Department Highlights

- The number of Geology majors continues to hover near an all-time high and enrollment in all of our classes is strong.

- Our graduates continue to land great jobs and get accepted into graduate programs.

- Dylan Blumentritt begins teaching Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Geomorphology, and Environmental Geology.

- Rob Badger announces his retirement, effective summer 2015.

- SUNY Potsdam Geology undergraduates team up with Holland Services to learn how to use GIS to understand water management issues.

- 19 students attend NE GSA in Lancaster, PA in March 2014 and take part in a two-day field trip ahead of the conference.

- Alumni John Armitage ('11), Ryan Brink ('10), Lauren Eggleston ('12), Evan Smith ('12), and Erin Wagner ('13) return to give talks in the “Life After Potsdam” series.

- Partial renovation of Timerman Hall is tentatively slated to begin in May 2016.

- Rock & Fossil Fair draws hundreds.

- High School Science Lab Day reaches 30th anniversary and Middle School Science Olympiad once again won by Plattsburgh.
Department News
A lot has happened since the last newsletter, so buckle up. We will start with the good news about what our newest graduates are up to, talk about some big changes that are happening in the department, and then finish with an overview of what our spectacular alumni support allows us to do. – Mike Rygel

Recent Graduates
The department continues to grow and thrive. As of January 2015, we have 67 majors and 19 minors – a bit less than our all-time high of 80 majors in 2012. If you go by the numbers of undergraduates quoted in AGI's Directory of Geoscience Departments, we are one of the biggest geology departments in the state.

Since you last heard from us, we graduated 16 students: Cheyne Aiken, Stephen Amos Allard, Jena Allen, Mitchell Haller, Amy Hudson, Matt Kohl, Dave LaLonde, Jeff Love, Kyle Mathieu, Reilly Pike, Tom Richards, Tyler Richardson, Sarah Skinner, Brittany Snyder, Brandon Toeper, Michael Trim, and Erin Wagner. As always, this crew did well finding graduate programs and jobs. Three members from this year’s class will be employed as petrologists. Many schools have stopped offering courses in petrology, because of the expense of microscopes and the ease at big universities of just microprobing a mineral if you want to identify it. The success of our students strengthens our resolve to continue offering a course in optics and petrology, despite our aging collection of microscopes. Highlights from those who checked back in with us are included in the Alumni News section.

Internships
Three students had internships last summer: Patrick Leisure ('15) was at Advance Testing in downstate NY for the summer and fall. Matt Merkle ('15) was an education intern at Great Camp Sagamore in the Adirondacks. Mike Cole ('15) was at the Greens Creek Mine in Alaska. Cheyne Aiken ('14) interned at Greens Creek for the summer of 2013 and was a contract geologist at Greens Creek this past summer and fall.

Robert Gaudin ('71), a former SUNY Potsdam Geography major and president of Holland Services, made a generous donation to the department so that we could work with a group of eight undergraduates to teach them how to use GIS to analyze the complex issues associated with water management issues. In addition to getting students experience dealing with real-world problems, Robert arranged for the students to take part in several online training events and set up a teleconference so that some of the professional staff at Holland Services could speak to the students about what to expect in the workforce. This kind of collaboration between the private sector and higher education is unique at SUNY Potsdam and is going to give our students a real advantage when it comes time to apply for jobs.

Events
Our Geology Club continues to be one of the most active and well-funded student groups on campus. They put together a series of talks last year entitled “Life After Potsdam,” inviting recent grads back to tell of their experiences. Returning to campus were John Armitage ('11), Ryan Brink ('11), Lauren Eggleston ('12), and Evan Smith ('12). And this past fall, they brought back Erin Wagner ('13) to talk about summer field camp and life at ExxonMobil. The club plans to continue the “Life After Potsdam” series, so if any of you would like to return and offer words of wisdom, we’d be glad to see you.
Northeast GSA was in Lancaster, PA, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Nineteen students accompanied all five teaching faculty plus Roberta Greene and emeriti Bill Kirchgasser and Frank Revetta. Ahead of the meeting, Mike and Adrienne Rygel led a two-day field trip to the valley and ridge to see massively deformed rocks, underground coal fires, and streams that were destroyed by acid mine drainage. On the Monday night of the meeting, we all had dinner together, including alumni Ryan Brink (’11), John Armitage (’11) and Kyle Ashley (’09), who were there presenting their graduate research. The brewpub where we dined set aside an entire room just for us, and a good time was had by all.

Lisa’s popular Rock & Fossil Fair continues to be a big hit in the community. Last year, 210 people registered for the door prize and there were probably another 50-100 people that did not sign up. The President and Provost of the College were both in attendance. Once again, the moon rocks, on loan from NASA, were on display.

Our annual High School Science Lab Day reached its 30th year, with participation by 125 students from nine area high schools. And our Middle School Science Olympiad was again successful, with six schools participating in twenty different events. For the third year in a row, Plattsburgh won, but only by two points, as Chateaugay battled them down to the wire.

Timerman Hall Renovation
After 40 years of service, Timerman Hall is starting to show its age and is slated to get a renovation starting in May 2016. The College is presently in the early stages of planning and is looking for an architectural firm to take on the job. Although the financial details are still unclear, the tentative plan is to replace much of the HVAC and plumbing, remove a variety of asbestos-laden building materials, and redesign many of the labs and classrooms. Hopefully, this will mean new furniture, projection equipment in all teaching spaces, and proper storage for teaching materials. Although the thought of clearing everything out is a bit daunting, that is the kind of problem that you want to have!

Academics
As you may remember, Frank Revetta retired in Spring 2012. Rather than replacing Frank with a clone of himself (an impossibility anyway!), we decided to do the first major overhaul of the curriculum since the founding of the department. For all of you traditionalists out there, fear not … this story ends with us doing the same things we always did and then some.

Phase 1 was to hire Dylan Blumentritt so that we could include Hydrology and Hydrogeology as a required class, offer Geomorphology as an elective, and regularly offer a 100-level Environmental Geology class. That went perfectly according to plan; Dylan has proven to be an excellent teacher, valued colleague, and knowledgeable scientist that involves undergraduates in his research.

This fall, Rob Badger announced that he was retiring after 26 years of teaching at SUNY Potsdam. We are all sad to see Rob go and he will be greatly missed. We are going to have a farewell party for him from 4-6 pm on Friday, May 8th. It will be in Thatcher Hall (Dexter’s). Please feel free to stop by and join us. If you can’t stop by, we would really appreciate any pictures that you can provide! Please send them along to Roberta at greenera@potsdam.edu.

Phase 2 was to shift Petrology over to Chris Kelson and replace Rob with someone with expertise in structural geology and geophysics. Although we are bursting at the seams and continue to be strongly supported by the administration, we just found out that our request to replace Rob was denied for this year. This was not unexpected – the College is down several hundred students and looking to save money wherever possible. Our new President, Dr. Kristin Esterberg, met with the department and is supportive of the sciences. We are very optimistic that, under her leadership, the College will emerge from this financial crisis stronger than ever and that we will eventually be able to return to five faculty.

Until we are able to go back to five faculty, those of us that remain are going to do our best to cover the necessary classes. The passage of
a bill allowing for the licensure of geologists in NYS underscores the urgent need to replace Rob because the ASBOG licensure exam includes sections on structural geology and geophysics. Great proof that these are topics that are part of the standard geology curriculum. If and when we are able to go back to five faculty, we will be able to offer all of the classes that were traditionally offered plus Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Geomorphology, and Environmental Geology. I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to run a search in the next year or two. In the meantime, the administration gave us permission to hire a fulltime adjunct for Fall 2015 to teach Structural Geology and Physical Geology labs.

Alumni Support
Support from our alumni continues to grow every year, and because of that we can continue to do many of the things that make the Geology Department at SUNY Potsdam exceptional. The Neal O’Brien Undergraduate Research Endowment provides funds for student research projects, the Specialized Engineering Endowment provides funds that will allow us to make sure that we can continue to maintain the seismic and geophysics equipment, and the Badger-VanDiver Field Trip Fund allows us to continue to take students on field trips and to meetings.

As described above, alumni support has allowed us to give students comprehensive training in GIS and water resource issues. A few other generous gifts to the department are going to allow us to take a large group of students to the national GSA meeting in Baltimore this fall. Thanks to you, we are able to continue to provide a high quality education at a reasonable price.

And, I am proud to announce that we have a new endowed fund! Erin Wagner (’13) interned at ExxonMobil for all of 2014 and started a fulltime position as a petroleum geologist in January 2015. When Erin returned to give a talk to the department this fall, she announced that she is going to start an endowed scholarship to help students take a geology field camp. Starting in 2019, the "Erin Wagner ’13 Field Camp Experience Scholarship" will provide $1,000 per year to help a deserving geology major to attend a summer field camp.

The most important thing that you can do for us is to tell us about all of the fantastic things you have gone on to do since leaving SUNY Potsdam. So please drop us a line or stay in touch using the SUNY Potsdam Geology Facebook group – we look forward to hearing from you!

Faculty & Staff News
Lisa Amati
This past year has been another busy one! I taught all my usual classes (Ancient Life, Dynamic Earth, Principles of Paleontology, Science in Society) plus my new Paleoecology class. As usual, the geology students were amazing but I was a little burned out after having a challenging crew in Ancient Life last fall. I made up for it this fall with my next new class – Planetary Geology! It is an introductory level class with a lab. We cover all the usual aspects of geology (rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, volcanoes) but study them all in reference to other planets in addition to the Earth. I had a great time this summer making all the new lectures and learning about geology on other planets and moons.

I didn’t get a chance to do any research this summer. Making my new lectures took more than a month and my roommate and parents and I worked tirelessly to totally overhaul my kitchen. What a huge job! But it really needed to be done and is looking spectacular. I was too cheap to buy solid granite countertops but instead got tile counter tops made of granite called Baltic Brown. It is stunning.

I did get a chance to do something super fun this summer, though. I went salmon fishing on Lake Michigan with my whole family. We used to go every August when I was a kid and now we are taking my niece and nephew. Both of them are beautiful and brilliant (naturally) and are doing really well after having lost their father a year and a half ago.

I hope you are all healthy and happy. Come back and visit us soon!
Rob Badger

We’re delighted to welcome Dylan Blumentritt into our ranks last year, and to finally be able to offer Hydrology and Hydrogeology. Our students were so looking forward to this class, and then they found that it involved a lot of math. I mean, a LOT of math. Welcome to the real world. Math matters. Dylan and his wife, Erin, have purchased my old house on Grant Street that I moved out of 16 years ago. It will make a great first home for them.

On the personal front, Carolyn and I continued construction on our home in Vermont and it is nearly complete. During the summer of ’13 we built the front porch, tiled the entryway and upstairs bath, and finished the flooring in the downstairs living area. Over Christmas ’13 break, we planed all the rough cut basswood lumber that I bought from a lumber mill during the summer, and started cutting it for trim wood around windows, doors, baseboards and entryways. This past summer, we finished all the trim work, put up crown molding, put in a vegetable garden and started landscaping.

My sons opened Ausable Brewery in Keeseville, NY, in August, and business has been booming. Thursday evening is taco night, when their friends from the CSA farm across the road bring their food trailer to the brewery and make tacos. One Thursday, someone counted 60 cars parked along the road, and that’s in addition to their parking lot, which was full.

After 26 years of teaching, I decided this would be my last. It is time to do other things. I have a bucket list of places I want to travel to, including the Boundary Water Canoe Area in northern Minnesota, the fjords of Norway, Iceland, Hawaii, Alaska, and on and on. Plus we want to raise chickens, ducks, and geese at our Vermont home. There is a pond for the ducks and geese, but we are concerned that we may just be feeding the local fox population. When we feel the urge to travel, we’ll put the animals in the freezer, and take off.

Please stay in touch. We love hearing from you. I’m on Facebook, and we have a Geology Dept. Facebook group.

Dylan Blumentritt

One year down! I had a great first year here in Potsdam. The success I had last year was due in no small part to the department faculty and staff, who made every effort to support me and my teaching. I’ve heard repeatedly over this past year from people around campus that our department is one of the best at the school; now I know why and I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of it.

It was great to get to know a lot of the students over the past year. They came to class excited to learn (for the most part), and were understanding when things didn’t always go according to plan, which happened more often than even they realized. I got to know a lot of seniors in my two upper level classes, Geomorphology and Hydrology and Hydrogeology, and so graduation was a real source of pride for me, even though I had only been here for a year and can take almost no credit for their successes.

I represent the environmental arm of the department and I already have some students working on environmental geology projects. I know there are several alumni out there who work in this area, so please feel free to contact me if you want to know what we’re up to or, perhaps more importantly, if you have any opportunities in mind for our students.

Erin and I had a busy spring. We bought a house and she started a new job as Assistant Director of Prospect Research at St. Lawrence University. The house we bought is just two blocks from Timerman Hall and is the same house that Dr. Badger and his family lived in for their first 10 years in Potsdam. Hopefully that’s a sign of more good things to come.

Robert Greene

Hi everyone! I hope you all have had a terrific year. Mine was pretty uneventful. I am completely 100% in love with my granddaughter and I spend every second that I can with her.

Jack and I went back down to West Virginia to have at another Hatfield-McCoy riding trail with our 4-wheelers. It was much fun! We've
completed three of the six trail systems. Three more to go!

Other than that and still working on my Master's Degree, nothing much else going on. I miss so many of you and would LOVE for you to come and visit! I certainly love seeing Dan Cottrell ('70) and the guys at Reunion each summer. It would be great to have ALL of you there!!!!

Take care and please, for the love of Pete, stay in touch!!

Chris Kelson
Hello all! Another fun-filled and action-packed year is in the books here in the department, and many notable things happened within that time, including:

One of our current students, and two recently graduated students, earned summer geology internships at mines in Alaska and Nevada.

The number of students enrolled within the courses I teach (Physical Geology, Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Economic Geology) were down compared to the previous year, but all indications are that those numbers will grow in the coming year.

Five different students completed different, individual geochemistry- or mineralogy-based research projects under my supervision and successfully presented them at the Geological Society of America conference (Northeast Section meeting in Lancaster, PA) as well as at the 2014 Learning & Research Fair here at SUNY Potsdam. Three of these students were Presidential Scholars, and one project earned the 2014 Kilmer Undergraduate Research Award.

I led five students on a weeklong field trip to Nevada as part of my Economic Geology course. The trip, which took place in late May-early June, was designed to show students many ore deposits that we discussed in class. We visited several active gold mines (open pit and underground), old silver mines, mining towns, ghost towns, and a barite mine between Elko and Virginia City. The students also met and connected with several of my ex-students who are now working full-time in the mining industry in NV. It was a great trip for all involved and I hope to offer this trip again next year.

I acquired a piece of lab equipment which can analyze fluid inclusions in mineral crystals to help determine the salinity and temperature of the fluid from which that mineral crystallized. This machine dovetails significantly with my research interests and will be a great asset to the department for student research projects as well.

I recently completed a multi-faceted, in-depth, first-of-its-kind study on the genesis of the Cortez silver-lead deposit (Cortez Mountains, Eureka County, Nevada) and am formulating similar research plans for other nearby deposits to gain a better understanding of the metallogenic evolution of that portion of north-central Nevada.

Mike Rygel
Well, I said pretty much everything I had to say in the department news section, so I will keep it short and sweet. The transition to Department Chair comes at a busy and exciting time. After a very busy fall semester, I am optimistic that things are going to be a bit more manageable this spring. Although my newfound administrative duties come at the expense of my research, I managed to get a few papers out this year. I was a contributing author on “Palaeozoic co-evolution of rivers and vegetation: a synthesis of current knowledge” which was published in the Proceedings of the Geologists Association in December of 2014. Corinne Lally ('13) and I were coauthors on “Early Pennsylvanian braided rivers shaped by woody accumulations: Architecture of the Boss Point Formation, Atlantic Canada” which was published in Sedimentology. And after seven long years of work, my paper “The Pennsylvanian Springhill Mines Formation: Sedimentological framework of a portion of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site” came out in Atlantic Geology. Former undergraduates Erin Sheldon ('10), Kyle Ashley ('09) and Jamie Salg ('08) were coauthors and
the manuscript represents a synthesis and expansion of their undergraduate research projects.

On the personal side of things, Adrienne and I are doing well. Adrienne was recently tenured in the Civil and Environmental Engineering program at SUNY Canton. Genevieve and Evangeline (3 and 4 years old, respectively) are growing up quickly. We go down to only one child in daycare next year and I am looking forward to bringing home 33% more money every paycheck! In celebration of the decreased daycare costs, we just signed a contract on a small camp outside of Colton. It sits on 40 acres and is surrounded by a few thousand acres of state forest. It is a bit rough around the edges, but I look forward to turning it into my refuge from the world.

Jim Carl
Last May marked my 13th year in retirement, and I take pleasure in reading the alumni newsletter. We faculty retirees were members of the Geology Department when it separated from the “Science Division” in 1970, namely Neal O’Brien, Bill Kirchgasser, Frank Revetta, Brad VanDiver (deceased) and me. I hope you will visit the campus to see the new Arts Center—the Dance and Theatre building. It represents the first new construction on the compact, all brick Edward Larrabee Barnes-designed campus since the 1960s and early 70s. Portions of this building seem to dip into the ground and disappear under a parking lot. The architect was inspired, he said, by inclined rock layers in the Adirondacks. Given the size of major Adirondack antiforms and synforms, another Arts Center should reappear above the ground some miles away. Two new theatres are available to students and the public but don’t worry; they are above ground.

Susan and I take pleasure in all kinds of things, including lunches at the Village Diner and attendance at a concert of Carmina Burana performed by the Crane Symphony and chorus with nearly 300 performers on stage. Hosmer Hall was filled to capacity. We also attend live, high definition Metropolitan Opera broadcasts at the local theatre. I am a long-time member of the Potsdam Museum board and still write, on occasion, for the Quarterly of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. I was one of five authors (along with Jeff Chiarenzelli of St. Lawrence University) of a 2014 article in Rocks and Minerals Magazine entitled The Benson Mines, St. Lawrence County, NY. Mostly about the mineralogy of that long abandoned ore body....glossy pages with color photography of minerals, no less.

I was asked by a member of the Parishville Bicentennial Committee to write a short history of the founding of this small village about 10 miles southeast of Potsdam. Some of you may recall geology field trips to the “Parishville desert” where the sandy surfaces of high-elevation terraces display dunes, blowouts, and ventifacts. Not a particularly good place to farm, although selling land to farmers was the aim. A very wealthy German immigrant, David Parish, bought land and began development prior to the war of 1812. He called in a French architect and had him design European-style buildings in Ogdensburg, Rossie, Antwerp, and Parishville prior to offering land for sale to settlers. Parish lived in Philadelphia but “summered” in Ogdensburg, and the British crossed the frozen river and attacked the garrison in February 1813. Parish also loaned the United States government about seven million dollars to conduct this second war with Britain, with the quid-pro-quo that the Madison administration send no more troops to the St. Lawrence front. Their presence only provoked the British to action. And previous U.S. troops stole chickens and pies from Ogdensburg citizens. The bicentennial committee printed 100 copies of the article for distribution at its celebration in late July.

In spite of frightfully cold and icy weather, Susan and I were delighted to have all of our four children and five grandchildren in Potsdam last Christmas (2013). Our two teenage granddaughters recruited the rest of us to participate in a murder-mystery play, and we all gathered around the dinner table in the late afternoon of a dark winter day. The play’s setting was a German-occupied French village in World War II where a civilian had been murdered. Each participant was assigned a
character. Mine was a Nazi official, something equivalent to an SS officer (“Oh, grandpa, you make such a nice Nazi”). I wore my black commencement robe with a heavy bronze medal suspended from a ribbon around the neck. My character was a nasty individual, a prime suspect for the murderer who interrupted the others in praise of his boss, Adolph Hitler.

I was required to toast and give the arm-out Nazi salute and obligatory “Heil Hitler.” I didn’t plan what followed. My character then exploded in song, the source of which I had long forgotten but lay somewhere in the memory of this Southern Illinois boy in the 1940s. Some lyrics were as follows:

“When der Fuehrer says we is de master race, we heil, heil right in der Fuehrer’s face. Not to love der Fuehrer is a great disgrace, so we heil, heil right in der Fuehrer’s face. When Herr Goebbels says we own the world and space, we heil, heil right in Herr Goebbels’ face. When Herr Goring says, they’ll never bomb this place, we heil, heil right in Herr Goring’s face.”

“Is this Nutsy land so good? Would you leave it if you could? Ja, this Nutsy land is good. We would leave it if we could.”

Our grandchildren stared at me and dropped their jaws as if to say, “That wasn’t scripted. Where in heck did it come from?”

Der Fuehrer’s Face (Donald Duck in Nutzi Land) came from a Walt Disney cartoon that I must have seen during a Saturday matinee at the Grand Theatre in Centralia, Illinois. This 1943 amusing propaganda piece was sung to a German Oom-pah band. The song itself had been released earlier on a 78-rpm record by the Spike Jones Orchestra. See for yourself: Google “Der Fuehrer’s Face, Donald Duck Cartoon.”

Modern life has its problems. I rebel against buying glitzy, macho-streamlined, colorful plastic Gillette razors for $25 with razor blades at $3-4 apiece. Kinney Drug Store sells a cheaper Chinese brand called Premium. For $5 one can purchase a functional, sturdy black razor enclosed in a package with three, 3-bladed razor blades. Great shaves! Lasted for months. When the blades were used up, I returned to Kinneys to replace them. No 3-bladed razor blades were on the shelves that day, so I bought a pack of 2-bladed blades and took them home. They would not fit my razor. It held only 3-bladed blades. So… I returned to Kinneys where the female clerks were astonished to find that the Premium Razor Company did not package and sell 3-bladed razor blades independently of the razor. Separate razors were there, up to 6-bladed blades to scrape a man’s tender skin. The Chinese clearly had joined the process of blade creep. No wonder the handsome but struggling young men who appear on television and model LL Bean clothes in catalogs are invariably shown with 5 o’clock shadows. They can’t afford the cost and mental torment required in selecting shaving apparatus. My generation keeps trying, probably because of the shock experienced in the 1960s when Richard Nixon’s shadowy chin first appeared on black and white television. Jack Kennedy shaved, debated Nixon and became president. My advice to male readers is to imitate Rob Badger, grow a beard and save money for retirement. Best wishes to all of you.

Bill Kirchgasser
Still coming into the department regularly to work on the paper on Frasnian (Upper Devonian) conodont with Gil Klapper, pack specimens, and help with department matters anyway I can. I travelled with the Potsdam group to the NE section GSA meeting in March. SUNY Potsdam as usual was well represented and several of our students presented posters. Our students greatly benefited from the experience. At the meeting I had a chat with Steve Bryson (’73) who continues his long career as manager of geology and environmental science for Ward’s Science (wardssci.com) in Rochester. Steve has many fond memories of time at Potsdam and has been a loyal supporter of the department. This year we welcomed Dylan Blumentritt, our newest faculty member, who has hit the ground running. His research interests center around hydrogeology and geomorphology. He and his...
students are already engaged in fieldwork on our local glacial deposits and has visited most of the Brad Van Divers localities in his Rocks and Routes Guidebook. Mike, Chris, and Rob continue to thrive in their many pursuits. Fieldwork has always been a major part of our program and Mike and Chris have expanded the geographic reach for our students to the West and for Mike, also the Maritimes of Canada. As usual Rob has his structure students on outcrops across the Adirondacks.

A lot has happen on the personal front. Dylan and his wife Erin rented my house on Lawrence Ave as I had moved to nearby 5 Chestnut to live with Linda Seramur, recently retired from the School of Education. Dylan and Erin bought Rob Badger’s old house on Grant Street. I then sold my house on Lawrence Ave and Linda and I bought a house (camp) on the one-mile long eskers-bordered Arbuckle Pond, Colton, near the Higley Flows.

George ('68) and Susan ('71) Robinson visited the department recently. They have moved back to the North Country. As the donors of the department’s huge Robinson mineral collection, they doubtless will continue their longtime interest in the minerals of St. Lawrence County.

Thanks to all who continue to support the department. Keep in touch.

Neal O’Brien
This year was about the same as last year. The biggest event is that I’m preparing a website with chapters (of brief one-page descriptions) and associated SEM images and EDX data, which will be a summary of all the microfabric work I’ve done for the last 20+ years. All chapters relate to oil/gas shale (mudstone) features, which will be useful for the reader as references in their microfabric hydrocarbon analysis. Shales include Eagle Ford, Woodford, Marcellus, etc.

The SEM unit is getting old (purchased 1990), but still functions. This sounds like a description of me, its operator.

I published a few papers and abstracts with my co-author, Roger Slatt (University of Oklahoma), who has sent some of his grad students to my lab to learn SEM techniques.

I’m making miniature furniture for the grandkids and look forward to watching my wild flower garden begin to grow after a long winter. Cheers!

Frank Revetta
Greetings to everyone. Well, I finally retired after 50 years of teaching at the College. I was hired in 1962 when we only had a science department with about 20 faculty. So, I’ve seen and experienced a lot in that 50 years, some good and some bad. However, I would still recommend college teaching as a career to any of you looking for a job. I can’t think if any other profession I would have rather been in than college teaching.

I have retired, but I haven't quit my learning, community service, and research. I am still presenting many planetarium shows each year to local schools, general public, and the College. Besides the planetarium shows, I use my Geophysics Lab to present workshops in seismology and a Geoscience Theater to make the students aware of the many educational videos available in the Earth Sciences. I am also still attending the professional meetings at Geological Society of America and the Seismological Society of America each year. Presenting posters of student research is a real pleasure for me. During the past four years, we presented 32 abstracts of student research at the Geological Society of America meetings. This year, I am preparing abstracts to present at the GSA and the SSA in New Hampshire and Charleston, SC.

This year, 2014, we have recorded 53 earthquakes in the seismology lab. I am attaching seismograms of the earthquake that occurred in Northern California on March 10, 2014. This earthquake of magnitude 6.1 was felt by Mike Huggins in Northern California. We sent Mike copies of the earthquake, which he appreciated. Jim Agnew is one of our successful graduates and probably detected the
earthquake since he is in charge of a seismic network in the area. Hi Jim, did you feel it? We also detected two earthquakes due to fracking in Oklahoma. Our most recent earthquake was the Napa Valley event, which I have attached.

Besides the seismology, which keeps me busy in my retirement, I continue to conduct geophysical surveys for the community. The latest project was conducting an electrical resistivity survey to locate groundwater at St. Mary's Cemetery, which is located close to the campus. I had the help of a geology student, Kelly Nuccio, to find the water at a depth of 250 to 300 feet. I have many geophysics research projects for the students to work on if they have the interest. One of the most interesting projects is to locate a buried treasure, which is supposed to be buried on Chimney Island. If any of you are interested in a research project to present at GSA, contact me since I have a lot of geophysics data that is begging for interpretation.

**Department Awards**

**Department Scholar**
Given for superior academic achievement.

2014 recipients: Kate Grisi, Mitchell Haller, and Amy Hudson

**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.

2014 recipient: Michelle Primiano

**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.

2014 recipient: Brittany Snyder

**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.

2014 recipient: Cheyne Aiken
Eric Hutchinson “Budding Geologist”
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.

2014 recipients: Kristy Allen and Brianna Hill

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.

2014 recipient: None

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.

2014 recipient: Brittney Regelman

Silver Tetrahedra Award
This award is in recognition of the Mineralogy student best able to identify minerals and correctly remember their respective formulas. The award consists of an engraved plaque mounted on polished granite, complete with a replica of the silica tetrahedron.

2014 recipients: Another tie this year!!!
Matthew Merkle and Kelsey Rocco

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

2014 inductees:
Cheyne Aiken, Jena Allen, Sophie Gregg,
Kate Grisi, Adam Lang, Jeffrey Love, Emily Mitchell,
Sarah Skinner, and Brittany Snyder

The St. Lawrence County Rock & Mineral Club Scholarship
Each year, the Club donates funds to be used to purchase the Optics and Petrology textbooks to be awarded to the top students in Mineralogy. For more information on the Club, contact Bill de Lorraine (’74), Club President at wdellie@gmail.com or you can visit their website at www.stlawrencecountymineralclub.org.

2014 recipients:
Kate Grisi, Matthew Merkle,
Reilly Pike, and Kelsey Rocco

Alumni News
Claudia Assini (’69) keeps in touch via email and phone calls. She’s been traveling all over and keeping very busy! She and hubby, Ivan, took a fabulous trip out west to go hiking and surviving the desert. She claimed two (out of three) Bronze medals at the Florida Senior Games! You go, girl!

Claudia at the Grand Canyon, October 2014

Bill de Lorraine (’74) and Master John French donated this amazing, 98 million year old ammonite fossil, “Eopachydiscus Marcianus” to our department. It was found in the Duck Creek Formation, Spring Creek, TX.

Bill de Lorraine (’74) with Ammonite
Bill Lilley (’74) has moved to Oregon to be near his grandchildren.

Steve Sturgen (’80) has stopped in a few times over the year to visit us and share his wealth of knowledge regarding the energy industry.

Sarah Pietraszek-Mattner (’93) writes “After I quit my job at Conoco in 1999, I received my PhD in BioGeoChemistry from Indiana University in 2004 and went to work for ExxonMobil. I spent five years on the technical side as a hydrocarbon systems specialist (all of those shale research hours put to good use… thank goodness for unconventional), then switched over to management. I was a supervisor for two operations (exploration drilling) teams in Melbourne, Australia from 2009-2011, then finished a two-year stint in our commercial organization where I learned more about the business side of how we make decisions. Now, I’m the Operations Technical Geoscience Manager for Angola. I have 35 people working under me to identify, drill, and complete wells. My role is very much strategic, and I’m loving it. In addition, the geological buck stops with me for all of our Angola work. My experiences in exploring and well design in deep water Australia and in the fold and thrust belt in Papua New Guinea have me well prepared for anything my team throws at me. The only thing I haven’t worked in this company is carbonates. Natalie is 15 and Nick is 8. Mike is a freelance musician and also family chauffeur. We’ve been back in the Houston area for over two years now.”

Jeff Groncki (’97) is Environmental Compliance Manager for Walgreen Co. in Deerfield, IL.

Michelle Bresett (’98) was named a New York State Master Teacher!

Eric Lovenduski (’99) is a geologist for Geosyntec Consultants in Saratoga Springs, NY. He deals mostly with contaminated soil and groundwater. He and his wife, Nellie, have a nine-year-old son named Max and a six-year-old daughter named Lucy. Lucy takes after her dad and loves the rocks! She brings home bags full for Eric to identify.

Karen (Vito) Calabrese (’03) and her husband, Tom, welcomed their first child, Luca Lee, on July 4, 2014. They live near Sandy Hook, NJ.

Meaghan (Beck) Bartell (’06) married Josh Bartell, who works in Admissions here at SUNY Potsdam. Meg left teaching at Ogdensburg Free Academy to become the Assistant Director at Clarkson University’s Student Success Center and is a First Year Seminar instructor.

Holly King (’06) and her husband, Nick Ruebel, welcomed their sweet daughter, Ella, on October 23, 2014.
Holly (King) and Ella Ruebel

Jake Beaudoin ('08) married his fellow mine geologist, Amanda, on October 17, 2014.

Amanda and Jacob Beaudoin and their pups

Doug Eck ('08) and his wife, Diana, welcomed their precious little lady, Everly, on November 4, 2014.

Diana, Everly, and Doug Eck

Ryan LaDuke ('08) writes “I am still employed at the same consulting firm, Kleinfelder, and living in the Mid-Hudson Valley. It’s better than flipping burgers as you (Dr. Badger) would say.”

Patricia LeMieux ('08) is teaching Earth Science and Biology fulltime at Watertown Central School.

Vincent Schlageter ('08) is finishing up his Master's degree at Boise State University and scored a volunteer position as a map editor for the USGS in Boise.

Kyle Ashley ('09) received the College of Science outstanding Doctoral Student award for his work at Virginia Tech. He has been offered a Jackson School Postdoc fellowship at University of Texas at Austin. Last November, Kyle asked his lady, Brittany, to marry him and she said yes!

Josh Sovie (09) married his lady, Megan, on July 19, 2014.

Joshua and Megan Sovie
Kristen (Remington) Armstrong ('10) delivered twin boys on January 8, 2014. 

Zach Ducharme ('10) was hired as an Environmental Education Instructor at a YMCA in Estes Park, CO.

Nick Middlebrook ('10) is teaching at Beacon High School in Beacon, NY. He has two boys, aged two and seven. Nick is still actively hiking, running, caving, and getting lost on field trips!

Jeanette (DeAmour) Sullivan ('10) works for Old Castle Concrete in the Albany area. On October 18, 2014, she married her best friend, Blake.

Amanda Brewer ('11) is a Project Engineer at APD Engineering & Architecture in Victor, NY.

Ryan Brink ('11) successfully defended his thesis for his Master’s degree at UVM. He returned this spring to talk to our students about Life After Potsdam. He and his girlfriend are taking a year to travel around the US and Mexico, rock climbing. He has tricked out his van with shelves, a bed, and all sorts of cubbies to store gear.

Ryan Dockstader ('11) started a new job as a mine geologist for M-I SWACO, part of Schlumberger, out of Battle Mountain, NV.

Mat Dunlop ('11) has begun a Ph.D. program at Wyoming, working on the Dufek Intrusion in Antarctica.

Jonathan Reeves (minor '11) is earning his Ph.D. in Hominid Paleobiology at George Washington University in DC and is working as a Field Tech for Powers and Teremy Cultural Resource Management.

Sarah Sweeney ('11) successfully defended her thesis at the University of Western Ontario and is now working for the DEC in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Justin Turner ('11) married his lady, Alexandra, on July 11, 2014.

John Armitage ('11) is working as an Environmental Scientist I at Tyree Environmental Corp. He was back this spring to give a talk as part of our Life After Potsdam speaker series. He and his sweetheart, Ashley, got engaged and a June 2015 wedding is planned.
Corey Trudeau ('11) asked his lady, Jessica, to marry him on July 4, 2014 and she said yes!

Lauren Eggleston ('12) was here in April to give a talk on her grad school experiences. She reports that their structural geology class (University of Alberta) usually has 125 students!

Chris Mack ('12) continues to work at Greens Creek Mine in Alaska. He paid us a visit this spring.

Shawn McClure ('12) and his wife, Emily, are the proud parents of Charlotte, born on January 25, 2014.

Chelsea (Richard) Kakar ('12) got married to Anuj on October 3, 2014. The lucky couple had a ceremony in New York and then another in India.

Evan Smith ('12) is working for Halliburton in New Orleans, mud logging on drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. He and his fiancée, Bekka, welcomed their beautiful little man, Carter, on November 21, 2014.

Eric Thompson ('12) is working for Halliburton in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Slope.

Erica Cameron ('13) and her husband, Dave, welcomed their precious son, Rhett, on October 2, 2014.

Emily (Mitchell) Dorr ('13) married Howard on September 20, 2014. They had a small private ceremony and are planning to host a party this summer to celebrate. Emily is teaching at Hammond Central School.
Dan Dunham ('13) retired from Hot Tomales in December and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska to begin a Master’s degree at the University of Nebraska.

Lucas Garrand ('13) works in quality control for Old Castle Concrete near Albany.

Cally (Coffey) Wynne ('13) married her longtime beau, Brandon, on July 4, 2014 and they welcomed their precious baby girl, Auriella, on September 29, 2014.

Mitch Haller ('14) won out in a national search by the Johnson Space Center in Houston for a petrologist position to work with their meteorite collection. This job will likely provide the opportunity to travel to Antarctica to search for meteorites on the glaciers, and the likelihood that NASA will fund his further education for an advanced degree in Planetary Geology.

Amy Hudson ('14) is in the Master’s program studying paleontology at Idaho State University.

David Lalonde ('14) is the Business Development & Operations Manager at North Country Family Health in Ogdensburg, NY.

Jeff Love ('14) is pursuing a Master’s degree in Sustainable Energy at SUNY Cortland.

Brittany Snyder ('14) is a Materials Engineer at Corning, Inc.

Michael Trim ('14) is a petrologist at Advance Testing.

In Memoriam:
Sad news to report, Cory Dalton ('00) passed away unexpectedly on November 4, 2014. Cory was 38 years old.