

Alumni News from the IUP Geoscience Department

# GEO-TIDINGS

Number 5

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## Hey, what's been happening?

If it seems like it's been a long time since you last got a Geo-Tidings, that's because it has been. We were going to blame the Y2K meltdown for our missing 2000 issues, but that didn't work out. So our only excuse is how busy we've been. What's been going on back at the Geoscience Department to keep us so busy? The answer, as you might expect, is quite a lot!

Our first project for the year 2000 was to hire another permanent faculty member. The approval of this additional position in our department after we had just hired Dr. Keith Putirka was a big vote of confidence from our dean, and we wanted to make the most of this opportunity. So for the second year in a row, we began an international search, this time for an environmental geophysicist / hydrogeologist. Our search ended successfully with the hiring of Dr. Bernd Kulesa, who is our first international faculty member. Bernd joined the department this January, right after Dr. Frank Hall announced his retirement. So we will be hiring yet another new faculty member this coming fall to teach Structure, Field Geology and/or Geomorphology.

Our second challenge has been finding the time to keep up with all the research grants being awarded to the department. John Taylor has been especially busy, with grants from both the National Science Foundation and the American Chemical Society funding several active biostratigraphic research projects. Connie Sutton was awarded a NASA grant to establish and run a teaching information center at IUP. And Steve Hovan helped put together a proposal to revamp science teaching throughout the entire SSHE system. That six million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation will run for the next three years.

A third thing that's kept us busy has been moving some of our classes onto the internet. Karen Rose Cercone and Connie Sutton have both created new Distance Education classes, using the web to teach students from across the country. This spring, we hope to also post student research presentations from Geoscience Day to our web site and to put Geo-Tidings online as well. So, we hope you forgive us for skipping an issue of alumni news. The up side is that we have more notes from alumni than usual. Our apologies in advance if any of the news is a bit dated...send us an update and we'll try to get it out before the next millennium!

## **Staff Updates**

### **Dr. Bernd Kulesa**

Dr. Bernd Kulesa has brought the department much-needed new expertise in the fast-changing world of environmental geoscience. Dr. Kulesa uses techniques such as ground-penetrating radar and electro-magnetic scanning to locate plumes of contamination in the subsurface. Those of you who remember Paul Prince fondly will be happy to know that Bernd's first love, though, is glaciology. So we once again have expertise in that area as well!

Dr. Kulesa did his undergraduate work in Germany and obtained his PhD at the University of Wales where he used geophysical techniques to study glacier dynamics. His post-doctoral research in Germany focused on environmental problems. Bernd is currently teaching Geophysics with an environmental focus. He also plans to teach Plate Tectonics, Hydrogeology and Glaciology.

### **Dr. Karen Rose Cercone**

In order to use our new faculty position to bring in an environmental geophysicist, we had to find someone on the staff who would take over teaching earth science to elementary education majors. Fortunately, Dr. Karen Rose Cercone decided that she would enjoy that challenge. She has been having fun teaching the basics of earth science to students who are often afraid of it.

### **Dr. Frank Hall**

After three decades in the department and long service as department chair, Dr. Frank Hall decided to retire this past fall. Since his wife Gwyn had already retired from elementary school teaching in the spring, they are now both free to travel the country, visit relatives and enjoy their retirements

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## ***IUP Alumna Wendy Straatman creates new field scholarships for students!***

Wendy (Metcalf) Straatmann graduated from IUP in 1992 and received her masters from the University of Missouri in 1994. She recently devised a creative way to benefit both her alma maters, by funding scholarships for IUP students to attend the University of Missouri's summer field camp. Wendy generously contributed up to \$1000 for the scholarships, and the rest was provided by the University of Missouri as a one-for-one match. The joint donation was intended to help IUP undergraduates who were not otherwise be able to afford field camp, and also to draw more qualified students to Missouri's outstanding field camp.

What motivated Wendy to start this program? She remembered that her own attendance at field camp was made possible by encouragement from IUP alumnus Mark Yanosky. In Wendy's words, "Mark may not completely realize that he was in a great way responsible for my attendance to MU's field camp. I believe I was "whining" that I could not attend field camp because I didn't have a sleeping bag. Mark gave me the kick in the butt I needed and deserved."

If enough IUP students are able to take advantage of this opportunity, Wendy plans to continue it as a formal MU scholarship. "By providing scholarships through MU I can kill two birds with one stone so to speak by helping both of my Alma Maters." She encourages other IUP alums to consider founding similar "double-alumni" programs with the graduate schools and/or field camps they attended after IUP.

The Geoscience Department is pleased to report that IUP student Bryan Sell was able to take advantage of the MU scholarship this year. He was also supported by the first Walt Granata Field Camp Fellowship awarded by the department!

## ***IUP Alumni Eric Horcheimer recruits promising new majors for Geoscience!***

Earth & Space Education alumnus Eric Horcheimer recently encouraged one of his best high school students to join IUP as a Geoscience major. Christie Roth is a freshman geology major who is doing very well in the introductory course sequence and is already actively participating in the Geoscience Club as well. We need more majors like Christie to keep the department strong and active in the exciting years to come, as our new young faculty develop their research programs. All you IUP alumni educators out there, don't forget to suggest us as a possible college for your students who are interested in the earth sciences.

## ***Steve J. Smith '02, Geology Major conducts***

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# ALUMNI NEWS

## **Al Baker '73**

I just recently received a letter concerning IUP's upcoming annual telethon to which I always contribute. I will request that they provide this year's donation to the Walt Granata Fund. Hope all is well in the woods of Pennsylvania. We're ducking hurricanes and tropical storms here in Louisiana.

## **Alex Boughamer '98**

I am a lecture assistant for Geo 101 here at Idaho. The professor asked me if I wanted to give a lecture. I wasn't obligated, but I wanted to do it anyway. There are 400 students in his class! I bet there was only 300 there since it was on a Friday. The topic, well that is my specialty. It was on the formation of caves and speleothems as well as hazards and some benefits. I could have talked all day though. The weirdest thing happened though at the end to of the lecture, something that I have never experienced before in any lecture that I ever went to--I received applause. They could have been appauding because it was over, however, I think I did a pretty good job and they enjoyed the slide show.

## **Robert E Brown '69**

Sorry to hear about Dr Prince. We long ago types still remember the change from ISC to IUP. I haven't taught school in many, many years but find I have used the training a lot over the years. I have put classes together and taught mapping in 7 countries in Europe and Africa during my time with Mobil Oil (soon to be XOM or Exxon Mobil). Even the mentoring I do can be said to fall back on my time at IUP and the Geoscience Department. Texas is just a little to far away to "drop in" on homecoming so I wish all well at the party.

## **John Dembosky '93**

Hi! Hope all is going well in Indiana! I just wanted to let you know that I received the messages from April about the Geobanquet. I was happy to see it scheduled on Oct. 1, but then disappointed that it was really Oct. 8. From Oct. 6-Oct. 10 is our annual Bancroft, Ontario, trip. At least half of my Structural Geology lab is going and I planned to go to collect minerals, have fun, and, naturally, take the pocket transits for the students! There's an amazing mylonite in a roadcut to get an oriented sample. There are "undeformed" clasts in this mylonite big enough to comfortably sit in.

## **Barbara Eiswerth '85**

We finally made the big move and sold our old house a couple months ago. We are still getting settled into the new home, I continue to write the dissertation with no regrets so far, and William is getting acquainted with his new company this week. He is now with Space2.54894(8)-5.10033(5( )2 co646884(i)-18.s988]45.10033( )Hcm Em w toam tcs 5 cha0033(0)-5.10033( )-0033( )-2.54894(W)-57.96.1003 aakt



**Bill Klingensmith '70**

I am a former student , BS Chemistry ED 1964 and M.Ed. 1970 in Earth Science. I took a course in palentology in 1968 especially trilobites. Just getting back into it with my wife. I live in Akron , OH and work as a consulting technical service chemist for people making rubber products.

**Joe Krupansky '00**

I got a job back in June with a Company called Schabel Engineering Associates, and I am now a staff geologist in our geoscience department. The work I'm doing is outstanding. I'm doing near surface investigations of bedrock, using a dipole-dipole method of resistivity. I also do a lot with seismographs. I set up in quarries, construction sites, and recently I worked on a super fund site monitoring sheet pile driving for a major clean up. I spent two weeks in the Poconos, doing rock core drilling, test pits and something called airtracks for engineering purposes.

When I am in my office, I do everything on excel, and I want to thank Dr. Putirka for the amount of hours you had me on there, it has helped me greatly. Also I wanted to let everyone know that Geophysics and the geotechnical fields are growing very rapidly. There is a shortage of people who know how to use equipment, so if you can some how jstart a geophysics class it would be very beneficial to the department. I have worked on sites where townships would not allow any construction to begin unless there was a subsurface investigation first.

**Shaun Malin '00**

I am a grad student at Clemson University now. Grad school is going great. I'm currently taking my last semester of classes, looking forward to getting into my thesis. My advisor is thinking about sending me to Texas to do some remediation on a site, if we can get clearance to test out his newest methods of remediation. First doing a site characterization, and then doing the remediation. His name is Dr. Murdoch and he did his thing at PSU oddly enough. He owns his own company that does hydrofracturing and remediation, which I will get in on and make some serious cash this summer. Dr. Murdoch and Dr. Falta are top notch, cutting edge research on remediation. They are amazing. Looks like

**Gary L Neuder '82**

We were still in the merger holding pattern as of March 2000. I suspect the FTC and Exxon have locked horns. Exxon's motto seems to be "when in doubt litigate".

Those of us in Nigeria feel we'll still have jobs - at least through round one. Exxon has a very small presence here, while we're #2 next to Shell. I feel for my compatriots in the States though, especially in Dallas where I believe thousands will be harvested. Do we have any alums at Exxon?

I'll make my contribution to the alumni fund and earmark it to Geoscience in December - once I see what's up with the merger and me. I always appreciate hearing from Dr. Taylor and other alumni. One of these days, I hope to get back to IUP for a visit.

**Timothy Nuss '88**

I hope that my wife and I will be able to attend departmental future events. We just need some notice, as we had our first child this past October, and weekends away will take some pre-planning from now on!

**Barbara (Hanneman) Osgood '97**

I'm still an Environmental & Materials Scientist at RJ Lee Group. This spring, however, I got accepted into the University of Pittsburgh's Ph.D. program, working with Dr. Chen Zhu in geochemistry and microscopy. I will be learning how to use the Field Emission SEM and to do research this summer. I will be looking at samples from the coastal plain of Virginia

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**Tom Schlosser '89**

**Matt Valentine '87**

I would love to attend the banquet this year. Unfortunately, my wife is travelling for her job and I'm in charge of our two kids (Charlie is 6 and Abby is 3). I did have a good time at the last banquet I attended (1998 Geoscience Day). Please tell Mr. Park that I wish him best regards and sorry

# IUP Geoscience Fund Donation Form

To help you direct your donation to the correct IUP account, please cut off and attach this form. Make your check out to the Foundation for IUP, and put the appropriate account number on the memo line of the check. Remember, gifts to the Foundation for IUP are tax-deductible! If you've already sent in a gift, we thank you and welcome any additional support you can give.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate to:	The following amount(s)
The Walt Granata Fund for Geologic Research (# 361)	_____
The Paul Prince Fund for Oceanographic Research ( # 362)	_____
The IUP Geoscience Fund for departmental support (#4530)	_____
Unrestricted funds for IUP, for general university support	_____

Charge my donation to ? VISA ? MASTERCARD Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **The Office of Annual Giving, 313 Sutton Hall, 1011 South Drive, IUP, Indiana PA 15705-1041.**

## Alumni News

**What's new with you? Please let us know what recent milestones have occurred in your life, whether professional, personal or comical! And don't forget to keep us current with your new addresses, name changes, and email changes.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**News for next Geo-Tidings:**

Mail your updates to Geoscience Dept. Indiana Univ. of Penn., Indiana PA 15705-7087  
You can also email your address and news updates to [jftaylor@grove.iup.edu](mailto:jftaylor@grove.iup.edu).