Department News

**Lisa Amati granted Continuing Appointment (tenure)**

**26 students attend combined NE/SE GSA in Baltimore**

**Mike Rygel wins GSA Biggs Award for excellence in teaching**

**Roberta Greene wins Presidents Award for Excellence in Clerical Service**

**Rob Badger elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America**

**M. Rygel elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists**

**M. Rygel named Associate Editor for the Journal of Sedimentary Research**

**Special Issue of The Compass issued in honor of Bill Kirchgasser**

**A baby Rygel is in the oven, due in mid to late August**

**Rock & Fossil Fair & Roadshow draws hundreds**

**Academic Festival a resounding success**

**High School Science Lab Day reaches 25th anniversary**

**Middle School Science Olympiad fight to the finish**

**New endowed account established for geology field trips**
**Department News**

Ten students graduated this May, with four going on to the MST program here at SUNY Potsdam. Our new graduates are Jeanette DeAmour, Zach Ducharme, Brad LaPoint, Nick Middlebrook, Kristen Remington, Erin Sheldon, Emily Stephan, Amy Smith, Matt Stiles, and Gabby Whitney. Several other students have finished their geology curriculum, but are staying for another semester to complete general education requirements.

Northeast and Southeast GSA held a combined meeting in Baltimore, MD this spring. Twenty-six students, three faculty, and Roberta attended, and combined the group presented 12 poster sessions. That is the largest contingent we have ever taken to a GSA meeting. On the down side, it cost us $11,500(!), drastically depleting our foundation and department accounts. Next year's meeting, to be held in Pittsburg, will probably see a greatly reduced Potsdam contingent.

Mike Rygel has been recognized by the Geoscience Education Division of the Geological Society of America with the Biggs Award, which recognizes innovative and effective teaching of earth science among early career faculty. This is a nationwide award, recognizing just one faculty member during their first ten years of teaching, so is truly a remarkable achievement. The award will be presented at next fall's national GSA meeting.

The Geological Society of America also recognized Rob Badger by electing him as a GSA Fellow.

Roberta Greene, our erstwhile and indispensable secretary, won the President's Award for Excellence in Clerical Service.

Mike Rygel was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists. He is the first academic to be elected to this organization, and his presence on the board will help us to better align our program with the guidelines for professional licensure. Thirty-eight states now require practicing geologists to be licensed, so this is inevitable for New York. When it happens, we want our students to be fully prepared to take and pass the licensing exam.

As a reflection of his growing reputation in the field of Sedimentary Geology, Mike was recently appointed Associate Editor for the Journal of Sedimentary Research.

A special issue of The Compass, the Journal of Earth Sciences published by the geology honor society, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, was published in honor of Bill Kirchgasser. The articles included are: "Potsdam, SUNY College and the Geology Department - A Brief History," by Jim Carl; "Beluga Whale Fossil from Pleistocene Champlain Sea Deposits at Norfolk, St. Lawrence Country, New York: a Retrospective on an Undergraduate Research Program," by Bill Kirchgasser; "The Potsdam Seismic Network," by Adam Spinner ('04) and Frank Revetta; "Petrology of a Pegmatite Intrusion Cross-cutting Meta-anorthosite near Saranac Lake, New York," by Wayne Fletcher ('03), Rob Badger, Jeff Chiarenzelli, Jim Carl and Frank Revetta; and "Inorganic Chemistry of Bottled Water: Selecting the Brand Best Suited to Your Needs," by Christina Shimaitis ('03) and Jeff Chiarenzelli. We bought all the extra copies, and have about 100 that we haven't given out yet, so if anyone would like one, please let us know and we will ship one out to you.

Our more recent graduates should recall that every three years the college hosts an academic festival. Our first was in 2001, called "American Identities," the second, in 2004, was "Crossing Borders." Next was "Connections and Intersections: Our Changing Landscape." I have really enjoyed these and been actively involved in each, so I volunteered to organize the one for spring 2010, "Footsteps in the North Country: Pathways on the Planet." It was tremendously successful. Highlights included a concert by Paul Winter, an interactive video talk/interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, keynote address and sustainability workshop with renowned environmental educator Jim Merkel, and a session titled "Footsteps to Outer Space," with talks by Andrew Chaikin, author of A Passion for Mars, Dennis Butts, father of geo major Brian Butts and engineer for Corning glass, which made the mirrors for the Hubble
and Subaru telescopes at their plant in Canton, and physics alum Steven Blusk who talked about the Big Bang.

I'm sure Lisa will tell you about the popular Rock & Fossil Road Show that she organizes each year. There were so many people at it this year that we lost count. The fair was included as one of the festival events, so received added publicity. The President, Provost, and Dean all paid us a visit that morning. Our annual High School Science Lab Day reached its 25th year, with participation by 147 students from 12 area high schools. And our Middle School Science Olympiad was again successful, with eight schools participating in 18 different events. Throughout the day, Potsdam and Carthage (last year’s winner) battled neck and neck for the lead, with Potsdam finally eking out a one-point win.

In the interest of leaving some sort of legacy for future geology students, I have established the Geology Field Trip Endowed Fund. Once fully endowed, the income generated will be used to support geology field trips. For example, this summer, Chris Kelson is leading a group of students to the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. For the past two summers, Mike Rygel has led groups to Nova Scotia. Lisa Amati plans to take a group to Newfoundland in the not too distant future, and I should take a group to Shenandoah National Park. The fund will be used to subsidize trips such as these, or for NYSGA, NEIGC and FOG trips, or even, in years of great economic distress, our end of the spring semester field trip (this year, we headed to the abandoned town of Tahawus near Newcomb).

For the past few years, the Geology Department has benefited greatly from the O’Brien Student Research Fund and the Revetta Geophysics Lab Fund. The O’Brien Student Research Fund is an endowed account established by alumnus Don Fiesinger (’66), which supports student research. The Revetta Geophysics Lab account was established to provide funds to create and maintain the geophysics lab. The Revetta funds provide both an active account to be spent at any time, and an endowed account to provide continuous financial support for the lab.

Over the years, the Department has come to depend upon the generosity of you, our alumni, who designate gifts to the Geology Department each year, which have truly become our "bread and butter" in terms of providing financial support for our students. In years past (and future), your gifts have been used to cover costs for the northeast sectional meeting of the Geological Society of America that many of you have attended and, at which, quite a few of you have presented.

The impact of these endowed funds have had a profound and direct impact upon our students and their education experiences at Potsdam. It is only because of generous alumni support that we have been able to maintain our program at such a high level (all department accounts were cut this year and the Mini-grant program suspended) and to take our students to the spring GSA meeting.

Contributions can be made by sending a check made out to "The Potsdam College Foundation," and in the byline, or in a separate letter, designate to which account the funds are to be applied: "Geology Department" for the foundation account, "O’Brien Student Research Fund," "Revetta Geophysics Fund," "Revetta Geophysics Endowed Account," or the "Geology Field Trip Fund." Thank you in advance, and our students thank you, too.

Faculty & Staff News
Lisa Amati
Last summer was my first year taking students into the field, courtesy of a 3-year NSF Grant. I was able to pay them as well as cover all of their expenses. John Armitage, Amy Smith and Nick Middlebrook and I studied Ordovician carbonates and fossils in West Virginia, along the western margin of the Adirondacks between Watertown and Herkimer, and in the Lake Simcoe region, about two hours north of Toronto. We also spent two days as visiting researchers at the Royal Ontario Museum. In total, we collected about 1,600 pounds of rock!
The purpose of our research is to document changes in marine environments that occurred as the Taconic Mountains began to form in the Late Ordovician and the effect of those changes on the organisms that lived in the shallow sea.

John Armitage and I have been working hard in the lab over the school year to collect data and also to make some room for the samples we will collect this summer. We collect rock samples for slab and thin section from each succeeding layer to see how environmental parameters like water depth, water temperature, wave energy, storm frequency and oxygen levels changed through time. Then we collect hundreds of trilobites and a few other representative taxa through the same rock layers to see how the animals responded to changes in their environment. Some moved out of area in order to stay in their preferred habitat, which allowed other animals to move in and colonize. This summer, John Armitage will be working with me again in the field and the lab.

I joined my family for a fishing trip in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in mid-June. My parents, being geo-nerds themselves, then joined me in exploring a few islands in Lake Huron for potential field localities. In late July, John and I will spend a few weeks in Quebec searching for Late Ordovician localities.

So many people came to the Rock and Fossil Fair this year I was more concerned about fitting them all into the building than having a good turnout. This event could not take place without all of the students who volunteer to set up, keep the food tables stocked, direct traffic and run all of the exhibits and activities. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the past five years!

Rob Badger

It's been another not-so-quiet year in Potsdam. Projects on which I have labored for years are finally nearing or reaching completion. My most recent project in Shenandoah National Park, begun during sabbatical year 2004-2005, is now written, submitted, reviewed, revised, resubmitted, re-reviewed, revised, resubmitted, accepted, revised again, with final submission this past April and final doctoring of the diagrams last month (June). Its title is "Stratigraphy and Geochemistry of the Catoctin Volcanics: Implications for mantle evolution during the break-up of Rodinia," and it will appear as Chapter 17 in GSA Memoire 206, From Rodinia to Pangea: The Lithotectonic Record of the Appalachian Region. This volume should be published later this year.

In January, a book called Inside the Blue Line was published in-house by SUNY Potsdam Press, with articles by SUNY Potsdam faculty about the Adirondacks. My article, titled "A Geologic Perspective on the Adirondack Mountains," is an overview of the geologic history of the Adirondack region. Jim Carl wrote an article "Mining in the Adirondack Mountains: Three Examples." Non-geology faculty you may remember who contributed include Art Johnson (Adirondack railroads), Jim German, (Historical narratives of wilderness), Caroline Downing (Adirondack art), Tony Tyler (Canoeing), and John Omohundro (Expenditures by non-motorized recreationalists).

For some reason, I volunteered to coordinate our most recent triennial academic festival, "Footsteps in the North Country: Pathways on the Planet." Since last fall, it was an almost 24/7 job. The event was in late April, and went off without a hitch, so I can now breathe easier and sleep at night. But, as the saying goes, "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished," and I was immediately asked to serve on the school's bicentennial committee! This event will take place in 2016. Nevertheless, the Footsteps festival is done, and I can move on to other projects.

A ten-year project has been to scan old photographs my father took in the 1920's and early 30's, and to try to write a few lines around them in the form of a book on the evolution of the family land in Vermont. In 2006, I promised the Historical Society, in my hometown in VT, that I would cover their 2010 annual exhibit by displaying some of these photos in a summer-long event. I was able to have the book finished by the July 3rd exhibit opening. Somehow, I came up with 14 chapters and managed over 100 pages. After final editing and formatting, I
had it printed by a print-on-demand publisher in VT.

Last summer, Carolyn and I dismantled the family home in Vermont, piece by piece, storing the usable material in the various sheds, outbuildings, and garage on the property. The house was filled with mold and mildew, and not worth rehabilitation. We began the rebuilding process this summer, breaking ground about June 1, and are reusing as much of the old material as possible. Each week I post new photos of our progress on my Facebook page.

Oldest son, Dan, finished his Master Brewing program at UC Davis last summer, passed the international two-day written exam, and is now a certified Brewmeister working at Mammoth Brewery, Mammoth Lakes, CA. We spent a week with him in March. Dylan continues studying ecological agriculture at UVM and has started his senior research project on hops plants. He dug rhizomes from my single Cascade hops plant, and propagated 91 new plants on which he will run experiments. He was with a school group in the Dominican Republic last January when the Haitian earthquake occurred. They felt the quake, but were not injured and saw no real damage. My kids are having WAY too much fun.

Please stay in touch. We love hearing from you. I'm on Facebook now, and we have a Geology Dept. Facebook page, set up by alumnus Scott McDonald ('04).

Roberta Greene
As you have read, I was very honored to receive the President's Award this year. I cannot put into words how amazing this is to me. I am just doing my job!

Jack and I are taking the 4-wheelers up to Jackman, ME in August. I am wicked excited about that!! My classes at St. Lawrence are going well. I miss you all very much. Please drop me a line to say hello!!

Chris Kelson
Hello all! It's been another great and exciting year here in the department on many levels. It's also been a very busy year, from a teaching, research, and personal standpoint.

Once again and as always, I'm having a great time teaching several wonderful groups of students in both introductory level and upper division geology classes. Each time I teach Physical Geology the number of students wishing to enroll in the course increases, which is great. There is always a lot of interest from students all over campus to take the course, and I think the days are gone when only 24 students enroll in the class. It is a very rewarding experience for me when, during the course of every semester, I have three or four students in my Physical Geology course change their major to Geology.

I've developed a new course titled “Geology of the Great Basin”, which I am very excited about as it allows me to lecture on the geologic evolution of the Great Basin in the western U.S. (my old stomping ground!) and I will take students out there this summer for an 11-day field trip through Utah and Nevada to see the geology in-person. We will see everything from trilobites to topaz rhyolites to huge karst (cave) systems and operating gold and copper mines. Be sure to read next years’ newsletter to see how it went!

Over the past year, I have had several students complete wonderful independent research projects and present their research at the Geological Society of America meeting in Baltimore and here at the SUNY Potsdam Learning and Research Fair, where one of them received the 2010 Ram Chugh North Country Research and Public Service Award (First Place). I also have five more students (including three Presidential Scholars and one Frederick B. Kilmer Summer 2010 Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship recipient) beginning their respective independent research projects, two of which are collaborative efforts with the gold mining industry. I really enjoy working with the students on their projects and I probably learn as much as the students do when it's all said and done.

I am also happy to say that one of our students (Dan Arcadi) received a summer geology
Frank Revetta
My warmest greetings and best of luck to all of you. It seems like yesterday that the last newsletter was submitted. This past year was a very productive one. First, I would like to thank all of the alumni who have donated to the Revetta/NYPA Geophysics Laboratory. I assure you your donation is well spent since the lab has met all expectations. I use it extensively in Earth Science, Geophysics, and Seismology. Mike Rygel uses it to teach Geographic Information Systems and other faculty use it when needed. This year we presented four workshops to SOAR, an organization of elderly retirees who continue to educate themselves, and the alumni on Alumni Weekend. Two geology alumni participated in the alumni workshop in the lab, Dan Cottrell and Dennis Pennington. We have detected several interesting earthquakes in the lab, the Canadian Quake of June 23 (see photo) and the quake that shook our capital, Washington, D.C. Each year, we publish a book showing the seismograms of all the earthquakes recorded during the year and the basic facts about them.

This past year was a productive year for undergraduate research presentations at professional meetings. A gravity map of New York State with epicenters of earthquakes was presented at the Seismological Society of America meeting at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Palisades. Lamont is part of Columbia University and a collaborator of ours for detecting of earthquakes in eastern United States. Many of our students attended the Geological Society of America Meeting at Baltimore to present posters on their research. Posters were presented on the Massena-Cornwall earthquake of 1944, the largest quake to occur in New York State; the seismic hazard study of the Massena area, where numerous earthquakes occur; results of gravity and magnetic investigations in Steuben County to locate possible gas producing structures; and a gravity survey of the Clarendon-Linden Fault in western New York to better understand its structure at depth. Geophysical methods were also used to study the Timbucto archaeology site near Lake Placid. One student presented gravity bases, established by myself, in New York and Pennsylvania that could be used in future gravity surveys. Students also presented seismograms of earthquakes recorded by an inexpensive ASI Seismograph and compiled a book of the seismograms of earthquakes recorded in 2009.

Next year, the GSA meeting will be held at Pittsburgh, PA, and hopefully we will have a group of students attend and present research topics at the meeting. Hope to see you there.

We present a lot of community services at the college. This year, I presented at least 90 planetarium shows to local community, college students, and college activities such as Parents Weekend, Alumni Weekend, Science Olympiad, and High School Science Day. This year, I will be attending the Spitz Institute at Chadd’s Ford, PA to learn more on how to use the planetarium in teaching. It has not only proven to be an excellent teaching tool, but also an instrument quite useful in community and college service.

Well, I have not written any books or papers this year, but I have written a poem, which I
hope you enjoy. The geologists should love it because it is about a rock that speaks.

A Rock Speaks

In this age of the rock star, rock festival, and rock music, Dr. Revetta feels, as a geologist, it is time for the rock to speak.

Mister,
You do not realize my importance.
I am your flesh, blood, and bones.
You rely on me in a direct way.
You take me for granted.
Listen to what I have to say.
I was born millions of year ago, deep in the earth under great stress and heat.
I remained there silent, unknown, for millions of years waiting to be recognized, as a child in a Mother's womb.
I grew in my nature period.
Eventually, I worked my way toward the surface.
I was helped by outside forces exposed, exhumed.
To be recognized by few.
At least, I felt identified, by few.
No sooner was I born then I began to die for you.
My substance, crumbled, to form soil for your nourishment.
You see what remains, feldspar, quartz, and mica grains.
I could not adjust to the new environment, so I died and in doing so saved you.
Oh! If I would have stayed down deep, where I was born, I would be alive to meet you some distant morn.

Frank Alexander Revetta

Mike Rygel

Aside from watching SUNY continue to get pillaged by the state, my fourth year at Potsdam was absolutely fantastic. With course content and field trip destinations now largely stabilized, I have had the time to really fine tune my courses and stay caught up on grading. The “Geology of Nova Scotia” class was a success and I would like to try it again in 2011. Chris Kelson is teaching “Geology of the Great Basin” during the summer of 2010 and we plan to alternate summer travel courses. I had an informal last hurrah for my project in Nova Scotia at the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon – undergraduates Ryan Brink, Erin Sheldon, Dan Slane, and Emily Stephan all presented their research projects there. The conference was great and although our Mt. St. Helens hike was thwarted by eight hours of torrential rain, we did get to see the bottom half of the mountain for about five minutes.

I have also been lucky enough to take part in several professional service activities that I feel very strongly about. In January, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists (http://www.nyscpg.org/). I am excited for the positive change that professional licensing would have on our department, graduates, and profession as a whole. In June of 2009 I accepted a position as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Sedimentary Research. This has been a fantastic learning experience and has made me a better author, reviewer, mentor, and scientist.

Adrienne and I are expecting the arrival of our first child in August. I am both excited and terrified! Impending fatherhood was a convenient excuse to take a break from fieldwork and to use the summer to teach an online class, write, and baby-proof the house.

Jim Carl

I was born to descendents of German-Swiss immigrants who settled in south central Illinois. Most arrived, not at Ellis Island in New York City, but at New Orleans where they proceeded upstream by steamboat to St. Louis. Lutheran immigrants as early as 1838 were disgusted with the state religion in Saxony and sought land and freedom to practice their beliefs in the upper Midwest – some formed their own Synod in Chicago (the Missouri Synod Lutherans). My father was raised a Lutheran but married an American Baptist woman. His compromise was simply to stay home on Sunday. He worked on the Illinois Central Railroad which had established an engine repair shop and boxcar-manufacturing plant in the tallgrass prairie, about 300 miles south of Chicago. The railroad named the place after itself–Centralia. Train transportation started the city, and interstate highway construction just about did it in. Illinois’ main north-south interstate bypassed the town by 11 miles.
All of this is a prelude to our visit to Illinois a month ago. I mourn the loss of my younger sister, Susan Sutherland, who died at age 61 last December in Atlanta, Georgia. Another sister, Barbara, lives in the family house in Centralia, and we visited her for about two weeks. Maybe the realization of the shortness of life has caused this gathering of materials for a family biography. I don’t care much for genealogy, who begat who, when and where. But I have been gathering data while adding lots of commentary. I learned a lot about my relatives, especially my 12 aunts and uncles, before the age of 18 when I left for college. And my family never tossed away a photograph; I have them by the hundreds, mostly without names or dates or localities, but I am surprised about whom Barbara and I can identify. And I have cousins willing to help.

A family biography falls naturally to one writing history, which I have been doing in recent years for the St. Lawrence County Historical Society. Discussing people is more difficult than writing about mines and railroads, namely the history of Benson Mines at Star Lake. The surprise is that I have discovered skeletons in the Carl family closet that my cousins have not heard about. Rattling the bones may rattle the cousins and, like disarming road mines in Iraq, be a hazardous occupation. I keep asking my sister, “Should we include this?” So far, Barb has said “sure.” And she lives there! She’s closer to the cousins than her brother in northern New York. I fear for her safety. I’ll keep you posted. Best wishes to all of you.

**Bill Kirchgasser**

This past year has been a struggle as a result of Betsy’s death from cancer August 31st. I decided to attend the Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy meeting the first week of July in London and hope the Iceland volcano will allow air travel to and from Britain. I am scheduled to give a talk on Devonian goniatites from western New York at the meeting as part of the 3rd. International Paleontological Congress (IPC3); my collaborators on the research are Gordon Baird (SUNY Fredonia), Jeff Over (SUNY Fredonia), Carl Brett (Univ. of Cincinnati) and Thomas Becker, University at Münster, Germany. The pre-conference fieldtrip will visit localities of the Devonian Old Red Sandstone (Terrestrial deposits) in Scotland including James Hutton’s famous unconformity at Siccar Point, where the gently tilted Old Red overlies steeply dipping Silurian graywackies—one of the key places where evidence for the deepness of geologic time was first recognized.

The Hallway Museum has several new displays. We bought an upright cabinet with a spotlight to display (on rotation) the Devonian rocks and fossils from the collection I gave to the College and Department a few years ago. The new exhibit of Devonian Marbles consists of polished slabs of colorful laminated stromatoporoid-reef and basinal, nodular, cephalopod limestones from Belgium, Germany, France, Russia and England many of which were quarried as decorative stone. Also included are samples of stromatoporid limestone (dark and drab) from the Manlius Limestone at Jamesville near Syracuse (quarried for lime). Chris Kelson and his students have added some excellent mineral displays and Lisa Amati and Mike Rygel have reorganized and added to the exhibits at the Dinosaur Mural end of the hallway.

Thanks again to all of you who support the Geology Fund through financial gifts to the College. These funds help our students do undergraduate research and make it possible for them to attend professional meetings such as the GSA and NYSGA. Thanks again for your support. Keep in touch.

**Neal O’Brien**

I have been continuing my gas shale research on the Barnett gas shale play in Texas with our team at the University of Oklahoma. Each member of the team contributes a specific bit of knowledge to the project so it is enjoyable to work as a team member. I have been looking at the possible migration pathways in the shale at the nanometer level (using a field emission SEM at Clarkson – it can get a resolution down to 5 – 10 nm and magnification easily up to 600000x). Also, I worked with an SLU student on his work on the Marcellus gas shale. So you see GAS is the name of the game now. I’m in the office and lab for a few hours almost every day. The family is fine. My son at the University of Northern Iowa has obtained
tenure in the Dept of Anthropology, just at the
time college budgets are very limited. He and I
are coordinating a project on Forensic Geology
and Anthropology, which will be submitted to
WARD’S as an exercise for high school
students. That is another hot ticket interest
item now. Please keep in touch.

Brad van Diver (written by wife, Bev)
There is little to say as our life style has been
seriously compromised. We manage a half-
mile swim three times a week, a mile hike around
the campus every day, an hour or so hike with
the HF group. Other than those activities, Brad
listens to tapes that he receives from the
Library for the Blind, and we watch a number of
Netflix movies - documentaries being our
favorite. Son Thor and his two boys will visit in
June and do some camping in the mountains.

Department Awards
Every year we give several awards to deserving
students. We added another new one this year.
Here is a list of the awards, their criteria, and
this year’s winners.

Department Scholar
Given for superior academic achievement.
2010 recipients: Dan Arcadi and Brad LaPoint

Jessie McNall Award
Miss McNall served as Science Department
Chair for many years prior to her retirement in
1946. She established an endowed fund with
the Potsdam College Foundation in order that
scholarship awards can be given to sophomores
for excellence in science, especially if preparing
for teaching.
2010 recipient: Amanda Sheldon

Alice Williams Geology Award
Dr. Alice Williams taught earth science, general
science, and astronomy for 38 years, from 1937
until her retirement in 1965. Affectionately
known to her students as “Rocky,” her
extensive rock and mineral collection makes up
a significant portion of the department’s current
collection. The Alice Williams Geology Award
is presented to a student who performs
outstanding service to the Department of
Geology.

2010 recipients: John Armitage and Ryan Brink

** This is the third year in a row that John Armitage and
Ryan Brink have been recognized with the same award.
Two years ago, they were the first recipients of the Eric
Hutchinson ‘Budding Geologist’ Award, and last year, they
both won the Tony Dunn Award. But it won’t happen for
a fourth year, as Ryan will be graduating in December.
Our recognizing them as “Budding Geologists” proved
correct, as Ryan is the outgoing president of our Geology
Club and John the incoming president. We expect both
to continue their geology studies in graduate school.

Tony Dunn Award
Anthony P. Dunn (1958-1986), class of 1980,
was an outstanding geology graduate of SUNY
Potsdam who died during geological exploration
in the mountains of his beloved Alaska. The
Anthony P. (Tony) Dunn Award is presented by
the faculty, in memory of Tony, to a student
deemed to have similar qualities of scholarship,
character, and love of geology.

2010 recipients: Ryan Dockstader and Evan Morris

Eric Hutchinson “Budding Geologist”
Award
Eric Hutchinson was a geology major from the
class of ‘03 who tragically died in a drowning
accident in 2007. The award is given to a
freshman or sophomore who, in the opinion of
the faculty, shows outstanding potential for
academic success in geology at SUNY Potsdam.
This award was established in 2008. Eric’s
parents and brother presented the first award
last year.

2010 recipient: Brian Butts and Brett Nyrehn

Outstanding Geology Minor
This award is presented to a student minoring
in geology, in recognition of their superior
academic achievement and outstanding depth of
participation in upper level scholarly activities.

2010 recipient: Ashley Matrisciano

Outstanding Elementary Education
Major receiving a concentration in
Geology
This award is presented to an Elementary
Education Major who is concentrating in
Geology, in recognition of their superior academic achievement and outstanding depth of participation in upper level scholarly activities.

2010 recipient: Jennifer Colon

Silver Tetrahedra Award
This is a new award, which will be given every year by Dr. Kelson in recognition of the Mineralogy student best able to identify minerals and correctly remember their respective formulas (quite a challenge, given the 120+ minerals that they learn during Mineralogy class). The award consists of an engraved plaque mounted on polished granite, complete with a replica of the silica tetrahedron.

2010 recipient: Dan Arcadi

Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Induction into the SGE Honor Society requires junior status and a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

2010 inductees: John Armitage, Dan Arcadi, Chelsea Richard

Alumni News

1960’s & 1970’s
It was great to see Don Fiesinger (’66) at last July’s alumni weekend, and again this June as he and his wife spent a couple of days in northern New York visiting relatives. He is now fully retired from Utah State. Also good to see at this year’s alumni weekend were Dan Cotrell (’70) and Dennis Pennington (’71).

Mike Huggins (’78) is Senior Geologist with Wayne Perry, Inc. in Buena Park, CA. He added a bunch of old photos of classmates to the SUNY Potsdam Geology Alum Facebook page, including one of Tony Dunn. Our Tony Dunn Award, given annually at the College Honors Convocation, is in memory of Tony. Mike passed through Potsdam last summer, stopping to visit the department late one evening. Fortunately, Lisa was still working, so he found someone to talk to.

Ed Knyfd (’79) is Principal Project Scientist with Weston Solutions, Inc. in Edison, NY. He spent a year and a half on the Kensico Dam Project in Valhalla, NY. He reports that “Green Building/Green Construction/Green Energy and Sustainability are the new hot button items for environmental consultants.” His company has the exclusive rights to market and install GreenGrid green roofs. Their projects include the IKEA store in Brooklyn and the EPA regional headquarters in Denver.

1980’s & 1990’s
For the first time since he graduated, we heard from Lambros Potagas (’86) in Greece. He writes, “Living and working in Athens, Greece. Married with two children, 11 & 8 yrs. Following my graduation from SUNY Potsdam, I worked in Holland, Romania, and France. I then went back to school to get my MBA at the European University of Brussels, Belgium. Since my return to Greece, I have held various director level positions, mainly in the Computer Retailing industry. Currently, I am working for Carrefour Group as the Franchise Director for South East Europe. I have the fondest memories of the time spent in Potsdam, I even miss the cold! But my best memories are from the people at the Geology Department and the field trips we had.” His email is potagasl@otenet.gr.

Michael Whitton (’89) and his wife welcomed a new little Whitton, Lily Anne, on March 3, 2010. Older sister Renee, now in kindergarten, is adapting well to the role of big sister.

Tom Ellifritz (’90) is back in North Creek, New York, living the life of a starving artist. His website is www.tomeartsite.net.

Jeremy Grant (’93) has been promoted to Project Manager at Fuss & O’Neil in Columbia, SC. Outside of work, he is the recycling coordinator for the Columbia chapter of the Sierra Club and co-chair of the recycling committee for the state Sierra Club.

Mike Paestella (’95) has a three-year-old son, Michael Jr. He and his wife continue to work at SUNY Oswego, and he is on the board of directors of his son’s daycare center. He has
been on campus several times this year, most recently for reunion weekend.

**Erik Urch** (’96) has worked for Heindel & Noyes in Burlington for nine years. He and his wife have two daughters, Addison, age 5, and Isabella, 2. His band, Audio Journal, expects to release their first album this summer.

**Jeremy Belair** (’96) and his family live in Hilton, NY, right outside of Rochester. They have three kids: a 7-year-old and 3-year-old twins. He works for a small manufacturing company named Lucid (http://www.facebook.com/l/db65a;www.lucid-tech.com), which designs and manufactures confocal reflectance microscopes for skin cancer imaging. A home brewer since 2005, he has established a home brewing blog site: http://www.facebook.com/l/db65a;www.rockyourworldbrewing.com.

**Ryan Zeigler** (’98) stayed at Washington University after completing his PhD, and is now a research scientist, working on lunar meteorites and impact glasses from the Apollo soils. He returned to Potsdam last November and gave us a talk titled, "Lunar Meteorites: A New View of the Moon."

**Eric Lovenduski** (’99) works for EnviroGroup in the Saratoga Springs area. He and his wife have two kids, ages two and five. The oldest will start kindergarten this fall.

2000’s

**Carl Pierce** (’00) successfully defended his PhD dissertation at Texas A & M on March 12. He will be back teaching geophysics at SUNY Oswego this fall.

**Kris Peck** (’02) works out of her home in Canastota for a gem dealer, and also part time at her children’s day care center. Her kids are now two and four. She offers this advice for new graduates struggling to find a job: "Just don’t give up because jobs will come to you when you least expect it, and sometimes you find contacts in the weirdest places."

**Kim (Halley) Hill** (’96) and **Wayne Fletcher** (’03) both brought students to our High School Science Lab Day last fall. Kim also brought a team from Potsdam to the Middle School Science Olympiad, and her team won the competition.

**Eric Thern** (’02) continues to pursue a PhD at Curtain University in Australia, using their SHRIMP microprobe to analyze ancient zircons. He was stateside in May, and gave our department a talk, titled "Early Earth research based on Archean (>2500 Ma) and Hadean (>3800 Ma) zircon discoveries from Western Australia."

**Patrick Doherty** (’02) now works for Peterson Geotechnical in Saratoga Springs. They specialize in geotechnical services for foundations of large buildings. Lately they have been working to stabilize the foundation at Boldt Castle in the Thousand Islands region.

**Christina (Shimaitis) Pominville** (’03) took a leave of absence from her full time job as teacher of 10th grade Earth Science to raise her daughter, Kayleigh, now one and a half. Christina reports "It is wonderful being a mother." She is still teaching as an adjunct instructor for the science department at SUNY Ulster, having fun and trying to keep her brain from becoming "mommy mush!"

**Kevin Meyer** (’05) is Project Geologist for Kleinfelder in Hamilton, NY.

**Kyle Crossett** (’06) continues as Project Geologist for Griggs-Lang Consulting Geologists.

**Mark Neuroth** (’07) has been a full time employee of (AES) Alaska Earth Science, Inc., a geologic consulting company, for almost four years. In that time, he has worked on projects for Anglo American Exploration (USA), Brett Resources, Inc., Full Metal Minerals, Andover Ventures, St. Andrews Goldfields, Zazu Minerals, Teck, and Naknek Electric Association (NEA), among others. Most of his experience has been working as a field geologist in remote mineral exploration camps throughout Alaska. He has core logging and exploration experience working on Au/Cu, Pb/Ag/Zn, Sn/Ag, and Pt/Pd/Ni projects. His tasks included geotechnician, geophysical assistant, and chief medical officer all the way up to the chief
logging and project geologist for a production underground gold mine. Recently, Mark has been working as a Geothermal Geologist in Bristol Bay, Alaska, on the first industrial-scale geothermal exploration project in Alaska. The project was recently awarded the second largest Geothermal Energy grant from the Department of Energy (DOE) in history, specifically for advancement in the science and technology of Enhanced Geothermal Systems. Mark is currently the Assistant Manager on an aggressive exploration project for a Copper-Gold porphyry deposit for Talon Gold Alaska, a subsidiary of International Tower Hill.

Forrest Pennington ('07) is working in gold exploration in Australia. He was stateside last fall for Andy and Katrina's wedding.

Patti Burgin ('08) is living and working in Golden, CO. We hope she has found some decent beer to drink out there.

Shona Arduine ('06) and Nathan Pierce ('08) were both hired by Op-Tech Environmental in Massena. Nate reports that his job entails water sampling, geoprobings, installing monitoring wells, painting their office, weedwacking, changing filters, and making maps on Autocad.

Andy Stafford ('06) and Katrina Bannon ('06) were married last October. Both continue to work for Groundwater and Environmental Services. They live in Lake Carmel, NY.

Anne Bruno ('08) will marry her beau, Mike Cifelli ('08 – Computer Science) on August 1, 2010. They will honeymoon in Maui.

Eric Kahrs (Dec. '08) and his wife, Mandy, welcomed Owen Scott Kahrs into the world just before Christmas. Eric has been promoted from Mudlogger to Data Engineer with GeoServices. Robbie Scott (Geo minor '08) continues to collect degrees, currently completing a physics degree at SUNY Oswego, and also taking additional geology courses. We hope he's been terrorized by Evil Dave Valentino.

Kyle Ashley ('09) made it through his first year in the master’s program at UVM. His thesis project is "TitaniQ Thermobarometry of Fabric Development in the Strafford Dome, Vermont: Linking Microstructures to Orogenic Processes.” He returned to Potsdam this winter to give us a talk on it.

Jeremy Boula (Dec. '08), Allison Jaillet (Geo minor '08), and Dan Ingersoll ('09), have just completed their MST program at SUNY Potsdam and are looking for teaching jobs.

Jamie Salg ('08) spent some time traveling this summer to explore Ireland with her family. They started in Northern Ireland and drove around the country as they pleased, visiting castles, breweries, pubs, ancient tombs, cemeteries, Marble Arch Caves, Cliffs of Moor, Giant's Causeway, and the Aran Islands. They had a great time drinking Guinness (much better than in the U.S., she says) and hard cider. They even slept in a castle. How cool is that? We have to admit, we're quite jealous!

Josh Sovie ('09) is in grad school studying geophysics at Boston College. He is back in to Elko, NV this summer working for Barrick's gold exploration.

John Acker ('09) has returned to Missoula, Montana to work as a forestry technician for the Forest Service, doing silviculture surveys and mapping. He is looking at graduate school for either environmental studies or environmental law.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Stafford