Department Lowlights and Highlights

- Brad Van Diver passed away on April 26, 2012 at the age of 85
- We welcomed Genevieve Mae Rygel into the world on 12/14/11
- Roberta becomes a grandmother with the birth of Isabella Marie Rafter on 12/11/11
- 19 students, 6 faculty, and Roberta attend the 2011 NE GSA in Pittsburgh, PA
- 15 Students, 2 faculty and Roberta attend the 2012 NE GSA in Hartford, CT
- Mike Rygel led group of 19 to Nova Scotia in spring 2011
- Chris Kelson led student group to Great Basin of Utah and Nevada, summer of '10. One student discovered a rare fossil
- Rob Badger publishes book, *Fading Memories from a Vermont Hillside*, which wins an Award of Merit from the Vermont Historical Society
- Rock & Fossil Fair & Roadshow ’11 and ’12 big successes
- 26th & 27th Annual High School Science Lab Day went off without a hitch
- 6th Annual Middle School Science Olympiad another battle to the finish
- 7th Annual Middle School Science Olympiads a rout by a newcomer
- Chris Kelson travels to Mexico in preparation for leading a field trip there during the summer of 2013
- Rob Badger travels to Ireland to sample the local beers
- Rob Badger goes on sabbatical and visits 18 national parks
- Lisa Amati goes on sabbatical in Oklahoma to finish up some research
Department News
By the department chair
We start with the sad news of the passing of professor emeritus Brad Van Diver on April 26. I visited Brad and Bev in November when my sabbatical travels took me through North Carolina. He was struggling with Parkinson’s, but was as positive and chipper as ever. Brad’s obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter, as does a tribute by Jim Carl.

It’s been a busy couple of years, with around 80 geology majors wandering the hallowed halls of Timerman. We’re not sure why our numbers have ballooned so much in the past couple of years, but we are bursting at the seams, cramming 30+ students into Sedimentary Geology, Paleontology, and Structure. We graduated 18 last year and bid farewell to another 14 this spring, but that still leaves us with over 60 before we meet the incoming class of freshmen and transfers.

We continue to send students to the gold fields of Nevada and Alaska. Four students were hired as summer interns in 2011 and three more are headed there this spring. Eight students have been hired full time in the precious metals field over the last couple of years, five in Nevada, two in Alaska, and one in New Mexico.

Over the past two years, we have sent students to grad school at the University of Indiana, University of Vermont, Virginia Tech, the University of Western Ontario, and the University of Oklahoma.

Nineteen students accompanied us to the NE GSA in Pittsburgh, PA in spring of ’11, and 15 came with us to Hartford, CT this spring.

Your donations have a profound and direct impact upon our students and their education experiences at Potsdam. It is only because of alumni generous support that we have been able to maintain our program at such a high level at a time when the College is making drastic cuts 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," "O'Brien Student Research Fund," "Revetta Geophysics Fund," "Revetta Geophysics Endowed Account," or the "Van Diver/Badger Geology Field Trip Fund." Thank you in advance, and our students thank you, too.

Faculty & Staff News
Lisa Amati
We have had another great year in the Geology Department. As always, the students have been the best part.

I had three research students in the 2010-2011 school year. After working with me for three years, John Armitage (Johan, as I call him) didn’t really need me to help him much at all. His poster describing the sedimentology, stratigraphy and paleoecology of the Dolly Ridge Formation in West Virginia was nicely done. Ryan Dockstader (or “Doxie”) was bold enough to undertake a project on a topic outside his hard-rock focus. He studied the sedimentology and formation of shell-beds in Ordovician limestone from Ontario. I gave him papers to read, then we sat down with the rocks and he interpreted them based on what he read. His study was thorough, his interpretations were solid, and the poster looked great. Helen Polanco continued working with me last fall (2011). Our research topic is quite complex and incorporates sedimentology, trilobite biology and geochemistry. We are attempting to test the hypothesis that a certain type of Ordovician trilobite had a symbiotic relationship with chemoautotrophic organisms. I am very impressed with Helen’s ability to comprehend dense research papers and creatively apply the information in them to our problem.
Fieldwork over summer 2010 was fabulous, and the only problem I had was that I would have liked to do more! In mid-June, I drove to the Upper Peninsula (U.P) of Michigan and met up with my mom, dad, sister, brother, niece and nephew. We spent about 10 days camping, fishing and rock-hunting. Banded Iron Formations (BIFs) in the U.P. are mined for iron ore, which is then shipped on huge freighters through the Great Lakes to Detroit, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Fortunately, my dad has a degree in geology too, and he found a beautiful BIF outcrop in the area when I was a little kid. It was sooo much fun to go back with my niece and nephew and hack off specimens to bring home! We also collected stromatolites from the Kona Dolomite, which is coveted by collectors and jewelers all across the country. After the rest of my family went home to the Detroit area, my dad and mom and I spent about 10 days scouting for Ordovician limestone outcrops and quarries for my research. We found a really good quarry that was abandoned and actually got permission to go in, measure and collect. The only question now is – where the hell am I going to put all these rocks?!

In July of 2010, Johan and I traveled to Quebec to get a better understanding of trilobite faunas in the northern part of the Appalachian Foreland basin. Neither of us speaks French, so I bought an old textbook and made a cheat-sheet. We had so much fun, we didn’t mind too much that the rocks really weren’t as good as either of us had hoped.

Last summer, I spent a week in June near Cincinnati and in northern Kentucky with my former advisor making collections of trilobites to compare with the faunas we have been studying in New York, Ontario, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri and Oklahoma. I met up with my colleague again in August on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. What a beautiful location and the fossils were very interesting!

In October, over Fall Break, Helen, Grace DiMezza and I went to Collingwood, Ontario to collect trilobites for Helen’s research.

I taught my favorite classes in the fall – Ancient Life and Principles of Paleontology. This spring, I took my first sabbatical. I figured I probably wouldn’t get much work done if I stayed in Potsdam, so I decided to spend the semester at my alma mater, the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Museum of Natural History was my home seven days a week when I was a grad student there, and I was lucky enough to get an office to use this spring. It was nice to work in a place with five other people studying fossils! I made it back to Potsdam just in time for the Rock and Fossil Fair, which went very well. I can’t even imagine trying to host events like that without the assistance of our geology students.

I haven’t decided yet exactly what fieldwork I’ll do this summer but I’m sure it will be awesome.

Rob Badger
We’ve traveled a bit since our last newsletter. In the winter/spring of ’11, our youngest, Dylan, spent the semester in Ireland. So Carolyn and I went to Ireland in March for a visit, and had a really good time. The highlight for me was the Giant’s Causeway, an extensive area of large columnar basalts along the northern coast. This past fall I was on sabbatical, with the goal of adding to my repertoire of info for my National Parks course. We bought a camper to fit on the back of our pickup and hit the road Sept. 1,
heading first to Banff and Jasper National Parks in Alberta. I had been there twice before, but that was in the early 70’s, long before I picked up this professor gig. The highlight was a hike to Healy Pass, a place I had backpacked into in 1971 and thought at the time it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen.

Then we meandered south into the states to Glacier National Park, Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, Crater Lake, Lassen, Yosemite and a great little California state park called Mt. Diablo, perched on top of the Franciscan melange. Carolyn’s brother is team physician for the Oakland Raiders, and he got us tickets to the Raiders-Patriots game on Oct. 2, which we really enjoyed. From California, we headed east to Nevada where we waited out three days of snow at Carolyn’s parents house, then went south to Great Basin National Park, Zion, and Grand Canyon. The highlight in Grand Canyon was the new geology museum, and the trail of time along the rim, with every meter along the trail equal to 1 million years, beginning at the present and going back to the beginning of mother Earth. We also saw a California Condor.

We hung around Arizona for a while, visiting numerous Native American ruins, Meteor Crater, Sunset Crater National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, and then took a three day raft trip down the San Juan River in southern Utah, led by a river rat cousin who lives in Arizona. We had a blast.

Next was Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe National Park and Big Bend, on the Mexican border. Then we began the long trek east, driving diagonally across Texas to Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas, then Mammoth Caves in Kentucky, and Great Smoky Mts. in North Carolina. While in North Carolina we stopped in to see Brad Van Diver. It was great to see him. He was still living at home, but struggling with his Parkinson’s.

The final leg of our journey took us to a cousin’s house in Beaufort, SC where we basked in the sun and tried shrimping, and then headed north to my old stomping grounds in Shenandoah National Park, where we climbed Old Rag Mountain, my favorite climb in the park. All together we visited 18 national parks; I’ve got photos of most on my Facebook page. I’ve now got plenty of information and pictures with which to revive my National Parks course, which I’ve only taught once in the past ten years or so.

What should be my final article on the Catoctin metabasalts in Shenandoah National Park was published in U. S. Geologic Survey Memoire 206, From Rodinia to Pangea: The Lithotectonic Record of the Appalachian Region, last fall. Twenty-four years studying those should be enough. I also published a book titled Fading Memories from a Vermont Hillside. In this, I made extensive use of photographs my father took in the 1920’s and early 1930’s around my grandfather’s farm in Vermont. My father would have turned 100 in the summer of 2010, so in commemoration, I had a photography show at the local historical society using pictures he had taken, and timed publication of the book with the opening of the show. Jim and Susie Carl made the trek to the opening, which I greatly appreciated.

For the past two summers, Carolyn and I have been building our next house, on my family land in Vermont, reusing as many parts as we could from the house we dismantled in the summer of 2009. The new house is enclosed, with windows and doors, a working bathroom and heat. At Christmas time we sheetrocked, and over spring break we painted the inside walls. Carolyn has been there fairly continuously since late Jan., and I will resume work on it as soon as graduation is over. Tiling of the bathroom walls, clapboards on the outside, and flooring are the big jobs awaiting us this summer.

Please stay in touch. Most of us are on Facebook, and we have a department Facebook page. We love hearing from you.

Roberta Greene

Hello everyone! I hope you are all well. Some of you already know, but for those that don’t, I had gastric bypass surgery last May and I am happy to report that I have lost 99 pounds so
far and I am feeling great! It was a huge step, but I don't regret a single second of it. I am much healthier now and working my way toward perfection! ☺

Jack and I took the 4-wheelers down to Southern West Virginia to the Buffalo Mountain trails in late April last year. It was awesome. We really loved seeing the coal mines and awesome outcrops down there. No trips this year because we purchased some farmland – 125 acres. Jack will use this property mostly for hunting camp, but I will be spending plenty of time there, also. Our next trip will be minus the 4-wheelers because we are going to Hawaii!!! I am so psyched! Volcanoes, here I come! But, it probably will not be until either late 2013 or Spring 2014.

My classes at St. Lawrence are going great and I am currently doing an internship at Canton-Potsdam Hospital’s Outpatient Chemical Dependency Unit and I am LOVING it! I am learning an incredible amount of...everything! I honestly cannot wait to do more!

Not much else to report. Please keep in touch! I LOVE hearing from you, even if it is just a quick email that only says “hi.” Honest!

**Chris Kelson**

Hello all! A lot of great and wonderful things have transpired here in the department since our last newsletter, and I am happy to add the following to my colleagues’ entries to this newsletter:

• More of our students are continuing to earn summer internships at mines in Alaska and Nevada;

• More of our students are continued to be hired full-time by the mining industry after they graduate;

• A continued increase in the number of students enrolled in courses department-wide, with a corresponding increase in students within the courses I teach (Physical Geology, Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Economic Geology);

• I applied for tenure this past semester … so if you do not read another report from me in the next department newsletter you’ll know why!

• I have been/am serving as Chair of the Student Initiated Interdepartmental Major Committee, which is a lot of fun to be able to work with students who are piecing together their own “custom” four-year BA degrees;

• I am currently working with seven students on different individual geochemistry- or mineralogy-based research projects. A couple of the students recently presented their research at a professional geology conference, and at the Learning & Research Fair here at SUNY Potsdam. One of my students’ projects earned the 2012 Ram Chugh North Country Research and Public Service Award (First Place).

• I am planning a lecture- and field-based course entitled “Archaeology and Geology of Central Mexico”, which will be co-taught by Dean Marqusee and me next year. We’ve done some preliminary work to assess the feasibility of such a course, and we are looking forward to seeing it come to fruition. There is a high level of interest from the students about the course, so I anticipate it being a popular elective for the students to take!

On a personal note, my kids, Nic (9) and Alison (4), are still doing well and enjoying school. Nic is still enjoying playing the piano … and he’s still doing very well! His piano playing days are on hold for a while, though, since he broke his arm wrestling with his sister a couple of weeks ago! My wife Christa just finished (and passed!) her comprehensive exams for her dissertation and has been promoted to Assistant Professor at SUNY Canton (teaching accounting) while running her gift basket business on the side.
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Frank Revetta
News from ’11 – ’12
This year, Dr. Revetta and students attended the Geological Society of America meeting at Hartford, CT. He and six students presented posters of research conducted by students in northern New York the past several years. Two posters were presented on Interpretation of Gravity Anomalies in Northern NY and Gravity Mapping in the Tug Hill Plateau, which supports a recent proposal that the Tug Hill Plateau is an uplifted area bounded by faults.

Two posters were presented on the earthquakes recorded during the past year in the Geophysics Lab and the Virginia Earthquake. Two undergraduate research projects were presented on how geophysics may serve the college and community and a study of an archaeological site at Lake Placid.

This year, I received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for my services in the organization during the past 40 years. Our secretary, Roberta, deserves recognition for the award for helping me with the secretarial-treasurer duties.

I am still teaching and dabbling in research with no thoughts of retiring. I can’t understand how people can retire, especially if they have nothing to replace their teaching and research. I am also quite active giving planetarium shows to the local community, schools, and college. I am hoping to replace our outdated planetarium of 50 years by the newer digital skydome model.

We are all very sorry to hear about the passing of our colleague Brad Van Diver. He was an outstanding geologist and mountain climber and writer. We shared an office many years ago when he began to teach here. Brad was an expert in making thin sections of rocks and studying them with the petrographic microscope. Our college promised to buy him a petrographic microscope when he was hired. So, one day I placed a small toy microscope that contained a piece of polaroid on his desk and when he came to the office I told him his microscope had arrived. He appreciated my little joke but he later did get his petrographic microscope.
presenting papers at the Geological Society of America Meeting or Seismology Society of America. I would like to attend the American Geophysical Union meeting to present research, but the registration fee and other expenses are beyond my budget.

My courses are Earth Science, Seismology and Plate Tectonics, and Environmental Geophysics. I’m convinced that what is necessary to love teaching is to love your subject matter and that’s probably one reason I’m still teaching. My research topics that I usually present as posters with students deal primarily with earthquakes, gravity surveying, other geophysical methods, and education. Trying to find better ways of teaching is quite a challenge and the only way to find what works is to try as many methods as possible. Eventually the method that works will be discovered.

Some research projects I’m considering for next GSA are using geophysical methods to study the Timbucto archeological site at Lake Placid, report on earthquakes recorded by our network, interpretation of seismic station in Tug Hill Plateau, and interpretation of detailed gravity surveys in Lake Champlain Valley and Tug Hill Plateau. Also the relationship of gas fields to gravity anomalies in New York.

The campus is presently changing. As I look out my office window, I see a construction project where a new Fine Arts Building is being constructed. The building occupies the area between Crane and Timerman. The parking lot no longer exists. For many years, I’ve done seismic refraction and electrical resistivity surveys at the Fine Arts Building site to determine the shallow subsurface geology. Student’s reports of the area were given to those in charge of construction. I wonder if they used them.

Seismicity –
Last year, our seismic network detected 60 teleseisms from around the world. Records of these events are published in a manual prepared by myself and students Juanita Warnock and Shi Wenghenz. The Chile 8.8 magnitude event of February 27 and the 8.8 magnitude Japan earthquake of March 11, 2011 are shown below. We also detected several local earthquakes, most of which had epicenters in Canada in the Western Quebec Seismic Zone. One event, the 4.3 Ontario-Quebec Border earthquake recorded by our 3-component Gurlap seismometer is shown below.
Undergraduate Research –
Several research projects by undergraduates were presented at professional meetings during the past year. A poster on Seismology at SUNY Potsdam was presented at the Seismological Society of America Meeting at Boston College by myself and Peter Valenti, a new freshman geology major. Nine posters were presented at the Geological Society of America meeting at Pittsburgh, PA. Kenneth Rhodes presented a poster on a possible explanation of the earthquakes in New York State. Ryan McHugh presented a poster on an interpretation of the seismograms of the major earthquakes recorded by our Gurlap 3-component seismometer. Peter Valenti presented the results of an experiment using a combination of wind-solar energy to power a seismic field station. A poster was constructed by Elizabeth Rock showing the major earthquakes recorded by the AS1 seismograph and how it can be used at all levels of teaching. Justin Turner presented research results of a possible correlation between geothermal energy and a gravity low over granitic rocks in western New York. Lauren Mason used CorelDraw to superimpose geology onto gravity maps in northern New York, and Peter Valenti presented a gravity map of Pennsylvania superimposed on the geologic map of PA to observe the relationship of gravity anomalies to geology. Finally, Dr. Revetta presented a poster of gravity maps of New York and Pennsylvania with a discussion of the relationship of the gravity anomalies to geology. A poster was also presented on the Panther Mountain Meteorite Crater in the Catskill Mts.

Personal note –
Most of my leisure time is spent traveling to visit my two daughters and grandsons at Wallingford, Conn and Massena, NY, or visiting my birthplace and relatives at Monongahela, PA. The GSA meeting at Pittsburgh provided the opportunity for many relatives and friends to attend the poster session of the students. The trip also provided me with the opportunity to visit my alma mater at University of Pittsburgh, which I did. I always enjoy the nationality rooms in the Cathedral of Learning where I had some classes many years ago. My wife, Joann, who is fulltime housewife and who loves cooking, enjoys attending the professional meetings. I regret not taking her to the meetings earlier in life.

This year, I attended the commencement of my grandson, Ismael Orabi, who graduated from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, VA. Ismael received a degree in mechanical engineering following the footsteps of his father, who teaches mechanical engineering at University of New Haven. The governor of Virginia gave a commencement address that I felt was one of the best I have ever heard. Even though jobs are rare today, my grandson was able to get a job with Capital One at Richmond, VA.

My oldest grandson, Abe, took a post at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center beginning in August as research director of a laboratory. His research focuses on pediatric gastroenterology illnesses, primarily pancreatitis. He has written and presented several papers on his research. Abe is a graduate of New Haven, where he received his B.S. degree with a major in biology. He hopes someday to enter medical school to pursue a career in medicine.

Community and College Service –
During the past year, over 80 planetarium shows have been presented to the general public, local schools, and college students. Also ten planetarium shows were presented during the Family Weekend and two shows at Alumni Weekend. A seismology workshop is also presented at Alumni Weekend.

I hope you can attend the Alumni weekend this year in July. I will be presenting two planetarium shows and a workshop in seismology in our geophysics laboratory. I would like to chat with you a while to hear how you are doing. Good luck.

Mike Rygel
I have had a lot of exciting developments since the last newsletter! Our daughters, Evangeline Claire and Genevieve Mae, were born on August 22, 2010 December 14, 2011, respectively. Both are healthy, happy, and
growing rapidly. The noise and chaos of the village (primarily derived from La Casbah) finally got to Adrienne and I … we sold our house on Broad St. and moved to a 10-acre property west of Hannawa Falls.

Despite massive cuts from SUNY central, the department continues to grow and thrive. The number of majors has swelled to over 80 and several upper-level classes now routinely require two lab sections. I had 38 students in Sedimentary Geology this year. The GIS class continues to be popular and several former students have gone on to careers that draw upon their GIS skills. In the summer of 2011 I took a group of 14 students on a 10-day field trip to Nova Scotia and hope to offer this field trip every second or third year.

The Geology of Nova Scotia class trip was followed by a two-week research trip back to Nova Scotia with Amanda Brewer (class of 2011) and Corinne Lally (class of 2013). This marks my final major field campaign to Atlantic Canada; I look forward to writing up the research and moving on to new projects in the Appalachian Basin and Rocky Mountains. Some recent publications include an overview of the sedimentological changes by the evolution of land plants (Sedimentology, v. 58, p. 220-258), the earliest terrestrial ecosystems (Palaios, v. 25, p. 527-539), and the influence of climate on fluvial style (GSA Bulletin, v. 128, p. 1524-1538 and SEPM Special Publication 97, p. 89-111).

I will be returning to western Montana this summer to teach Indiana University’s Field Geology in the Rocky Mountains. This is my second summer at the field station and I am hoping that this turns into an annual event. Recent rises in energy prices have created new opportunities for me to make connections with the oil industry. I have been doing summer consulting work for Devon and am tentatively slated to teach a field course for Shell’s new hires this August. These experiences have been great for my professional growth and have inspired new content in my lectures and labs.

I continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists. The group has been making great advances in making licensure a reality in NYS. You can learn more about the group and sign up to be a member at http://www.nyscpg.org/.

Best wishes and please be sure to keep in touch!

Jim Carl

I am still exercising at the cardiovascular lab in Potsdam hospital (twice a week). A new fellow came into the room a few months ago and we thought we knew each other. It turned out that he was a SUNY geology student in the early 1970s whose career was spent teaching science courses in a nearby town. And, like me, he’s retired. One cannot help but feel old when former students are retired and in the same therapeutic care as their professor. As for myself and other teachers, I’d like to know of any built-in relationship between teaching and heart problems.

I entertained retired folks at the college last fall with a three-lecture course entitled “Adirondack Mining, Past and Present,” featuring activity at Benson Mines, Tahawus and Gore Mountain in the Highlands and pyrite mining south of Canton in the Lowlands. Some of my photographs and materials have appeared in the Quarterly of the St. Lawrence County Historical Society and in a SUNY Potsdam book entitled Inside the Blue Line. Also available in this small village are high definition transmissions, live from the Metropolitan Opera. The signals are picked up at our downtown theatre, the most recent showing being the Wagner Ring operas. They are the ultimate test of operatic durability and devotion to the art, and my wife has seen each of them twice.

Some of you older alumni knew Brad Van Diver who died in North Carolina earlier this year. I want to describe a gathering that occurred in his honor at a table at Maxfield’s on a recent Thursday night. At 5 p.m. a group of men gathered to celebrate and talk about Brad—J. Carl, Neal O’Brien, Frank Revetta, Rob Badger, Bill Kirchgasser, me, Paul Loucks and Dick Mooers—the original geology faculty for 2½ decades and friends who knew Brad through his Adirondack Mountain Club activities. Placed on the round table were photographs, copies of his
excellent “Rocks and Routes of the North Country,” his assorted geology guide books for New York State, Vermont, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, pictures taken by Brad from an art book of landscapes (Bill has framed some) and a copy of the one research paper that Brad and I wrote together “Precambrian Grenville alaskite bodies as ash-flow tuffs, NW Adirondacks, NY.”

Our discussion began with a description of Frank and Neal being surprised in the 1960s by a SUNY Potsdam “recruiter” (head hunter) who had hired a new geologist without telling or consulting them. They were very pleased, however, upon meeting Brad and discovering that he was a “hard rock” geologist. Brad was assigned to teach mineralogy and petrology in the knowledge that a new campus with sophisticated research equipment had been ordered. He was happy when I was hired in 1968 to relieve him of teaching mineralogy. Petrology, the study of rocks, was his interest, and he urged me to accept the job offer during my interview. I never regretted it, and he and Jan were very gracious to me and my family. I’ve got to admit I was a bit intimidated in the beginning—such confidence in himself and such enthusiasm in the potential for good work at Potsdam.

The conversation around that table, especially after two draft beers, remained fascinating and fun. Everyone had remembrances, some humorous, some serious, of Brad’s activities that included his love for mountain climbing and the experience of watching him disappear in the distance while leading a hike or cross-country skiing expedition. Lots of laughter for 1½ hours and Rob has said that alumni reminiscences are starting to come in. Early on, Brad and I tried to “fuse” three geology courses into two successive semesters: mineralogy, optical mineralogy and petrology. MOP it was called. Unfortunately students had been exposed to a rock and roll song called Rag Mop and the course was mocked from the start. We built up a respectable rock and mineral collection while Brad regularly demonstrated his climbing abilities on the walls of that narrow Timerman hallway (see photo on page 14). It was clear that one of the two hard rock professors was a skilled western mountain climber; the other was a Midwestern flat-lander who got dizzy on Ferris Wheels.

On a personal note, Brad was the first to greet Susan and me on return from sabbatical leave—“Jim, come have coffee with me at the Union and tell me about your trip.” He and Neal taught my classes for most of the 1972 spring semester when I had serious hepatitis and had to return to Illinois for convalescence. He attended my wedding with Susan and in Blue Hill, Maine, and I cannot recall the many small things he did for me, both personal and professional. His enthusiasm was catching, such as accepting an offer to hold a New York State Geological Association meeting at Potsdam—for the first time—in 1971 and volunteering to edit the guidebook. We did good work together, and I will miss his enthusiasm for life itself. I concluded my letter to Beverly, his wife in these words: “I know that these past few years have been difficult for you—the care required must have exhausted you at times. I hope your memories are good ones, but I wish you had been there for our gathering. The company was excellent, the food good: 5 varieties of bruschetta, Asian and Buffalo chicken wings, Jalapeno and cheese “poppers” and plates of cooked, hand pick-up vegetables. I think your husband would have been pleased.”

It has been a long and cold winter, but Susan and I have enjoyed the variety of concerts and performances offered by the Crane School of Music. In spite of budgetary cutbacks, the college will see a new drama and dance building, probably in 2013, next to Crane in the parking lot across from Timerman Hall. I look forward to dance performances, plays and musicals. I plan to entertain retired folks at the college next fall with a three-lecture course entitled ”Adirondack Mining, Past and Present.” It will feature photographs of activity at Benson Mines, Tahawus and Gore Mountain in the Highlands and Balmat zinc mining here in the Lowlands. Some photographs and materials have appeared in the Quarterly of the St. Lawrence County Historical Society and in a SUNY Potsdam book entitled Inside the Blue Line. Also available in this small village are high definition transmissions, live from the Metropolitan Opera. The signals are picked up at our downtown theatre, the
most recent opera being last Saturday’s Valkyrie (Die Walkure), the second of the four Wagner Ring operas. It was a real test of viewer patience (but a great seller of bottled water and popcorn). The opera lasted 5 1/2 hours after starting 1/2 hour late (trouble with stage machinery at the Met). People staggered out of the theatre, stiff, bleary eyed and blinded by daylight and ready for dinner.

A little news about our four “kids,” all in their 40s: Our oldest son was transferred by Shell Oil Company to a new office in Chengdu, China, where a search for natural gas is underway. He and his wife and two daughters joined his brothers and sister here in Potsdam last Christmas where we discussed life in central China. Chengdu is a city of ten million whose residents are not accustomed to westerners. The cultural shock for Brian and Karen has not been overcome, and I have read the account of Peter Hessler’s China experience in his 2001 book, River Town. I’m trying to understand what Brian’s family is dealing with. Hessler served in the Peace Corp in Fuling, a nearby city also in Sichuan province. He taught English literature in a teacher’s college, mostly to rural-born, English-speaking (more or less) Chinese students. His experiences give insights into Chinese culture and character that are very confusing to westerners, and I wish Brian could read the book. He’s simply too busy trying to interpret the geology of his natural gas wells. Our two granddaughters, however, are enjoying the western school in Chengdu.

Our youngest son evaluates real estate in and around Bangor, Maine, and his wife is an office manager in a Bangor hospital. Angus is deeply involved as a Boy Scout leader and summer camp instructor. He and Kym have two boys, quite different in personalities. Early last summer Susan and I attended the ceremony in which our oldest grandson, Logan (age 17), acquired the rank of Eagle Scout. I had achieved the rank some 57 years earlier and still retained the shirt and badges that Susan encouraged me to wear at the ceremony. Enclosed is a photograph that appeared in a June 2010 issue of the Bangor newspaper.

In case of doubt, I am the short one on the left. We are returning to Maine this June to celebrate his graduation from high school. We’ll probably visit a lobster pound either there on the Penobscot River, on Deer Island or Mount Desert, or maybe all three.

Our youngest grandson is three years old and lives with his mother and father in Bismarck, North Dakota. Our son John is an anthropologist who makes a living from oil and gas and other construction companies. The land must be checked for artifacts before any construction is permitted (oil wells, pipelines, malls, cemeteries). Lochlan James, our grandson, is a Down syndrome child, and much of the couple's time is spent in seeking public services. His wonderful mother, Beth, has become something of an expert on working through the maze of social services and funding. She must balance contradictions—one day arguing that his handicap necessitates federal and state services; yet another day she will plead that his natural abilities are sufficient to place him in the presence of non-syndrome kids of his own age. In many ways, Lochlan is lucky to have such parents, and Beth has become an advocate for other Down syndrome children as well. I wear a T-shirt inscribed “Lochlan’s Peeps.” Depicted as baby chickens, the peeps announce that I am a member of his support group.

Our one son-in-law, our favorite son-in-law, is an organist and organ builder. Peter Walker and our daughter Beth live in Brattleboro, Vermont. Beth works in the textbook ordering department at the University of Massachusetts
Susan and I have just returned from our favorite vacation country in Gettysburg, PA, Lexington, VA, the Blue Ridge Mountains, the James Madison home called Montpelier and five days in Colonial Williamsburg. We spent an evening at Skyland in Shenandoah Park, and our cabin above 3000 feet had a marvelous view of the Shenandoah Valley. The night was so black you could slice it, and the silence was impressive, even to one living in rural upstate New York. I proposed a walk among the guest cabins about 2 a.m. to scratch the screen windows and make low grunting sounds. Susan feared for my safety (not from bears) and I got back in bed. In Colonial Williamsburg, we attended chapel services in Bruton Parish, the earliest continually operating Episcopal Church in the United States (since 1720). Attendance was down because most William and Mary students were studying for final exams. I thought the archaeology work at Jamestown would cease after the 400th anniversary in 2007, but they continue to dig. After finding the 1607 fort in the 1990s, they now report finding the site of the 1608 church inside the fort. The 60 ft. long building is located next to the south wall and oriented E-W as was the custom. The altar would be located at the east end, so a young archaeologist stood near the eastern post holes and announced that he was on the site of the marriage of Pocahontas with John Rolfe in 1613. Fascinating.

My best wishes to all geology alumni, whether employed or retired, ambitious or lazy, possessing a sense of humor or passing time as a confirmed grouch. Jim Carl.

Bill Kirchgasser
We were all sad to learn of the death of Brad Van Diver our colleague from the early years of the Dept. When I joined the faculty in 1969 Brad mentored me on teaching, living in Potsdam and learning about the geology of the North Country. We became good friends and I missed him greatly when he and Bev left for North Carolina. As a founding father, Brad played a major role in the early development of the Geology Major, a program that continues as one of the best in SUNY. A year ago I discovered about thirty of the original photos of geology sites that Brad used for his guidebooks Rocks and Routes of the North County and Geology of New York State. They are now framed and will be soon be exhibited in Timerman Hall.

Last year I attended the GSA meeting in Pittsburgh along with some nineteen geology majors and Lisa, Mike, Rob, Chris, Frank, and Roberta. The Penn State group led a wonderful pre-meeting fieldtrip on the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania, the unit in the Appalachians that has gotten so much press about the environmental problems in extracting its huge reservoir of gas by hydraulic fracturing.

In April, I presented Part II of a series of lectures on the Geology of New York State to senior citizens as part of the SOAR Lifelong Learning Group at SUNY Potsdam. I must be slowing down as after six lectures last year (Part I) I was still in the North Country and...
only in the Late Ordovician with the Taconic Orogeny still be discussed (You old timers do remember the “Taconic Orogeny,” don’t you?). Next year Part III will cover the Devonian and higher units.

Work on cataloging and packing my New York Devonian collections continues. Twenty boxes of fossils and rocks are now at the New York State Museum in Albany. Gil Klapper and I are working to complete a paper for the Journal of Paleo on the conodonts of the lower Upper Devonian of New York, a joint project begun at the Univ. of Iowa in the 1980s.

Thanks for your contributions to the Geology Fund. Please visit us when you return to Potsdam and keep in touch. Bill

Neal O’Brien
On 1/19/2006, I officially “retired” although I have preferred to call it a “permanent sabbatical” – which it feels like. Now I come to work almost every day before 10am and if I want to – I do some work on Saturday and Sundays. The retirement and the gas shale boom (fortunately for me) took place at about the same time. With my co-worker and co-author Roger Slatt, University of Oklahoma, I have been trying to characterize the microfabric of gas shales. Response from some who heard our paper on microfabric and porosity at the AAPG in Houston is that this feature has not been looked at enough. I am grateful for our SEM and the chance to use Clarkson University’s high mag/high resolution FESEM, to explore shales.

My broom-making days have been curtailed due to the economic slump. (Read here - “they didn’t sell at local craft stores”) but I still have my Adirondack Rustic Furniture hobby to keep my brain on non-shale thoughts.

I saw a bumper sticker the other day, which said, “If I knew how much fun grandchildren would be, l’d have had them first.” Well, Kathy and I enjoy our grown ‘kids’ but the grandchildren (4) are a real joy.

It is a pleasure to see how our department faculty and students are so active and make a real contribution to the college, as we have always done in the past when you were here. Budgets are always “doom and gloom” every year (ever since I joined the staff in 1963) but that seems to be a given. But our spirits are high. Nothing is a better example of that than the example shown by the participation of our students at the regional GSA meetings. Potsdam presentations (by students and staff) are very apparent. Students are eager to do the research.

All’s well here. -Neal

Brad van Diver
Following is the obituary for Brad.

Bradford Babbitt Van Diver, a resident of Highland Farms, Black Mountain, NC, died on April 26 at the age of 85, following a brief stay at the Solace Hospice Center, Asheville, NC. A native New Yorker, he graduated from the University of Colorado where he began a history of rock climbing, initiating first ascents on Longs Peak and the Flat Irons with his climbing partner. He earned his PhD from the University of Washington. He taught at the Universities of Colorado, Washington, as Guest Professor at Munich, Germany, and retired as emeritus professor of geology at SUNY Potsdam where he taught for 24 years. He also taught at Elderhostel Programs, the College for Seniors at UNCA, and McCall. He was the author of six books, primarily for the laymen, one of which was a photographic album of geology as art. He was an avid photographer, mountaineer, hiker, woodworker, kayaker, skier, and world traveler. He was a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Colorado Hiking Club, and the Carolina Mountain Club as well as a member of the Adirondack 46ers and the AMC 111 Club, a group that has climbed all 111 peaks in the Northeast over 4000’. He was a long-term member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, NY and of the Asheville Church. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, a son, Thor, and two grandsons, three step-children, David, Mark, and Rebecca Landy, and nine step-grandchildren. A second son predeceased him in 1992. At his request, there
will be no memorial service. Funeral arrangements are with Penland & Sons of Swannanoa, NC. Condolences for the family may be made online at www.ashevillemortuaryservices.com.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Potsdam College Foundation for the Van Diver/Badger Field Trip Fund, c/o Geology Dept., SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY 13676.

**Department Awards**

Every year we give several awards to deserving students. Here is a list of the awards, their criteria, and winners for the past two years.

**Department Scholar**

Given for superior academic achievement.

- 2011 recipients: Brian Butts, Matthew Dunlop, and Chelsea Richard
- 2012 recipients: Brian Butts, Stephanie Fochtman, Matthew MacDonald, and Chelsea Richard

**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.

- 2011 recipient: Erica Cameron
- 2012 recipient: Emily Mitchell

**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.

- 2011 recipient: Amanda Brewer
- 2012 recipient: Corinne Lally

**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.

- 2011 recipients: Brian Butts and Brett Nyrehn
- 2012 recipients: Dan Dunham and Matt MacDonald
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.

2011 recipient: Morgan Harris  
2012 recipient: Amy Hudson

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.

2011 recipients: Rebekah Barrett and Jonathan Reeves  
2012 recipient: Morgan Harris

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.

2011 recipient: Amy Bennett  
2012 recipient: Alyssa Taylor

Silver Tetrahedra Award
This award is 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.

2011 recipient: Matthew Dunlop  
2012 recipient: Matthew MacDonald

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

2011 inductees:  
Amanda Brewer, Erica Cameron,

Matthew Dunlop, Stephanie Fochtman,  
Adam Herod, Corinne Lally, Brett Nyrehn,  
Michela Occhi, and Sarah Sweeney

2012 inductees:  
Lauren Mason and Matt MacDonald

Alumni News

Class of 1966
Don Fiesinger writes, “Being retired, there really isn’t much to report other than travel. I retired two years ago (after 35 years of teaching, two years at SUNY New Palz and 33 years at Utah State University). Our two daughters live in the Portland, Oregon area so we travel there quite frequently. In addition to two trips back to NY, we’ve taken trips to Alaska and Italy in 2009 and a trip to Eastern Europe (Czech Rep, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Croatia) in 2010. Geologically, the Dolomites in northern Italy were very impressive, as was Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia. We also did a cave tour in the karst terrain near the Croatia-Slovenia border, crossing a high bridge over an underground river. This coming fall we are headed to Spain and Morocco. Closer to home, we were in Yellowstone last week. May is a great time to travel there as there are lots of animals and few tourists. In addition to the usual bison, elk, deer, and moose, we caught sight of three wolves, three grizzly bears, and a group of five river otters working their way up the Madison River.”

Don and Janet Fiesinger, 2010, with the dolomites of Northern Italy in the background.
Bob Pickard writes, “This is my 11th year of retirement. I taught for 34 at St. Lawrence Central. My wife [class of 68] and I have three children, two teachers [daughters] and a son who works for a company started by two Potsdam geology grads. Sharon and I will be spending a month this fall in Australia. We live in the town of Potsdam on a farm we bought in the 70s. Oh, yes, we have six grandchildren. That’s all the news I can think of from flooded Potsdam.

1970’s

Susan Robinson (’71) writes, “Most of my career has been as a self-employed artist, and I self-published a small book on the identification of beach stones for tourists which has sold very well for me, in addition to several guides to the local minerals and gem materials that can be collected in our area. I have also written over 70 articles for a popular magazine (Rocks & Minerals) on a voluntary basis, focusing on artists who have illustrated minerals, aspects of mining, and prehistoric life.

I help my husband, George Robinson (’68), who is curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, create new exhibits, organize the collection, and keep the cataloging current. The museum is about to move into its new building on campus, so the summer ahead will certainly be a busy one.

In my spare time, I am on the board for the local Audubon Club, and George and I can do birding from our back door, since it opens on a wild area.”

Bill Lilley (’74) writes that he has been overseeing the cleanup of twenty old sites in an old oil field in Pennsylvania that dates back to the 1880’s. He is principal investigator and president of Ecoinvestigations. Check out his website at ecoenvistigations.com.

An earthquake update from Potsdam Geology alumna Dawn Slick Roderique (’74) that she is no longer a geologist who has never experienced an earthquake! “I never gave a thought to the possibility that an earthquake would occur in Washington, DC. I was in the Pentagon when the earthquake struck. I have been working for the Department of the Navy since January 2009 and have been in the Pentagon since April 2011. When the initial shaking began, I thought that the vibration was due to an overflight but as shaking escalated, I realized it was an earthquake. It was a wild 1 minute and 12 second ride and you could actually see the building posts ripple like jello. I wisely crawled under my desk until everything was still. The Pentagon never did evacuate (contrary to all the news reports - have no idea who they spoke with). Thankfully, there were no structural failures in our office space, probably due to all the structural work completed during the building renovations completed post September 2001.”

Andrea (Yauchzee) Vaughan (’76) tells us, “I never got a chance to work in the geology field, but I sure get to hike through a lot of beautiful geologic displays. I’ve been a homemaker for over 20 years; my husband, Courtenay, works for Sandia National Labs. We are blessed to be able to camp, hike, and sometimes backpack, in the beautiful Southwest, with occasional forays further afield. The Grand Canyon, both North and South rims (even a backpack to Bright Angel campground at the bottom); red rock country (including dinosaur tracks and ”The Wave,” Coyote Buttes North, Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness, on the border with AZ) in Utah, and the mountains of Colorado are all places we keep returning.

Vanessa (Raymond) Chisholm (’77) writes of Brad: “I remember him fondly and with great respect. He was a great professor.” Vanessa lives in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico.

Annabelle Foos (’78) has retired and moved from Akron, Ohio, to her family home in Livonia, NY.

Mike Huggins (’78) sends along a couple of pictures “In memory of Professor Brad Van Diver, RIP. This is the face of Brad that I will always remember - with a big smile. Here he is at the basalt dike outcrop in Spring 1977 with Igneous & Metamorphic Petrology students Curt Service, Bill Seaton and Ken Kile (photo
on left). On the right is Brad explaining the geologic sequence of events at the Dekalb Anticline outcrop during a Structural Geology field trip in October 1977. Students include Gregg Wheeler and Gary Frederickson.

1980’s

Lambros Portagas (’86) writes from Greece “I am currently the Country Manager for Levi Strauss & Co, based in Athens, Greece (my favorite place). Happily married, with two children, Elias 9 and Eugenia 13. Since getting my degree, I have worked in Europe, (Holland, Romania, France) before going back to get my MBA in Brussels, Belgium. Following that I returned to Greece, where I have been working the past 20 years in middle and top management positions in the IT retail and fashion sector.

“Potsdam was an amazing experience for me (cold weather excluded) and I hope that my children will attend school there too. I attribute a large part of my professional success to the foundations I received while in Potsdam and even more so from my Geology training. I was not fortunate enough to develop into a field Geologist (conditions were wrong at the time) but it is the analytical skills and way of approaching problem solving that has made the difference for me. Needless to say that bioflocculation is embedded in my Read Only Memory forever. To all the new and aspiring young minds you have there, yes there is more to rocks than meets the eye, which comes in handy when you realize that life cannot be placed into rules and mathematical predictions, and things are not always what they appear.

Dan Ling (’86) is living in Middle Grove, NY and has been married for 24 years, with two wonderful daughters 12 and 15. “After Potsdam, I got my M.S. in Environmental Studies at RPI. I later got a second M.S. in Teaching at SUNY Plattsburgh. After working as a town planner and environmental consultant in the late 80’s, I had the great fortune of serving as the Executive Director of the Residents’ Committee to Protect the Adirondacks during their formative years in the aftermath of Governor Mario Cuomo’s Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century. After enjoying being a guest lecturer in many classrooms and in the field over the years, I started teaching at Ballston Spa High School in 1994, where I’ve had the opportunity to do lots of field trips while teaching Earth Science, History of the Universe, Natural Disasters, and all-too briefly, a UHS Physical Geology course through SUNY Schenectady and RPI. I’m proud to say many of my students have gone on to geology and environmental careers, I think primarily because of their geological field experiences (I learned from the best). I also still try to find time to write and record music. I miss all the wonderful faculty of the Geology Department, and the hiking and canoeing I used to do with Scott Peace, Theresa Jancek, Forrest Brownell, Dan Sarlitto and many others. I can be reached at d@danling.com.”

On the department’s Facebook page, Angela Bisnett (’88) wrote this tribute to Brad: “I remember him as being something of a "Renaissance Man," with many varied interests outside of (but complementary to) his career as a geologist, including hiking, mountaineering, and photography. Though I have not seen Dr. Van Diver in years, I always remember my professors fondly, and with great admiration and respect; Dr. Van Diver is no exception. I am sad to learn of his passing today, but grateful for the knowledge he gave me so long ago. Thank you, Dr. Van Diver.”

Roger Ryder (’89) writes: “Brad was one of my geology professors too. I recall that he was an avid outdoorsman and he was well traveled. He was very passionate about geology, always able to put the complex in simple and understandable terms. His Roadside Geology book is a prime example of this, which can be read by the geology student or layperson alike. Thank you for being my teacher, Brad. Rest in peace.”
1990s

**Tom Ellifritz** ('90) is a starving artist. Check out his work at [http://sites.google.com/site/tomeartsite/home](http://sites.google.com/site/tomeartsite/home) or go to his sales site at [http://www.etsy.com/shop/TomEArtSite?ref=pr_shop_more](http://www.etsy.com/shop/TomEArtSite?ref=pr_shop_more). Some of his stuff is really pretty cool!

**Julia (Rivoli) Daley** ('90) got married in October 2011. Congratulations Julia!

**Jeremy Grant** ('93) and Alice Davis eloped to Jamaica, where they were married in March, 2011. He continues to work for Fuss and O'Neill in Columbia, South Carolina as Senior Hydrogeologist.

After 19 years, **Scott Powlin** ('93) has resurfaced. Following Potsdam, he received a masters in geology from UB in 1995 and now works for ARCADIS out of Syracuse, specializing in groundwater modeling.

We were pleased to hear from **Chris Clappin** (minor '94). He teaches Earth Science at Fowler High School in Syracuse. He and wife, Bonnie, have four sons ranging in age from 3 to 14.

**Jeff Gronki** ('97) reports that he is living in suburban Chicago. “Since getting my MS at Western Michigan in ’99, I worked for about 4 years for Malcolm Pirnie in the East Lansing, Michigan office (groundwater supply and remediation hydrogeology work). Then relocated to help start a new Malcolm Pirnie office in suburban Chicago (mostly hydrogeology/remediation design work). About 2 years ago, Malcolm Pirnie merged with ARCADIS, so here I am. I manage remediation sites in NY, NJ, PA, IL, and IN. This past September I was the director of the technical program for the AIPG/AIH national meeting that was located in Chicago. We had about 200 in attendance and a very robust two-day program with over 70 presenters (including 5 international). Also, I’m happily married (7+ yrs) with two children (Ava-4 and Jackson-2). Needless to say, I’m very busy, but life is good!”

**Ryan Zeigler** ('98) has been hired by NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston as the new Lunar Sample Curator. This is where we obtain the moon samples every year. In February he was complaining about wearing a t-shirt and shorts to work.

**David Shank** and **Brian Milliman**, (both ’99) have started their own company, Strategic Mining Solutions, in the Utica area.

Classes of the 2000s

From out of the blue comes an email from **Bobby LeClaire** ('01) who writes, “I now am living the simple life just like Potsdam in Ashland, Oregon. It's been 10 years, but life took me in weird places, and I practice geology everyday, just not in a professional manner. It's kind of funny how I did one of your papers on Crater Lake, and I live right by it. I still have that rock hammer you guys gave me.”

**Kyle Schuch** ('02), **Scott McDonald** ('04), **Katrina (Bannon) Stafford** ('06) and **Gregg Marcinkowski** ('11) all work for GES, Groundwater and Environmental Services. Sounds like that place is becoming a mini-Potsdam. Scott paid us a visit this spring looking to hire summer interns.

**Brad Smith** ('03) and his wife traveled to Seoul, South Korea last summer to adopt a little boy. “We unfortunately did not get to see that much geology but there were some beautiful mountains in the area. We are talking about going to the 2018 Olympics there, maybe we can do some site seeing then.” Brad was training for his first century ride on his bicycle, last August, and his younger son (4 years old) was starting to learn how to water ski.”

**Samara (Sears) Bartz** ('03) continues as a "Petrographer" for the Michigan Department of Transportation. All that petrology paid off! She recently emailed looking for recommendations for a new petrographic microscope.

**Karen (Vito) Calabrese** ('03) married boyfriend, Tom Calabrese, in the summer of '10.
Angela Bovay (O’Shea) (’05) is living in the Rochester area.

Shona Arduine (’06) was a student teacher in Wayne Fletcher’s (’03) Earth Science Class in Brushton-Moira.

Jeremy Boula (’08) is teaching Earth Science at the Potomac High School in Alexandria, VA.

After doing some cool research involving volcanoes and outer space, Danny Krysak (minor ’08) had his thesis, “The Geologic History of Apollinaris Mons, Mars,” published! Now, he works in San Diego for NASA, “on the operations team for the Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity) rover. I get to combine my nerdy geology stuff with my nerdy computer stuff, works out pretty well!”

Anne (Bruno) Cifelli (’08) was wed to Mike Cifelli on August 1, 2010. Anne and Mike enjoy having their own home, creating their own landscaping, and growing herbs and vegetables in their garden. Anne is working at a hospital in Binghamton, NY and loving it!

Nathan Pierce (’08) has bought a home in Heuvelton, NY and is completely renovating the place. He is currently helping his family run their large dairy farm. To further his education, he has been taking some classes at the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Kelley (Tiedt) Sims (’08) married her sweetheart, Jason Sims, on September 3, 2011.

Jake Seller (’09) is working for the Burlington, VT Police Department.

Kyle Ashley (’09), finished his MS in Geology at UVM, and is now attending Virginia Tech, working towards a PhD.

Emily Stephan (’10) did her student teaching in Gouverneur this past winter, and then was asked to be a long-term sub for their Earth Science teacher. She is now a full-fledged science teacher at Indian Lake Central School!

Kristen (Remington) Armstrong (’10) wed her long-time beau, Ryan Armstrong, on October 23, 2010. She reports that she “loves” being married.
**Ryan Brink** ('10) has been working hard since graduating, including working for the Southwest Conservation Corps and working ski patrol at Hunter Mountain. This fall he will be beginning a Master’s program in geology at UVM.

**Zach Ducharme** ('10) landed a job at a 4-H Camp in Mountain View, NY as a year-round Program Director. He gets to teach the campers about environmental issues and leads them on fun and educational adventures!

**Amanda Brewer** ('11) is finishing up her 3/2 Civil Engineering degree program at Clarkson University.

**Ryan Dockstader** ('11) is employed by Galloway Resources in New Mexico and loving it!

**Mat Dunlop** ('11) is getting his graduate degree in geology at the University of Indiana at Bloomington.

**Sarah Sweeney** ('11) is working toward a Master’s degree in Petroleum Geology at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Specifically, she is working on the stratigraphy of the Blue Mountain Shale and trying to figure out what the Rouge River Member is.

Since last August, **Dan Slane** ('11) has been working at ore control for Allied-Nevada gold company. He does “highwall mapping, blast hole logging, ore/waste tonnage tracking and reconciliation, plus a bunch of sampling for quality control and other purposes. Of course one of the most important parts of the job is doing ore control releases based on assays and geologic info. We tell the operators which material is waste, heap leach, mill ore, crusher stockpile, etc. Another part of the job is digitizing all of the info gathered from the field into GIS and Vulcan databases.”

**Kenny Rhodes** ('11) works for Colden Corporation doing environmental, health and safety contract work at Global Foundries in Malta, NY.

**Adam Herod** ('11) received his Master’s in Education in 2012 and has accepted a position to teach gifted sixth grade earth science students in Elkridge, MD.

**Brian Butts** ('12) received an offer he couldn’t refuse from Barrick Gold Mine in Nevada.

**Grace DiMezza** ('12) is having a grand time and working her butt off at an internship in Washington State.

**Chris Mack** ('12) landed a position at Greens Creek Mine in Alaska where he did an internship last summer. Guess he made a good impression!

**Shawn McClure** ('12) wed his lady, Emily Burns, in June 2012. It was a beautiful ceremony!