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Department Highlights

• New Hydrogeologist, Dylan Blumentritt, hired to begin teaching in Fall 2013

• Ryan Zeigler (’98) and Danny Krysak (’08) return to present about the Moon and Mars respectively at the Academic Festival

• John Schenne (’76) returns to give a talk to majors

• Michael Steenhoek, Senior Production Geologist from Barrick Gold, gives two talks on gold mining in Nevada to majors

• Rock & Fossil Fair & Roadshow draws hundreds

• High School Science Lab Day reaches 28th anniversary

• Middle School Science Olympiad again won by Plattsburgh

• Frank Revetta retires (sort of) after 51 years
Department News

The big event of the year is that we hired a Hydrogeologist, Dylan Blumentritt, who just finished his PhD work at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Erin, moved here this summer and our students are looking forward to the new courses he will be teaching: Geomorphology in the fall, Hydrogeology in the spring.

We graduated 13 students in May and two last December. Our new graduates are Lauren Eggleston, Matt MacDonald, Cally Coffey, Dan Dunham, Kevin Finn, Lucas Garrand, Joel House, Corinne Lally, Josh Michael, Emily Mitchell, Michela Occhi, Justin O’Connor, Ben Strickland and Nathan Wheeler.

Northeast GSA was in Bretton Woods, NH, at the foot of Mount Washington this year. Because of the cost ($200+ per night) we opted not to take our usual horde of students, and just took the five who were presenting. Next year’s meeting in Lancaster, PA should be much more affordable, and we will again take all the presenters plus sophomore and junior BS students so they can see what to look forward to in their senior year when they will be expected to present their research.

Recent graduates should recall that every three years, beginning in 2001, the College has hosted an academic festival. This was one of those triennial years, and this year’s theme was “Making the Future.” What can be more futuristic than outer space, so we put together a half-day session titled “Outer Space: The Moon, Mars, and Everything in Between.” Returning alum Danny Krysak (’08), who works on the Mars Rover Curiosity team as a programmer, gave a presentation titled “Journey to Mars: The Rover Curiosity.” That was followed by Ryan Zeigler (’98), who spoke about “Earth’s Moon: What we have Learned Since the Apollo Missions.” I timed the lunar rocks that I get on loan from NASA every year to arrive during this time, so Ryan’s talk was followed by a showing of the lunar samples.

I’m sure Lisa will tell you about the popular Rock & Fossil Road Show that she organizes each year. There were so many people at it this year that we lost count. The fair was included as one of the festival events, so received added publicity.

Our annual High School Science Lab Day reached its 28th year, with participation by 139 students from 13 area high schools. And our Middle School Science Olympiad was again successful, with seven schools participating in 19 different events. For the second year, Plattsburgh ran away with the title, but there was a neck-and-neck race between Thousand Islands, Lake Placid, and Chateaugay for second place.

Frank Revetta has officially retired, but he still comes in everyday and is still taking care of the Seismic Network and performing Planetarium shows all the time. He is also still teaching Seismology and Geophysics during the summer terms.

Faculty & Staff News

Lisa Amati

It never gets easier saying goodbye when seniors graduate! We had another great group leave us this year and I’m grateful for Facebook so I can try to keep in touch with you all.

I don’t have much to report this year. I didn’t get a chance to do any fieldwork last summer because my brother spent almost the entire summer sick or in the hospital. I’m sad to report that he succumbed to his illness last September. It was hard to recover my usual teaching style but teaching my favorite classes – Ancient Life and Principles of Paleontology – helped make me feel much better!

The Rock and Fossil Fair this spring may have been the best ever! Everything went smoothly and we had as many attendees as we could fit into our hallway. Thank you so much to everyone who has ever helped out with that event.

I’m still living with three dogs and a roommate. After losing my old Beagle, Ashley, last spring, I decided that we really needed to fill that third slot. A few weeks later, a friend told me about an adult, male Beagle/Basset at the shelter who had had heartworm. Howard had been up for adoption for a few weeks but no one seemed interested in him so I took him home. His name is now Howlord because of the ridiculous noise he makes when he barks.

I just got back from an amazing conference and field trip in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I gave a talk about using sequence stratigraphy and biostratigraphy to make correlations using chemostratigraphy. Sounds thrilling – I know. The field trip took us to three areas of Manitoba where the Ordovician-Silurian boundary is exposed and it was interesting to see the changes in the rocks and faunas before, during, and after the major glaciation that occurred during that time period. This summer, I did some fieldwork in Kingston, Ontario, visited my family in Michigan, and got some research done.
Rob Badger
It’s been a rather quiet year at SUNY Potsdam, but we sure were busy doing whatever it was that kept us busy. The search for a Hydrogeologist occupied much of my time last fall and winter. In November, I went to the national GSA in Charlotte, NC to interview candidates through GSA’s Employment Service. And then we had the long process of looking through all the applications to decide on whom to interview by phone. We conducted interviews with six, liked them all, and selected two for campus visits. We were very happy to hire Dylan Blumentritt, and our students are looking forward to taking hydro from him. We have heard from alumni for years that we needed to offer hydro, and now we will.

On the personal front, I continue construction on my home in Vermont. Last summer, we finished siding the house with rough-cut pine clapboards, got a second coat of stain on everything, and installed bamboo flooring in the upstairs. Over Christmas and President’s Day breaks we laid tile in the kitchen, laundry room, downstairs bathroom and the hallway connecting all three. This summer, I’ll build the front porch, tile the entryway and upstairs bath, and finish the flooring in the downstairs living area.

My sons continue working toward opening their own brewery in Keeseville, NY. They have a domain name, Ausable Brewery, and have applied for the various licenses that they need. They’ve put together a marketing plan and are working with a bank to get loans to buy the equipment they need, and are working on the barn where they will house the brewery. They will probably also go through Kickstarter to raise some funds. Their plan is modeled after CSA’s (Community Supported Agriculture), where they will provide participants with a growler (64 oz) of beer a week, and also they will sell growlers at farmer’s markets. The CSA where younger son, Dylan, works sells vegetables at four farmer’s markets every week, so Dan and Dylan will piggyback with them to sell their beer.

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

Dylan Blumentritt
We’re moving to Potsdam! Hello everyone, I just wanted to introduce myself as the newest addition to the geology department. As I write this letter I am in Minnesota in the final push of writing my PhD dissertation with the defense scheduled next month, but my thoughts are in northern New York and the new opportunities and people there.

Erin and I are somewhat newly married (May, 2012) and she still likes me enough to uproot and move half way across the country. We recently visited Potsdam in late May so we could get to know the area and look for a place to live. We both grew up in smaller towns, Erin in eastern Wisconsin and myself in southeastern Minnesota, and are anxious to get back to that way of life. We were pleasantly surprised with how vibrant the area is, this being her first visit and only my second; my first trip was when I interviewed in late February during a three-day snow storm. Thanks to Bill Kirchgasser we were successful in finding a house right in Potsdam and close to campus. Although it will be difficult to leave our family and friends in Minnesota and Wisconsin, both Erin and I are really looking forward to becoming part of the Potsdam community.

My new position on the faculty roster will be that of all things water related and the shaping of the earth’s surface. I’m excited to teach geomorphology this fall and can’t wait to get to Potsdam later this summer and explore this new landscape (new to me, anyway) for some good class project locations.

My research at the University of Minnesota focuses on water and sediment dynamics in larger river systems (Minnesota and Upper Mississippi Rivers). I’m particularly interested in human modifications to landscapes and how they alter the hydrology of these systems and related sediment and nutrient erosion and transport. I’m also interested in developing new methods, using radioisotopic and magnetic signatures, for measuring sources of sediment in these rivers. I hope to apply what I’ve learned here in Minnesota to the northern New York landscape with its many rivers and lakes.
Roberta Greene
It’s been a busy year, for sure. But, I did get to have some fun. I actually had a real 'in-the-right-place-at-the-right-time' incident. I was at a BBQ with some professors from the Sociology Department and overheard Dr. Sullivan-Catlin talking about how one of her students backed out of her travel class at the last minute and now she was going to be stuck still paying the student's share of the cost - $4,000. Holy Moly! The class was "Sustainable Communities and the Global Ecovillage Movement" and they were going to Findhorn, Scotland. I was intrigued by the class and told her that I would have been interested in taking that class. She was all like "Well, you want to come?" and I was all like "Um, hell yeah!" So, a few days later, I went to Scotland! It was an awesome experience. I learned a ton and I met many, many interesting people from all around the world. While we were there, we attended the triennial conference of the International Communal Studies Association. It was incredible. The next one is in Portugal. Who knows, maybe I'll get to go!

As for life on the home front, I absolutely love being a grandmother. I couldn’t be happier. She is my heart, through and through. I get to see her about once a week and although I wish it were every single day, I know that I am super lucky to get to see her as often as I do. My heart breaks for grandparents whose grandchildren live far away from them.

Anyway, that's my news. For those of you who keep in touch with me (either via Facebook or calling or texting or visiting), I am extremely grateful. For those of you who I haven’t heard from recently, I would really LOVE a chance to catch up and hear what you're up to. 😊

Chris Kelson
Hello all! Just a quick note describing some of the notable events and activities that I have been a part of this past year and since our last newsletter:

- Three more of our students earned summer geology internships at mines or parks in Alaska and Nevada;
- More of our graduates are still being hired full-time as consultants or company employees by the mining industry;
- An increase in the number of students enrolled within the courses I teach (Physical Geology, Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Economic Geology);
- I am currently working with eight different students on different, individual geochemistry- or mineralogy-based research projects. Recently-completed projects were again successfully presented both at the Geological Society of America conference (Northeast Section meeting in Bretton Woods, NH) as well as at the Learning & Research Fair here at SUNY Potsdam. One of my students’ projects earned the 2013 Ram Chugh North Country Research and Public Service Award (Second Place);
- Dean Marqusee and I co-taught a new class titled “Archaeology and Geology of Mexico” during Spring Semester 2013. There were 12 students in the class, majoring in Archaeology, Anthropology, and/or Geology, who also accompanied Dr. Marqusee and me to Mexico for a two week-long field trip exploring and visiting different archaeological and geological sites around Pachuca and Mexico City. Geology sites included basalt columns, silver mines, lava and pyroclastic flows, and the active Popocatepetl volcano – which erupted a big cloud of ash while we watched! The trip and the class were a great success and I hope to do it again;
- I am moving the mineralogy and economic geology teaching collections from the Timerman basement bomb shelter B7 (er, classroom) upstairs into a "new" lecture room; I’m looking forward to using a larger, more user-friendly space!
- … and I received tenure!

On a personal note, my kids Nic (10) and Alison (5) are doing well and enjoying sports and school. They are also enjoying camping and swimming now that the summer weather is here. Nic is still playing the piano and now Alison is playing it, too, and both are doing very well. My wife Christa continues to teach accounting at SUNY Canton and has recently been promoted to Associate Professor. Her gift basket business, Raquette River Gift Co., is still very successful and keeping us both busy!

Mike Rygel
Evangeline (three in August) and Genevieve (two in December) continue to be healthy, happy children and I continue to enjoy parenthood. Thankfully, there are no new children to report in this newsletter! Adrienne is now chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at SUNY Canton. We recently developed an Environmental
Technology Minor where students from SUNY Potsdam can take a few engineering classes at Canton (Soil Mechanics, Water Quality, etc) to top off their science degrees here at SUNY Potsdam. Adrienne was recently awarded $450,000 to build a water quality lab to support the program, which may well benefit our graduates as well.

It has been a very exciting year in the Geology Department. Numbers remain solid and we were given permission to hire a fifth full time faculty member following Frank Revetta’s retirement. Dylan Blumentritt will be joining us this fall; he will be teaching Geomorphology and Hydrology/Hydrogeology. This represents the first significant change in faculty expertise since the inception of the department and puts us in a very strong position for preparing our graduates for careers in the environmental sector. With Frank still teaching Geophysics in the summer, we now offer what may be the broadest selection of classes in the history of the department.

I returned to western Montana this summer to teach Indiana University’s Field Geology in the Rocky Mountains (G429). Teaching out west got me on the field camp soapbox. Last summer, Erin Wagner and Beth Moore (both class of 2013), completed western field camps at Indiana University and the University of Buffalo, respectively. They were the first two to go to field camp in my seven years in the department. Although I was unable to convince anyone to do a 2013 field camp, I am hopeful that others will follow their lead and we will start to have a tradition of students taking field camps as their capstone experience.

On the research side, Corinne Lally (class of 2013) finished up her three-year project on the Boss Point Formation in Nova Scotia. Erin Wagner (December, 2013) will be returning to complete the Environmental Technology Minor and to finish her project on unique sulfide mineralization of Sigmaria. The last research skeleton is finally out of my closet, my work on salt tectonics in Atlantic Canada was published in the May edition of the Geological Society of America Bulletin. I will be on sabbatical this fall and have a serious backlog of writing to do. I need to take the field based projects completed by Jamie Salg (2009), Emily Stephan (2010), Ryan Brink (2010), Erin Sheldon (2010), and Kyle Ashley (2009) and turn them into publications. Once completed, I hope to move my research focus to the western United States.

I continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists. It is looking likely that licensing for geologists in NY will pass either this year or next. 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
In my retirement years in Potsdam, I help to edit manuscripts submitted to a magazine called The Quarterly of the St. Lawrence County Historical Society. I was asked to write something on the history of mineral collecting in a county made famous by its museum quality mineral and crystal specimens. That brought to mind my arrival at SUNY Potsdam in 1968. My colleague, Bradford VanDiver, introduced me to George Willard Robinson in my first encounter with a dyed-in-the-wool New York mineral collector. George had graduated from Potsdam that spring with a Bachelor of Arts degree. I was told about his mineral and crystal collections and the specimens he had donated to the department (you have seen them if you majored in Geology). George was inspired at a young age by mineral exhibits at the New York State Museum in Albany and had been mentored by members of the Capitol District Mineral Club. He seemed delighted to talk to SUNY’s new mineralogist. On my part, I quickly sensed that this young man probably should be teaching the course. I had much to learn about mineral occurrences in northern New York.

George’s passion for collecting led to a professional career. He married Susan Smith, a SUNY Potsdam arts graduate, and proceeded to obtain a PhD in mineralogy at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. He served as Curator in the Mineral Sciences Section at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, and became Curator of the Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

Indeed, there are many people with a passion for collecting minerals in the raw. Like fisherman and hunters, collectors gather equipment and proper clothes. They carry hammers, chisels, protective eye goggles and a hand lens. Stored in backpacks are collecting bags, a compass, camera, notebooks and a lunch. They don leather-rimmed hats, gloves, sturdy boots or rubber fly-fishing pants in order to stumble through the beaver-flooded swamps. They swat black flies, shake off mosquitoes, don protective eyeglasses and swing a sledgehammer until the sweat pours from forehead to feet, soaking all clothes and the billfold in the rear pocket. Few of them would tolerate a salaried job that required such intense
 manual labor.

The rewards include an emotional high when the harvest is good, and there is plenty to talk about at the day’s end. One collector wrote that if you want to see his companion “go into an absolute froth, start talking about the East Russell dinglestones!” The reference is to amphibole (hornblende) crystals of the sort commonly found in St. Lawrence County.

Collectors have been known to risk life and limb with the use of explosive charges. Showing the patience of Job, they paw through the blasted material, drop into grown-over exploration pits and pick through the debris of old mine dumps that have been sifted many times before. They sometimes begin work on very unpromising outcrops that would discourage the amateur—the most lichen encrusted, rust-coated, highly weathered rock in the vicinity. And when a remarkable specimen is found and the collector is asked why he had chosen to dig there, the reply is that he had a “feeling” that this was the spot. Such clairvoyance is a recurring theme among the most successful native-born St. Lawrence County collectors.

Nothing makes a collector happier than finding or purchasing a splendid mineral specimen that few other collectors have seen or acquired. Nothing makes a collector sadder than occasions when a fine crystal specimen does not break loose from its matrix but shatters into fragments. From a rural setting, a vocabulary storm darkens the sky.

The best collecting is, of course, in the area of Precambrian metamorphic and igneous rocks that begins near Carthage and extends northeast across northern New York. The belt ends near Potsdam and Colton where much younger sedimentary rocks overlie the crystalline rocks. Prominent specimens in the New York State Museum have come from places such as Pierrepont, Gouverneur, Edwards, Fine, Balmat, Macomb, Oxbow and Natural Bridge. Especially productive is the broad area of outcrop of Gouverneur marble, a former limestone that was extensively metamorphosed and deformed. Metamorphic minerals such as diopside, tremolite, actinolite and tourmaline are abundant in the marble.

The search for minerals is an old and honorable occupation, and several 19th century collectors were discussed in my article. However, dedicated collectors abound in northern New York in the 21st century. In 33 years of teaching at Potsdam, I note that a sprinkling of former mineralogy students still traverse the fields and woods in search of specimens. Some have been employed as area schoolteachers and others in the mines near Gouverneur. One reported that his hobby had helped to finance his daughter’s college education.

Collectors gather in Gouverneur at monthly meetings of the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club whose president, Bill deLorraine, is senior geologist of the St. Lawrence Zinc Company and a 1974 geology graduate of SUNY Potsdam. Bill has published professional papers on the origin of zinc ore and the Precambrian stratigraphy of North Country rocks. The club claims nearly 100 members, and its annual public show and sale take place in late August at the Madrid Community Center. Club members relax in lawn chairs and sit under canopy coverings attached to camping trailers. Spread out on tables before them are trays of colorful rocks, minerals, gems and crystals from all over the world. Also for sale are books, rock hammers, magnifying lenses and other collecting paraphernalia. In addition to exhibits and sales, raffle tickets are available for a slab of purple Brazilian amethyst crystals. There are field trips to collecting sites, an evening search for fluorescent minerals for the kids and a grand dinner for everyone. It’s a very sociable weekend, and participants tell stories that only mineral collectors would understand. Come join them this summer.
Susan and I are on our way to Bangor and Blue Hill, Maine, for a family get-together. We will attend a ceremony in an Adirondack style lodge at scout camp where our second grandson, Wyatt Morrison, will receive the Eagle rank. As with his brother, three years ago, I shall wear my green Explorer scout shirt and recall my own ceremony in Illinois in 1952. All four children are “coming in” from Holland, North Dakota, Vermont and, of course, Maine. I suspect there will be another lobster peeling contest at the Thurston Pound. My best wishes to all of you!

Bill Kirchgasser

My report this year is a short one, as my geologic activities were scant. My daughter Karen Kirchgasser died of metastatic breast cancer in September. She lived and worked for the US State Department in Washington, D.C., most recently in the Foreign Service. She was to be posted to the Embassy in Warsaw in August. Should you ever be visiting the Washington Zoo, you can find a memorial bench with her name on it at the bottom of the hill near the Carousel.

The paper on the Frasnian (Upper Devonian) conodonts of New York with Gil Klapper of Northwestern (retired from Univ. of Iowa) is nearing completion. Having great fun with the Adobe Illustrator in fashioning the illustrations. Related to the project with Gil, I did attend the New York Devonian symposium at the NE GSA meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in March. A group of Devonian specialists led by Charles ver Straeten of the New York State Museum is planning to update the 1975 Statigraphic Chart. I will be contributing to the revisions of the conodont and goniatite cephalopod zone sequences. The SUNY Potsdam Geology Dept. was well represented at Bretton Woods. Four of our students presented posters, and Frank, Rob and Chris also attended. The breathtaking view of Mt. Washington back of the hotel will remain with me always; and beneath the snow: intensely folded Lower Devonian (Helderberg-equivalent) Littleton Formation.

Thanks again to all who contribute to the Geology Fund in support of our students. Continue to keep in touch and be sure to visit us in Timerman Hall when you next come to Potsdam.

Neal O’Brien

I’m in the 6th year of my permanent sabbatical (some call it retirement). However, I’m still active with my shale microfabric research and have a few research students looking at the hydrocarbon (gas/oil) potential of various shales. The Marcellus and Utica are big ticket items in the northeast, i.e. every place but in New York where the “fracing” issue has prevented drilling. Oh, by the way, those in the industry spell it “fracking” and not as you read it in the newspapers as “fracking.” So, now you can “talk the talk.”

I co-author with Roger Slatt of the Geology Dept. at the University of Oklahoma. We receive funding (which helps support my undergrads) through a consortium of oil/gas companies. Our little research niche is to image nano-micrometer pores in potential source rocks and to evaluate total porosity. I’ve helped supervise three master’s candidates from OU on SEM interpretations. Usually, I come to the lab/office everyday. Just recently, one of my students finished a hydrous project where we made some “sweet smelling” oil by heating the Kimmeridge Bay shale. What a nice oil smell! But, only a drop of oil formed so I’m not ready to go to market yet.

I’m finally giving up on vegetable gardening – growing wildflowers now – much easier to maintain and I hate weeding.

I really do enjoy your emails – I’m obriennr@potsdam.edu. So keep in touch and I’ll keep you informed when I make my next barrel of oil. Note: it will take geological time to do it, so be patient and look for a progress report in the next newsletter.

Frank Revetta

Nothing to report.

Department Awards

**Department Scholar**

Given for superior academic achievement.

2013 recipients: Amy Hudson, Josh Miller, and Erin Wagner

**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.

2013 recipient: Sophie Gregg
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.

2013 recipients: Brittany Snyder, Ben Strickland

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.

2013 recipient: Lauren Eggleston

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.

2013 recipient: D. Patrick Leisure

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.

2013 recipient: Charlene Rode

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.

2013 recipient: Kelsey Rimmer

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.

2013 recipients: Amy Hudson and Erin Wagner

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

2013 inductees:
Daniel Dunham, Lauren Eggleston,
Mitchell Haller, Amy Hudson, Brandon Toeper,
Michael Trim, Erin Wagner

Alumni News
Claudia Assini (’69) Claudia calls to check in every now and again. It’s always nice to hear from her!

Robert Gaudin (’71), who is the founder and CEO of Holland Services in Fort Worth, TX, has been named to the board of directors at AquaMost Water Treatment Systems. Robert came to visit us this summer during Reunion. Roberta got to meet him and spend some quality time. She reports having a blast!

John Schenne (’76) returned to campus and gave our students a talk titled “Glacial Geology: Incompetence and Fraud” about disreputable folks he has had to deal with on a particular job. It was discouraging to learn of such incompetence, but encouraging to our students to see that the knowledge they are learning may be quite useful in their careers.

Bill Lilley (’74) writes that he has spent time visiting his grandchildren in Oregon: “My four year old grandson thinks Grampa lives in a big house with an indoor pool, or as we call it, the Quality Inn Motel.” Bill’s daughter is getting married this fall in Hawaii.

Jeff Mann (’76) sends news from his home in Oregon that he is working all over the Pacific Northwest conducting rudimentary geophysical surveys, mostly for engineering companies and realtors. Some of his jobs are rather interesting, like looking for dead bodies, buried treasure, and 40 tons of formaldehyde. He and his wife built a small cabin in the Canadian Rockies where they spend several weeks each year. He says it’s “nice and quiet but for
After receiving our last newsletter with the news of Brad Van Diver’s passing, Mike Huggins (’78) sent the following story: “Another fond memory involving Brad, but really the whole faculty, but especially Jim Carl as well. When I was in Ig & Met Pet (or maybe shortly afterwards), we as a department were fortunate (I assume through departmental hard work and persistence) to get a nice assortment of Apollo moon rocks as thin sections on loan. The Apollo program was still fresh to us and everyone’s mind at the time, and I recall it was a big deal for the College and the Department - with nice public relations. I remember the enthusiasm of Brad and Jim when we first got the slides under the scopes. It was clear that these were something different about them - amazingly pristine and unweathered and anhydrous unlike earth rocks. It was an exciting time and the wonder that was conveyed was due in large part to the excellent preparation for us by Professors Van Diver and Carl.” (Mike – we still get the lunar samples, on loan from NASA for a two week time period every year.)

Alan Liptak (’82) has purchased a cabin on Chateaugay Lake. His company has an office in Plattsburgh, so now he has a nice place to stay when he’s there. Otherwise, he remains in Moretown working on “brownfields, gas stations, landfills, asbestos, you name it.” Both of his sons are now married.

Mike Nadiak (’88) writes: “I'm teaching at Montrose High School, in Montrose, CO. We're on the western slope of the Rockies, about 65 miles from the UT boarder. I've been fortunate enough to have been able to design and implement three Earth/space science courses here. One is a required 9th grade course called Geophysical Science. We focus on geology topics for one semester, then radiation/radioactivity, climate change/clean energy, and astronomy for the other semester. Another elective course for juniors/seniors is Astronomy. And, my favorite, is another elective course in Geology. This year, I have four sections (105 students) in the Geology course. We do several day-long field trips. One goes to the canyons and Mesozoic strata of the CO Plateau. The other goes into the northern flanks of the San Juan Mts. near Ouray, CO. I credit my excellent preparation in geology at Potsdam for helping me get these Geoscience classes going! My wife of 20 years, Heidi, is an elementary teacher. Our matching summer vacation schedule has allowed us to get out and explore the awesome geology of the West.

Over the years, we've taken our two sons (now 16 and 18 years old) rafting down many rivers and climbing many of the coolest peaks in the region. After climbing all the Adirondack 46 high peaks while at Potsdam, I got after the 54 "14'ers" here in Colorado. My wife and I have finished those and now work on the Western High Points. As a family, we climbed Mts. Rainier and Hood last summer. Climbing volcanoes is an awesome hobby! I'm able to collect great samples and photograph the exciting aspects of Cascade Range geology. Being a science teacher has been a very fulfilling career. We need young-blood to keep filling the ranks of future Geoscience positions. Keep up the good work at the SUNY Potsdam Geology Dept."

Brendan Fisher (’95) and his family live in Radford, VA, where he is ½ of Fisher & Strickler Rock Engineering. He spent two weeks in September hiking the Appalachian Trail through Shenandoah National Park, almost crossing path with Rob Badger who was there to give a talk on the geology of the park. Brendan and his wife have two children, ages five and eight. His cohort in crime when they were here in Potsdam is Marty Woodard (’94). They live in the same town and Brendan’s wife takes care of Marty’s kids during the week. I would guess the two of them enjoy a beer or two together from time to time.

Drew Bentley (’98) is the proud papa of Ember. He is now running the outdoor program at Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT.

Brian Milliman (’99) got married last December. He and his wife, Christy, bought an old farmhouse and are raising four chickens and two cats.

Jud Spanneut (’99) writes that he has been teaching Earth Science in the Utica, NY area for the past several years. He has 3 sons, ages 6, 8, and 10.

I saw Carl Pierce (’00) at SUNY Oswego’s annual pig roast this spring. He’s looking well, and hoping to get back into teaching.

Josh Dishaw (’03) started his own business, RESTART, which specializes in the instruction of American Heart Association courses in Williston, VT. Here’s his website: http://www.restartvt.com.

Tom Giamichael (’04) is working as a geologist for Aztech Technologies in Saratoga Springs, NY. He’s working on his private pilot’s license right now as well. For the past year, he’s been the superintendent for a multimillion-dollar NYSDEC Superfund project in Long Island, called the 100...
Oser Ave. Superfund. It's a massive cleanup effort to remediate a historic chlorinated solvent release. The migration path of the plume is beginning to affect drinking water and indoor air quality in the area of Hauppauge, NY. The remediation project is a joint effort between Aztech, URS, and Clough Harbor.

**Eric Barr** ('04) has retired from teaching and is raising pigs on land he and his wife bought in Canton. They have a young son and are expecting their second child in the fall. They are working to bring their land back into production after years of neglect.

**Angela (O'Shea) Bovay** ('05) is living in Hopewell, VA.

**Kyle Crossett** ('06) still works at Griggs-Lang in Clifton Park. He’s just bought a house, so we guess he plans to stay there.

**Katrina (Bannon) Stafford** ('06) and **Andy Stafford** ('06) live in Adams, NY.

**Doug Eck** ('08) married his lady, Diana, on March 30, 2013.

**Katie Henderson** ('08) has been working at the Potsdam Public Museum for the past year, organizing and digitizing their entire map collection, and working on an interactive online sandstone map that the museum started years ago but have never finished. For this, she researches all the old historic buildings and structures made of Potsdam Sandstone in the area, adding them to the map. She's been taking online courses in GIS through the University of North Carolina State University, receiving GIS certification.

**Eric Kahrs** ('08) stops by to say hello every now and again with his son, Owen. Can’t believe how big Owen has gotten! He’s almost four now. Time sure is flying! Eric is still working for CSX as an engineer and he loves it!

**Danny Krysak** ('08), as noted previously in the newsletter, returned to campus as part of the triennial academic festival. Danny is a computer programmer for the Mars Rover Curiosity and he lives in San Diego, CA.

**Nathan Pierce** ('08) married his love of many years, Eliza Ladouceur, on New Year’s Eve – 12/31/12!
Ben Squier ('08) married his love, Lauren, in August 2013.

Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Squier

John Acker ('09) has completed GIS certification and works with invasive species in Montana.

Kyle Ashley ('09), passed his prelims at Virginia Tech, and is now immersed in his dissertation work.

Marty Miller ('09) wed his lady, Jacqueline in August of 2012.

Mr. and Mrs. Marty Miller

Ben Sterling ('09) took Brianne as his bride last year on July 14, 2012.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sterling

Kristen (Remington) Armstrong ('10) and her husband, Ryan, are expecting twins in March '14. Twins!! Congratulations from all of us!!

John Armitage ('11) is working on his PhD at Binghamton University studying Devonian paleobotany in the Catskills and teaching intro biology labs.

Amanda Brewer ('11) completed her 3/2 Civil Engineering degree at Clarkson and landed a fulltime gig at Atlantic Testing Laboratories in Canton.

Drew Bullinger ('12) is a mudlogger with Schlumberger in Houston, TX.

Mat Dunlop ('11) has been accepted into the PhD program at Wyoming. He'll be working on the Dufek Intrusion in Antarctica.

Dan Slane ('11) married his honey, Heather, on May 19, 2013.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Slane
Lauren Eggleston (‘12) is getting her Master’s Degree in Geology at the University of Alberta at Edmonton, Canada.

Steph Fochtman (‘12) is getting her Master’s Degree at the University of Georgia and doing research on Kuroko type deposits in North East Turkey! How cool is that?

Matthew MacDonald (‘12) is working for Antea Group doing soil and groundwater investigation.

Chris Mack (‘12) is still at Greens Creek Mine in Alaska. He paid us a visit this spring to interview a few students for a summer internship position with his company. He and his ladylove, Amanda, were engaged this October. Congratulations!!!

Shawn McClure (‘12) and his wife, Emily, are expecting their first child in January ‘14. Congratulations you guys!!

Brett Nyrehn (‘12) landed a position back in his hometown of Spring Creek, NV at the Bureau of Land Management.

Chelsea Richard (‘12) is working at AKRF, Inc. in NYC. The firm is an environmental, planning, and engineering one.

Amanda Sheldon (‘12) got engaged to longtime beau, Jason in January. They set the date for June 28, 2014.

Evan Smith (‘12) is a geologist for Halliburton at the Sperry Drilling Services in Louisiana.

Emily Mitchell (‘13) and her handsome man, Howard, got engaged (finally) in October. Yay!!

Ben Strickland (‘13) is gainfully employed at Specialized Engineering down in Frederick, MD.

Erin Wagner (‘13) attended the Big Horn Basin Geology Field camp and, as a result of her outstanding performance, got a paid internship at Exxon Mobil in Houston, TX. She starts in January.

Nate Wheeler (‘13) has enlisted in the Army. Thank you for service!