in May 2010, he applied to fourteen stations across the country. In June 2010, he finally got a call for his first professional job interview at WWBT-TV, Richmond, Virginia. He was told by the news director that the station seldom hires new university graduates, but his tape was something out of the ordinary!

Learning that he got the job nearly a thousand miles from his hometown, his mother sent me a card, writing, “I don’t know whether to kiss you or strangle you! He is so far from home! But thank you!”

Kevin spent a few years in Richmond, then, the company he was employed with offered to transfer him to a position as chief meteorologist at KOLD-TV in Tucson, Arizona! In the desert, he mastered his skill. He produced a 30-minute special with his producer and future wife, Lisa, concerning the monsoon season in the Southwest, and received an EMMY for their work.

Wanting to get back to the Midwest, Jeanes received a job at WXYZ-TV in Detroit, Michigan. Kevin and Lisa moved, got married in 2018, and had their first child, Eddie. After receiving his EMMY and starting a family, I asked him if his dream job in Chicago was still a consideration. “You know, I don’t think Chicago will happen because it is an extremely difficult market. I applied for a position at one of the stations but didn’t get the job.” Although he was disheartened, he continued to work hard in Detroit knowing that one day, it would happen.

In December 2022, he, again, applied for an opening at NBC Universal (NBC 5) in Chicago, Illinois, a market three in broadcast journalism (New York is number 1; Los Angeles, number 2). This time he got the job!

With Lisa, Eddie, and his daughter, Evelyn, Kevin has returned home; a dream achieved. The path, a full circle unknown to him at the time, began from a single question from his adviser if he wanted to take Weather & Climate at Eastern Illinois University. He exemplifies what is possible when Eastern students take the offered opportunities from their university and department. Kevin’s unconscious enthusiasm of taking chances at something new has been the foundation for many students in broadcast meteorology and the Department of Geology & Geography at EIU. Kevin Jeanes is a model for future Panthers that the “classroom is not just a structure of walls but a window into the world!” We in the department, especially me, are very proud of Kevin’s accomplishments!

Resources and Further Viewing

Tempestas et Caelum Productions
<http://www.TCPFilms.com>

Expedition Nature’s Realm (ep. 1)
<https://youtu.be/y1xN9nBfP9c>

Stinging Dust & Forgotten Lives: The Dust Bowl
<https://youtu.be/Tzo9wtXfHGk>

YouTube Search
“Kevin Jeanes Weather”

Department Alumni

Robb Brennecke (1977 Geology), pictured to the right with Dr. Crandall, visited the Department while back in Illinois for his 50th High School Reunion.

Melissa Stefos (2003 Geology)

I left the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma City after meeting my wife, Katy. She works in Cyber Operations for the USAF, and we move around every 2-3 years. I have been teaching middle school science and high school physics the last few years. We are currently stationed in San Antonio with our beagle-schnauzer mix, Jeff Beck.



Keith Darby (2009 Geography)

It has almost been 15 years since I graduated from EIU in 2009 and I can't believe how fast the time has flown by. Currently, I have been working with the City of Wheaton for almost 10 years. I am now a GIS Administrator in which I am responsible for overseeing all GIS and asset management responsibilities for the city, and I was very fortunate in having a GIS Intern to assist me in completing some of the large workloads that need to be completed. I highly recommend keeping up with the latest technological advances in the geospatial industry since it has changed substantially since my time at EIU. I am also actively involved with the Illinois GIS Association where I am currently sitting on as a board member.

Earlier this year, I went on an international trip to Europe since Covid. I traveled to various cities including Barcelona, Corsica, Florence, and Rome. I am already planning my trip to next year which includes a cruise to Northern Europe. I also enjoy hiking on various local and famous trails to get me acquainted with the local landscape. Recently, I hiked up and down on the Camelback Mountains in Scottsdale. I did prepare heavily for this journey, but it is well worth the effort and time when you reach the top. You do get to see the incredible views of the Phoenix and Scottsdale area, and I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys these types of activities. I do wish all alumni the best and hopefully we get to cross paths again soon.

Luke Jansen (2020 Geography and 2021 PSM)

I got a job while getting my PSM in GISci at Civil Design Inc (CDI) at their office in Effingham, IL. I am currently working as a GIS Specialist where I help with GIS, programming, and project management. I still live south of Sigel, IL with my family. Things are going well and I hope to get my GISP in about a year from now.

Harvey Norris (2021 Science Teacher Ed.)

I am currently in my second year of teaching at Marshall High School. Last year, I primarily taught Physical Science, with 1 period of Earth Science. I also taught a period of Forensic Science, which was rough to say the least. This year, I am teaching all of the Earth Science classes, and have restructured the class for a much more modern approach with the material. We have also largely restructured the path through our science department to ensure a much more consistent and cohesive experience for the students. This has also allowed me to fit upper-level Physics into my schedule. The methods I use day to day would be nowhere near as refined without Dr. Lew's help throughout my time on campus. In the Spring, I will be starting an Environmental Science class, with an emphasis on much of the material taken from Cameron Craig's lectures. The lab closet I started with was an unsorted mess to say the least- equipment FAR older than myself, and so many unlabeled chemicals! Over the Summer, with a little help from the trusty Mindat.org and my notes from Dr. Crandall's mineralogy and petrology courses, even the unsorted box simply labeled "extra rocks" has been neatly organized. Thank you to everyone in the department for getting me to where I am today! One final note- I have officially reached the point where the main souvenirs I look for are rocks and minerals. Despite knowing it would have broken in my suitcase, I have spent too many days wishing I had purchased a beautiful pyrite cluster while on a recent vacation. The obsidian knife I purchased is cool, but nowhere near that of the natural cluster.

Recent Graduates

Fall 2022

Paige Palombizio (GEL)
Noah Voris (GEG)

Spring 2023

Kevin Galindo (GEG)
Ryan Raef (GEG)
Jakob Reed (GEG)

Summer 2023

Anthony Kilber (GEL)
John Marron (GEL)

Student Award Winners, Spring 2023

Geography Awards

- Robert Buzzard Memorial Scholarship in Geography – **Ryan Raef**
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Award for Excellence in Geography – **Ryan Lay**
- Ruby M. Harris Award – **Jacob Bucy**
- Belayet Khan Geography Award – **Will Redden**
- Grace Markwell Meier Scholarship in Geography – **Kevin Galindo**
- Walter H. & Dorthea V. McDonald Scholarship – **Carson Davenport**
- Errett & Mazie Warner Geography Presidential Award – **Sarah Focht**
- Richard Wise-Lester Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography – **Charlie Stewart**
- Annie Weller Memorial Scholarship in Geography – **Ben Coleman**
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship in Geography – **Jakob Reed**
- Geography Alumni Award – **Rowdy Collins**
- John George Wozencraft Jr. Memorial Award – **Michael Otwirk**

Geology Awards

- Errett & Mazie Warner Geology Presidential Award – **Tony Kilber and John Marron**
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – **Lex Watts**
- Bob & Mary Jorstad Scholarship – **Nathan Foster**
- Jon & Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – **Lydia Howards**
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship – **Tony Kilber and John Marron**
- Geology Alumni Award – **Colin Houser**
- John George Wozencraft Jr. Memorial Award – **Harper Gerfen**

Department Activities

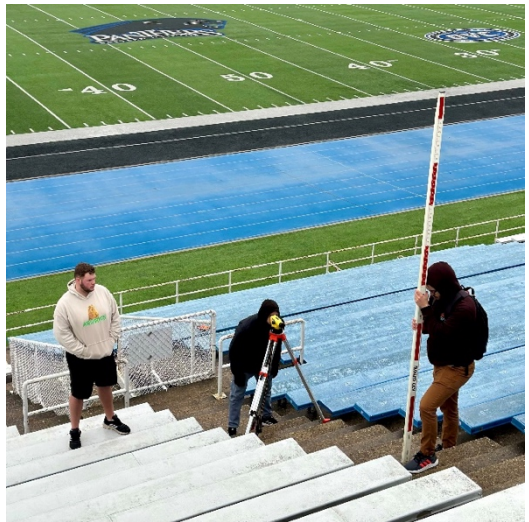
The faculty and students of the department have had many highlights this past year. Below are just a few of the amazing things that our department had the opportunity to be a part of.

Field Work: Department faculty continued to provide field experiences for our students.

Dr. Riley's Surface Water Processes and Resources class touring the Charleston Water Treatment Plant. Pictured Left to Right: Will Redden, Ethan Fleming, Anthony Kilber, Ben Coleman, Sarah Focht, Rowdy Collins, and Plant Manager Trevor Stewart.



Field Methods students Will Redden, Ryan Lay, and Kevin Galindo working on their surveying skills at O'Brien Field.

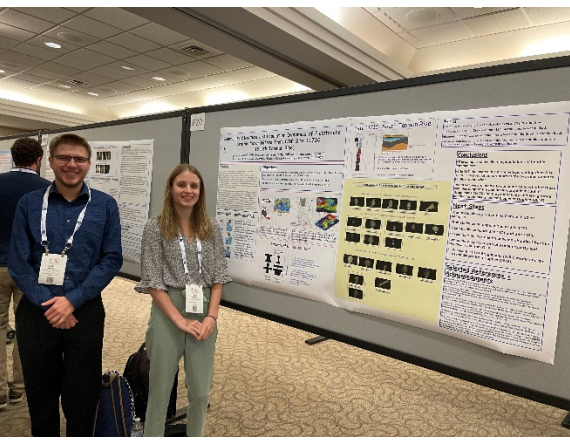


Student Research: Faculty members continued the long-standing tradition of collaborating with students on independent research projects.

Ryan Lay, Geography 2024, presents his research at NWS Lincoln last April. Other current and former EIU geography students attended the meeting.



Geology Majors Collin Houser and Lydia Howard presenting research at the North-Central Geological Society Conference



Working with local schools: Through community outreach and high school internships, local students actively learn from our faculty.

Charleston High School Internship Student, Emily Davis, collecting daily weather observations.



University Recognition: Geologist, Dr. Jake Crandall was named the 2023 Faculty Laureate

Dr. Jake Crandall, 2023 EIU Faculty Laureate, speaking at Fall 2023 Convocation.



Social Events: The Department recently hosted the first annual Family Weekend tailgate event for students and their families.



Prairie Skies

Student Publication offers Monthly Insights into Weather & Climate

Cameron Douglas Craig

The monthly journal, *Prairie Skies*, was created in an effort to give students additional opportunities to fill their resumes. The first issue, from EIU WeatherCenter and WEIU's SkyWatch Weather team, was published on September 1st this year that featured a climate summary, a climate outlook, and various analysis and stories ranging from culinary recipes to cultural references from the past.

Students are assigned to write summaries and outlooks based on their previous course work in the department. Feature stories, such as research summaries, are assigned to students working on independent research and studies. All this, in an effort to give an additional platform for students to be published and fill their resumes.

The monthly publication also invites students outside the department to contribute their talents. In our second issue, an art student will be providing cover art. The student will create an illustration based on the lead story to cover the journal. In this case, "Yes, Virginia, There is a Water Problem!" will be the inspiration for the cover.

Additional stories from alumni keep readers in tuned of the changes in the industry as well as continued research our former students complete.

If you would like to receive the monthly publication, request to be added to the email list or send us a request, with a mailing address, for the print version to Cameron Craig at cdcraig@ciu.edu.

Prairie Skies website: www.ciu.edu/ciuweather/prairie-skies

PRAIRIE SKIES

A Monthly Journal of Weather & Climate in Central Illinois

September 2023, Volume 1, Issue 1

In this Issue:
Dust Bowl Highs Still Hold Record
Student Spotlight: Will Redden
Using Plump Tomatoes from the Garden

EIU WeatherCenter & WEIU SkyWatch

Heat Wave in the Prairie

Still, heavy air sat over the prairie making a few days difficult to breathe. Even those who prefer summer conditions to winter, wished for a brief tongue of Arctic air. Yet, the scene over the landscape held firm.

August is traditionally a very warm month following the warmest, July. Between the two months, this year, August captured the title of warmest with an average temperature of 86°F.

From Sunday, August 20 to Thursday, August 24, National Weather Service issued an "Excessive Heat Warning" for the entire state. On Thursday afternoon the warning was extended until Friday when high temperatures and humidity failed to subside.

Observed temperatures from EIUs NWS Cooperative Weather Observation Station ranged from 92F to 101F. Combined with relative humidity values, the Heat Index maxed out at 112F.

The sultry conditions recently experienced were not the same as the summer of 2012. The lack of frequent rainfall throughout 2012, especially July and August, increased temperatures throughout the region. In July 2012, everyday but one had temperatures above 90F with 12 of those days higher than 100F (five days sat at 104F). Observed precipitation was 0.08". The following month had 17 days above 90F without reaching beyond 100F. Total precipitation for August 2012 was higher at 2.77" but still below the 30-year average (3.34").

While the lack of soil moisture caused air temperatures to increase in 2012, the 2023 heat wave resulted from higher relative humidity, not severe drought. Two ingredients kept harsh conditions in place: transpiration, and a strong persistent ridge in the upper atmosphere.

Transpiration is a process of vegetation that pulls moisture from the soil and exits through the stomata of the leaves. Frequent rainfall in July (5.34") promoted plant transpiration through August. Fields of corn

and beans increased relative humidity values for the region.

Aloft, a stagnate ridge of warm air trapped humidity and hot air throughout the Great Plains and western Midwest. The jet stream, which controls the movement of ridges and troughs, remained stalled along the U.S. and Canadian border.

The wave ended Friday, August 25th as a cold front and a line of severe thunderstorms pushed across the prairie with lighter, less humid air behind it. The relief was very much welcomed.

While summer conditions will remain through the fall, it is possible that the region will continue to experience occasional temperatures in the '90s, a well-known characteristic of the prairie landscape.

Cameron Douglas Craig

PICTURE OF THE MOMENT The Next Generation



Former "SkyWatch" Forecaster, Darren Leeds ('11), shows his daughter, age 2, the graphics for his show at WCCU in Champaign, Illinois. Photo used with Permission.

Broadcast Met Program grows post-Pandemic

Online learning during the pandemic (spring 2020 – spring 2022) did not help to foster growth in the broadcast meteorology program at Eastern Illinois University's Department of Geology and Geography. Interest in the field waned from the inability to inspire students about its career possibilities face-to-face. Masking rules created an interesting buffer between professor and students to get students to commit to a field that is sometimes unfamiliar to incoming freshmen.

It is well-established that young students find weather fascinating. But students are sometimes hesitant to declare it as a career due to the constant ridicule a weather person receives from the public or the lack of financial rewards.

While some programs across the country have no difficulty in attracting students in broadcast meteorology due to notoriety, the small program at EIU uses the entry-level course, Weather & Climate, to promote the advantages of the program as a future career.

In the past, there have only been a few students declaring broadcast meteorology as a minor immediately after enrolling at the university. Many students who completed the program as a career did not consider it a possibility until they found the lectures extremely interesting. Perhaps they entered the course with a sparking interest from their youth. Perhaps they just gave it a chance. No matter the reason, the lack of unliberated lectures did not help the program or its sister program, WEIU's "News Watch."

During the pandemic, there were only two students actively engaging in broadcast meteorology with another only pursuing atmospheric science. Since last semester, the program has added four new students. Three of the added students declared the minor through the professor's enticement or

Student Organizations

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)/Geography Club

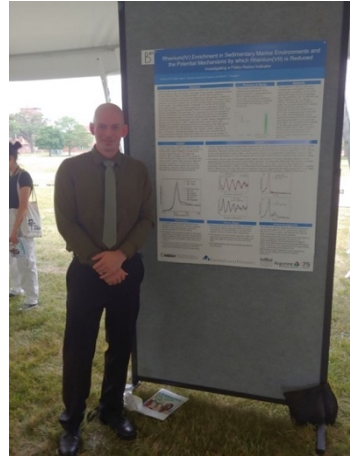
Gamma Theta Upsilon and Geography Club continue to grow and look for new avenues to help on campus. After two years of excellent leadership, Michael Otwirk passed the President reigns to Ryan Lay this Fall. We continue our dinner outings and game nights. Come October 13th, we will celebrate Geography Club's Friday the 13th founding with a trip to Golconda in Southern Illinois and hiking in Garden of the Gods. It's been great to see new faces involved in the club, as well as long-time members. We look forward to initiating new members soon.

Geology Club & Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)

Another successful year for both organizations, as the students were actively involved in altruistic as well as educational endeavors. The Geology Club hosted a pumpkin carving contest as well as elected to make stylish ballcaps to wear around, touting their love of all things Geology. Some pumpkin entries in the contest:



Members of Gamma Chi attended the Biennial Sigma Gamma Epsilon Convention in Martin, TN, not only getting involved in the business of running this honor society but also participating in the first ever Research Poster Session! Both CJ Karns and Tony Kilber presented their research at the Convention. Tony (right) is shown as he shares these results from his summer internship at Argonne National Labs:



Gamma Chi has AGAIN received the Quality Chapter and Service Awards this year – THE most winning chapter in all of the nation! Congratulations to ALL of our champion students!



Geology Club/Gamma Chi members tending to our section of road in the Adopt-A-Highway program. L-R: Lex Watts, Colin Houser, Michael Otwirk, Carson Davenport and John Marron.

Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Geographic Information Science

The GIScience Masters degree is proud to celebrate the tenth year since our first graduate (Sanjiv Vajjala) completed the program. In that time, the program has grown and changed, embracing online delivery and flexibility to better serve working professionals.

To date, thirty-five students have completed the PSM in GIScience degree and we are quite proud of their accomplishments. They can be found in a wide variety of positions in Illinois, across the US, and beyond. Though most have chosen to pursue professional advancement with great success, a number are also working towards PhD degrees and a career in higher education (Shirley Mensah, Jason Yoo, Aziz Albhouth). We would invite all of our alums to contact us and let us know where you are and what you are up to!



For more information on the PSM program, scan this.

The Faculty

Diane Burns

Greetings wonderful alumni!

I have left the insanity of administration to return to what I only ever intended to do in my career – teach geology. I certainly missed the students! Some of them graduate and become wonderful leading lights in our community, such as our own John Popp! Here is one showing the kids with whom he shares his love of geology through his Adventure Club. As John reports,

“Sherry and I returned home safe and sound on Sunday [from their visit to EIU], and Monday afternoon I got to share science and geology with elementary students in an after-school Adventure Club. While half of the students go into a local small cave, I introduce the other half to “everyday” geology, as well as the state rock (agate), the state mineral (coal), and the state fossil (brachiopod). In case you are wondering, the state legislature did not consult the Kentucky Geological Survey before naming the state rock (which is a mineral) or the state mineral (which is a rock). See the attached photo of the students.”



May you all be enjoying a wonderful Fall!

Craig Chesner (emeritus)

As baseball playoff season approaches, I find myself driving back and forth to the Keweenaw often, as I work on my latest project...a summer home on Lake Superior. If you rode with me during one of the U.P./Keweenaw field trips (22 times, I think), you will surely remember listening to playoff baseball on static-filled stations during the long drive up and back. In other news, I recently completed my 2+ year effort to write *Evolution of the Toba Caldera Complex* for tourists that visit the Toba Caldera Geopark. I am hoping for another field season or two at Toba as there are many new discoveries yet to be made! Yes, I'm still thinking geologically, as I hope that you are too!

Mike Cornebise

Greetings! I hope the department newsletter finds you in fine fettle. I continue in my 8th year as Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and I'm in my 24th year at EIU (hard to believe it's been that long!) I continue to teach in the department: this semester, I'm offering GEO 3070-The Geography of Middle America. We hope you are able to join us at the parade and at Tent City this year for Homecoming on October 7th. We're planning to offer some great food and entertainment at the CLAS tent, so please stop by for a visit. My family is doing well: Sam is a junior Finance major here at EIU and Sofia is an incoming EIU freshman. Roxanne is enjoying retirement and has spent the past year updating our landscaping. Hope you all have a wonderful year and you're always welcome to stop by and see us!

Cameron Craig

Salutations! All is well and in great spirits for another year to serve my community, university, department, and students! I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Spaceship Earth, Broadcast Meteorology, and "Our Goozle-Goggle: Exploring Unknown Landscapes."

As always, I work closely with my broadcast meteorology students at WEIU's EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch." We have a strong team of Broadcast Meteorology students who keep viewers informed of their daily weather, and possible severe weather across the region: Will Redden, a former EIU Panther football player, and local lawyer, Mr Scott Ealy. We are very blessed to have these two on the team. The future is bright at WEIU with two new students, Ben Whitney and Emily Davis, who will be broadcasting the weather later this semester.

Culturally, I continue my role as Assistant Conductor with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Maestro David Commanday who is also the music director of the Heartland Festival Orchestra in Peoria, Illinois. Eastern continues to provide an important foundation of culture and music to the community and region.

We appreciate all that you and the other alumni and donors do for our department! Thank you for always being there to make our students feel special! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Jake Crandall

Alumni and friends, what a wild, productive, and fulfilling year it has been. In May, I married the love of my life and enjoyed a honeymoon to the Northwoods of Wisconsin for some fly fishing. We even managed to nab my wife her first ever fish! Wading into Clear Lake after a few slow days on the water, Emily made a nice cast out to some structure, and was rewarded with a tight line. She played him like a Stradivarius, posed for the picture, and safely returned him to his watery home. That moment, and the celebratory beverages afterwards, are memories that I hold close.

On a professional note, I had the honor of being chosen as this year's EIU Faculty Laureate. I thoroughly enjoyed addressing the incoming students and their families during convocation, and again, I wish them all the best of luck and thanks for their hard work so far this semester. I too have been hard at work, delivering an economic ore deposits course that has not been offered for some time. It has been a joy putting together such an interesting course and labs, and the students seem to be enjoying it so far! Research continues on my Mars analog project. The team and I have given a number of successful conference presentations, the next one coming up soon in Moscow! Three new publications are also nearing completion, and I am pleased to be getting an EIU student involved with the project via an independent research project this semester.

Be well,
-JRC

Jim Davis

The 2023-24 academic year is my 21st year in the Geology/Geography department at Eastern. This past summer I began my new duties as chair of the department. I'm slowly starting to settle into my new role on campus. The learning curve has been steep, and I learn something new about the university every day. As chair, I won't be teaching as many courses, but I plan to continue to teach my upper-level electives in Sports Geography, Geography of Europe, and Geography of Tourism. In addition to my duties in the department, I'm also in year 13 as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for the EIU athletics department.

My family continues to do well. My wife Tammy is in her 21st year of teaching in the Casey-Westfield school district. She currently teaches 1st grade at Monroe Elementary School. My oldest daughter Amanda graduated this past summer from SIU-Carbondale with a degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. She recently moved to Europe and currently lives in Croatia. My youngest daughter Emily graduated from Charleston High School in May and is now a freshman geography major at EIU with

a minor in broadcast meteorology. It is great to see her walking the hallways of the Physical Science Building and occasionally stopping by the office. Even though my wife and I are technically empty-nesters, Emily still visits to get food and do her laundry on weekends.

I hope you all will stay in touch and if you find yourself back in Charleston, please stop by and say hello!

Jay Gatrell (EIU President)

Since last September, Jay continues to occasionally review journal articles for kindly editors, publish book reviews, lecture, and lightly collaborate on various projects with colleagues including a forthcoming chapter with EIU's own Drs. Cornebise, Holly, Neal, & Wharram, as well as another chapter with his pals Nancy & Mark. This semester he plans on guest lecturing in Dr. Kronenfeld's class on the topic of interrelated topics of non-stationarity and the conceptual framework behind geographically weighted regression.

Prince, A., Neal, A., Wharram, C.C., Holly, D.H., **Gatrell, J.**, Hildebrandt, J., Esker, J., Leifheit, K., Cornebise, M., & Newell, Z. forthcoming. "Drink Something, Do Something": Philanthropy, Place, & A Rural Beer Geography. In Hoalst-Pullen & Patterson (eds.), *The Geography of Beer: Policy, Perception & Place*. Springer. [Release 11.19.23, pre-sale available online]

Gatrell, J., Hoalst-Pullen, N. & Patterson, M. forthcoming. Rebound & Renewal: Strategies & Tactics for Journal Revitalization. In Hay, Butler, Szili (eds.), *How to Edit and Manage a Successful Scholarly Journal in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities*. Elgar.

Gatrell, J. 2023. Review of Bachin, Robin F. and Howard, Amy L. (eds.), Engaging Place, Engaging Practices: Urban History and Campus-Community Partnerships. *Economic Development Quarterly* 37:2. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08912424221148718>

Gatrell, J. 2022. The Chauncy Harris Endowed Lecture – Applied Geography: A Context & Trajectory, Department of Geography, Brigham Young University, November 17.

Belayet Khan (emeritus)

More than seven years into retirement, I am happy to reflect on my delightful experience as a faculty member in the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Over the course of 37 years, I had the wondrous opportunity to interact with colleagues and students who made for a truly special career. Throughout the years, my fellow faculty members provided immense encouragement and support. I learned so much from others in the University, beginning when I was a newcomer and extending throughout my tenure. My involvements on various committees allowed me to strive for a positive impact on

campus, and this meant a lot to me as someone deeply invested in EIU. Collaboration was key to our success on many fronts over the course of more than three decades. The chairs of the department were great leaders from whom I felt endless support and comfort. These factors made for a joyous work environment that I will always cherish. Eastern is a great place!

Certainly, the highlight of my time at Eastern was the privilege of teaching our incredible students. I sincerely looked forward to teaching every one of my classes. Each semester, I was thrilled to teach students who greeted me with genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for the material. I found myself thriving off their engagement, and this made me feel a strong sense of purpose in my role as a teacher. For years, I looked forward to weekends for a reason different than most as I taught off-campus classes through the School of Extended Learning (Continuing Education). Teaching has always been a passion of mine, but it was over the years at Eastern that it became my calling. I am so honored now to be able to consider it my life's work. Beyond the classroom, I am eternally grateful to God for the blessed life I have had in Charleston with my wife and three children. It is amazing to think that Charleston is our beloved home.

By the grace of the God, our three children are doing well and they remain busy with their academic and professional responsibilities. Our older daughter serves as a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments with her office in Indiana. The younger daughter is an Emergency Medicine Doctor and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College in Chicago. Our son, after graduating from Northwestern University, Rush Medical College, and the University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago is now pursuing his Fellowship Program on oncology and hematology at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. I must say, the Charleston schools provided excellent education for our children, and we found a strong sense of community here that we know is unique to our charming small town. As we each pursue our respective endeavors, my wife devotes her efforts to caring for our family, and we would certainly be lost without her support.

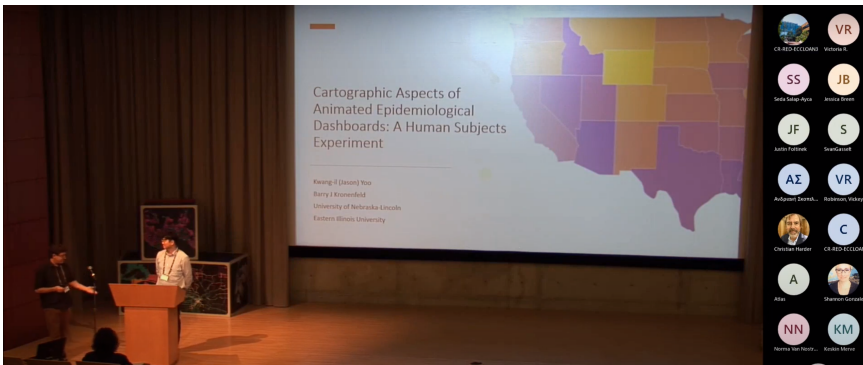
With our lifelong love for traveling, my wife and I have made some trips since my retirement. In recent years, we have traveled to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. In our trip to Ecuador, I was thrilled to see the Equatorial Landmark in Quito. It reminded me of Prime Meridian at Greenwich, England. Although we are always seeking new adventures, we love coming home to Charleston, and our children know that home is the best place for all of us to converge whenever possible. The gratifications of my career at EIU will forever stay with me. Although I am retired, I occasionally teach classes for our department. Early in my career I have hoped for an academic position where I would feel a sense of belonging and Eastern has been that place for me. I must say, I had no premonition of the tremendous passion and fulfillment I would find at Eastern. I humbly want to

state that by God's grace, my vision has come to fruition, and I remain optimistic that the future will continue to provide treasured adventures.

Barry Kronenfeld

Greetings, alum! I hope that this season of change brings you energy and joy. There are many changes happening in the world of GIS, and I continue to strive to bring the latest concepts and techniques to our students through the courses that I teach. This semester marks the second offering of Internet Mapping and GIS, where students are in the thick of developing amazing web maps using both open source and ESRI components. Meanwhile my cartography students are applying the latest raster blending and hillshade rendering techniques in ArcGIS Pro to create amazing terrain maps (and much more). I'm also working to update and improve my other techniques courses – Quantitative Methods, GIS Programming, Geodatabases, and Modeling the Earth – while building up regional geography courses so that we can continue to deliver the best education to our amazing students!

Speaking of amazing students, one of the highlights of my past year was the AutoCarto conference in Redlands, CA last October where PSM alum Jason Yoo gave an amazing talk on an experimental study on how people interpret COVID-19 map animations. Ok, I know I'm saying that everything is amazing, but Jason really did a great job!



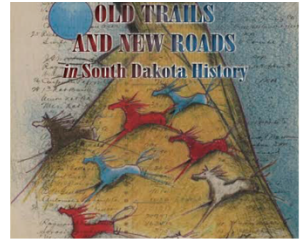
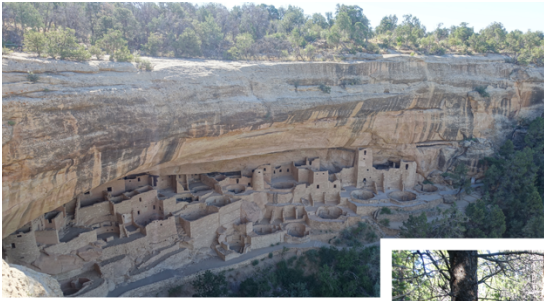
Jason Yoo presenting at the 2023 AutoCarto conference at ESRI headquarters in Redlands, CA.

On the home front things are pretty quiet. Our two cats are active as ever, and in addition to some black and goji berry canes we now have a peach tree that looks like it might produce fruit next year. I can't believe it's been twelve years since my wife and I moved to Charleston – I guess you can say that we are beginning to take root here! May you also feel cozy and settled in wherever you are, and I hope that you cherish the memories of your time here at EIU.

Christopher Laingen

August 2023 marked the start of my fifteenth academic year at EIU. The previous year was enjoyable, both professionally and personally. Professionally, I continue to enjoy the courses I teach, and I remain active in research and publishing – most notably with a group of historians who are reviving interest in studies related to the Midwest. I couldn't imagine a better job to have... one where I simply have to be interested in the world around me, and then talk to people and write about it.

Personally, things could not better, either. My wife (Mary) continues her work on campus as the EIU Pre-Health academic advisor; and our two kids, Kenny – a 6th grader, and Edy – a 4th grader, keep us busy with sports and other extracurricular activities, and the planning of summer adventures. This past year we were very fortunate to be able to go on a couple of memorable trips. The first was to central California for a relative's wedding. While there we visited the coast, drove the PCH, visited a redwood forest, and went whale watching. But the big adventure was a 5,000-mile, three week “national parks trip” that we took during the month of July. Parks/areas we visited include: Badlands NP, Black Hills, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, Bighorn Medicine Wheel, Yellowstone NP, Grand Teton NP, Dinosaur Monument NP, Mesa Verde NP, Weminuche Wilderness, Great Sand Dunes NP, and Rocky Mountain NP... with a lot of fun in between stops, too. At times we felt like the Griswolds—especially when our air conditioner went out in eastern Utah—but we survived, made lifelong memories, and came back home with a great appreciation for how great America and its people really are.

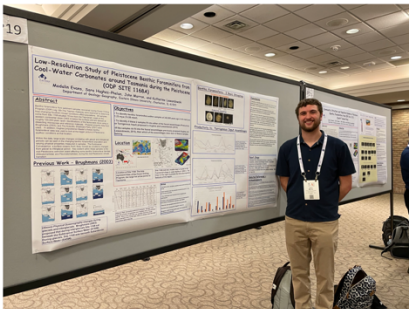


Clockwise: Mesa Verde National Park; book chapter published in “Old Trails and New Roads in South Dakota History; Horseback riding in Rocky Mountain National Park; camp site in Yellowstone National Park.

Katie Lewandowski

Greetings!

My big news over the last year is that I had three students working with me to do paleoceanography and micropaleontological research. Last year, Colin Houser, Lydia Howard, and John Marron worked together on Pleistocene carbonate material from off the southern coast of Tasmania to compare it to material some former students had investigated. We got through enough to present posters at the North-Central Geological Society of America meeting in Grand Rapids, MI just after the spring semester finished up. Research that Madalin Evans worked on the previous year was also presented. She has since gone on to graduate school at Texas Tech and is now studying structure and tectonics. These students did such a great job representing EIU at the conference. I am so proud of them. They also were successful with their grant writing so we were able to get most of their expenses for the trip covered between their URSCA grants through the Honors College and my Student Impact Grant. This semester, I only have one student working with me on research. John Marron graduated. And Colin Houser decided his schedule was too busy to continue research. Lydia Howard continues to do excellent work investigating Pleistocene benthic foraminifera.



John Marron with his and Madeline Evans' poster at NC GSA; and Dr. Lewandowski with Colin Houser and Lydia Howard on a gypsum mine field trip in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Colin, Lydia, and I also went on a field trip to a gypsum mine in Grand Rapids while at NC GSA. We saw some really cool rocks and fossils! And we got to collect a bunch of them, so that was lots of fun.

Nothing really particularly new on the class front. I taught History of Earth and Introduction to Earth Science last spring. I'm teaching Environmental Geology, Science Methods, and Oceanography this fall. The landscape of secondary teaching and the teacher licensure major continues to evolve. The edTPA, which is a high-stakes assessment that students have had to do during student teaching, is not required this year. It was suspended during the pandemic and now some want to get rid of it forever. With new leadership over in the College of Education, things have been changing quite a bit.

On the outreach front, last spring I visited Jefferson Elementary School in Charleston with Mrs. Coulibaly's 6th grade students. They investigated rocks, minerals, and fossils. In the summer, I participated in the Boy Scout Merit Badge Fair, running a session for the Oceanography Merit Badge. It is too much material to do in a couple of hours.

We still live in Casey. This past summer, Mark and I took a big trip cruising around the British Isles. We had stops in England, the Channel Islands, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and France. We saw lots of great castles, rocks, and sights. The only bad this is, we got Covid. It was not much fun. We have recovered and all is well again. I did have to start out school teaching in a mask, though, which was not much fun.

Take care,
Katie Lewandowski

James Riley

*Ia ora te natura
E mea arofa teie ao nei*

Hoodoos carved from rhyolite tuff at Heart of Rocks, Chiricahua National Monument with the Dos Cabezas Mountains on the horizon.



Dave Viertel

Greetings! I'm happy to report it's been a busy, productive, and fulfilling year. I continue to coordinate the PSM program, teach Remote Sensing classes, but have also enjoyed the opportunity to return to more General Education classes as well. This summer I had the opportunity to expand on previous work I did in Arcola in cooperation with Dr. Cornebise. It's a good reminder that fascinating Geography is all around us—even in the back yard!

Things are going great for my family as well. My daughter Ella is thirteen and keeps us on the run (all the way to Minnesota for a T. Swift concert last summer!). My wife continues to advise several hundred students over in the Education department—nice to be able to work close to one another. I finally made it back to Texas this summer, just in time for 115-degree weather. One of these days I will learn.

Support the Students, support the Department – all are welcomed and appreciated!

We have great students, solid programs and meaningful impact on people's careers. You have experienced it, and your support helps to keep it going. Support comes in many guises – passing along job opportunities and internships, visiting the department to give colloquia, equipment and specimen donations and, of course, monetary contributions. These funds are used to afford educational and research materials for student investigations, fund travel to present their projects at conferences now that this is permitted again, provide scholarships for deserving individuals and more. They have many more opportunities due solely to your generous support.

If you are interested in a monetary contribution to our department, please visit <https://www.ciu.edu/giving.php>. Once you accessed that page, you will see the first part where you enter the amount you will be given and a drop-down menu to the right of that to direct your gift to Geology and Geography. It is on the second page of the menu under the “College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” about one third of the way down on that second page. Unfortunately, the Foundation has reworked the website and made it a little more difficult to navigate, but we Geoscientists will not be dissuaded! If you are directing the money to a specific scholarship/fund, please make note of it at the bottom where the instructions ask if the donation is in memory of someone. As always, checks made payable and sent to the Geology and Geography Department will be processed exactly as you direct.

Existing scholarships and funds:

- General Gift Account – unrestricted use towards student support, recruiting, etc.
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- Geology Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geology
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – outstanding junior in Geology or Earth Science
- Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in Geography
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – at least sophomore Geology major with plans to continue in geology
- Vincent P. and Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – any student majoring in Geography
- Ruby M. Harris Award – senior in Geology, Geography or Earth Science

- Robert and Mary Jorstad Scholarship – junior or senior Geology student or junior or senior in Phys
- Belayet Khan Geography Scholarship – junior or senior Geography student
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship – junior in Geography or Earth Science
- Grace Markwell Meier Award – outstanding member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship – seniors in Geology attending field camp
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in obtaining daily climate data for the National Weather Service
- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography or Earth Science
- Annie L. Weller Scholarship – junior or senior in Geography
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either Mathematics (even years) or Geogrpahy (odd years)
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship – junior or senior in Geography
- Wise and Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in Geography
- Others – establish 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 is then multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1 match. Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are appreciated but please contact the department beforehand to ensure optimal use as well as conformance to University regulations. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email or call me – thank you so very much!

Dr. Jim Davis, Chair
 Email: jadavis2@eiu.edu
 Phone: (217) 581-2626

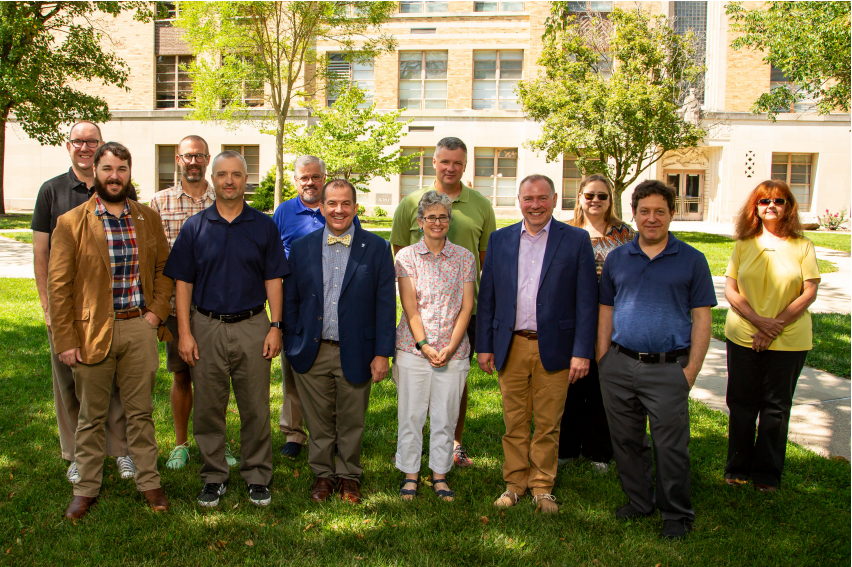
Feeling social? Come see what is going on in social media!

We have Facebook pages and groups – pages are public, but the groups need to have you invited to join. Besides “shout outs” and various GEO-related postings, we also use the groups as a clearinghouse for all job opportunities and internships that come to our attention. If you are looking for a position, you should definitely join! If you know of opportunities, you can either join the group and pass along the information or just send along in an email and we’ll get it posted. To join or to send job opportunities, please email Jim Davis at jadavis2@ciu.edu.

Coming soon – Instagram and YouTube!!

More information on the department, faculty, and student opportunities can be found on our website:

eiu.edu/geoscience



AY23-24 GEO Faculty, Left to Right: Dave Viertel, Jake Crandall, Chris Laingen, Jim Davis, Mike Cornebise, Jay Gatrell, Katie Lewandowski, Jim Riley, Cameron Craig, Heather Todd, Barry Kronenfeld, Diane Burns.