This has been one of the most exciting and busiest falls ever in the Department of Earth Science. Due to the retirement of Lynn Brant, we started the semester with a new faculty member. Chad Heinzel becomes the first new faculty member in the department in seven years, and our first assistant professor of geology and science education. Chad will serve a dual role, as he becomes part of the geology group and will also contribute to the area of Science Education. The end of September, we hosted an Earth Science Open House in Latham Hall. Cosponsored with BMC Aggregates L.C., this event was a lot of fun and brought in almost 600 people. Details and pictures are elsewhere in this Newsletter. Then in October, we hosted the 40th Biennial Convention of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE), the national honor society in the Earth Sciences. We have had a Chapter of SGE in our Department since 1974, but we had never hosted a national convention. Students from as far away as California and North Carolina came for this three-day event, which included a geology field trip to northeast Iowa, and consisted of visits to Backbone State Park and Pikes Peak State Park and some time wandering through a corn maze. Add to these events the normal fall field trip activities, such as the Geological Society of Iowa fall field trip, the Tri-State Geological Field Conference (which was in Wisconsin this year), and the regular class field trips and we have a really busy fall. Oh, and the second meeting of our newly established Earth Science Advisory Board and the Annual Meeting of the Geological Soc. of America in Denver in October. Hardly time to teach class this fall.

Speaking of teaching, I taught Physical Geology last spring and I am teaching Geomorphology this fall. During summer 2007 we taught the popular Geology of Iowa for Teachers course for the sixth time. We had another great group of 24 teachers from around the state eager and enthusiastic to learn about the interesting geology of Iowa and how they might incorporate some geology into the courses they teach. We continue to receive e-mails from teachers who have taken the course telling us how informative the course was and how they have been able to implement some of the things they learned into their classes. That is what it’s all about.

The family is doing well. I was able to travel to Arizona to visit our son Kyle in May, and we spent some time hiking around the Grand Canyon, Sunset Crater, Meteor Crater, etc. Bonnie and I made a couple trips to Washington D.C. to visit our daughter Jennifer and David and the grandkids. Since they have left the U.A.E., we will not be taking trips in that direction any more. Actually, they are in Uruguay right now, so I will make a trip down there over Thanksgiving (now that we have a week’s break).

In this newsletter you will read about some of the many activities faculty and staff and students have been involved with and some of the things going on in the Department, as well as updates from alumni. It’s good to have some time to reminisce a bit and think about all the things that have happened over the last year. Life goes fast and time is short, so make the most of it. I hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health and enjoying life.

Best Wishes,

Jim Walters
Professor of Geology & Department Head
Greetings to Everyone! It’s been fun seeing so many of our alumni back in the summer taking one or more of our workshops for teachers. I’ve enjoyed catching up on where people are working and how their families are doing. Of course seeing some of you who claimed to have graduated in the early 1990s makes me realize how time has moved along so quickly. Another indicator of time marching along is when I found out this semester that one of my students was a student of my daughter who was teaching in Waukee! No wonder it’s starting to look like 2008-2009 will be my last year in the department.

The Air Quality workshops in the summers of 2006 and 2007 produced lots of activities for grades 7-12 science classes. These have been sorted by science content area and will be edited over the next few months for field-testing and distribution to teachers. Hopefully next fall, we will be able to present these materials in sessions at the Iowa Science Teachers Fall Conference, along with the completed Weather Education materials.

During the past year, I developed a new course called Inquiry into Earth Science, which is specifically for elementary teaching majors. Chad Heinzel will offer two sections of this new class during spring semester 2008. This class will supplement the Inquiry into Physical Science and Inquiry into Life Science classes already offered for elementary teaching majors. As we work on initiatives in Mathematics and Science teaching, it would be a dream come true if we could designate all three of the classes as required courses....but I won’t hold my breath!

We welcomed new granddaughter Lucy to the family in May and she has been a delight. My wife has enjoyed weekly visits to Des Moines to “help out” with taking care of Lucy. This is in between supervising a few student teachers and field experience UNI students, even though Darlene is allegedly retired! By the time you read this, we will have traveled to Italy to visit historic science and art museums in Pisa, Florence, Assisi and Rome. We will have time to visit other attractions as well.

Last spring, we had a wonderful time seeing many of you here at our annual Earth Science Teachers Update Conference. We look forward to seeing many more of you at our next Update, which is scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2008. As always, we will have interesting guest speakers and interesting presentations, as well as educational updates. Contact me for more information at: timothy.cooney@uni.edu.

Once again it is a pleasure to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

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Alan C. Czarnetzki
Professor of Meteorology

Greetings to all our alumni and friends!
I have a new connection to UNI this fall. My daughter is now a freshman here! We visited a number of universities during our exploration last year, including the Universities of Minnesota and Iowa. She finally settled on UNI as the best place for her studies. My wife and I are happy to have her close by even though we don’t see her a lot since she lives on campus. I also have new empathy for the financial costs our students face at the university!
Our recently added B.S. Air Quality major is still looking to grow. I've visited with a number of students who have expressed interest in the program. This new major offers a focused program of study in applied meteorology. The job market for these skills is strong. Please send interested students our way! For more information, please see: http://www.earth.uni.edu/airquality.html

The STORM Project (Science center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology) began its eighth year at UNI this fall. Over the summer, 24 middle and high school science teachers joined us for the STORM-sponsored course, “Studies in Air Quality for Science Educators.” Keep an eye on the STORM homepage for an announcement about the summer 2008 offering of this course. As in the past, all course expenses will be covered by STORM. If you are a science teacher, point your web browser to http://www.uni.edu/storm and watch for additional information, probably by mid December.

The fall 2007 offering of the Meteorology course has 18 students. The Air Quality course will be offered in spring 2008. I currently have 2 graduate students in the Environmental Science M.S. program. One of these students will be completing his work by December and the second just began her studies this fall. I'm also in my sixth year of providing weather forecasts each weekday morning to Iowa Public Radio station KUNI.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. Best wishes to all!

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Ken De Nault
Associate Professor of Geology

The leaves are brightly colored, the days are clear, the nights cool, sunsets are brilliant, and there is a bit of a nip to the brisk morning air. It must be fall in Iowa. Well yes, but more importantly, it is time for the Earth Science Newsletter. It has been a challenging year. We have a new (old) now permanent Dean who is bringing some reason, common sense, and leadership to the CNS office. We also have a wonderful Earth Science Advisory Group that is going to be very helpful. Their time and dedication is heart warming.

What have I been doing? In addition to teaching the normal stuff, I am teaching Environmental Geology, filling in for Dr. Brant, who retired. It has been a good time. We have taken a chaotic romp through practical geology and related fields. Colleagues have kindly and generously volunteered to help. Dr. Iqbal took a week to introduce groundwater, Dr. Czarnetzki introduced air quality, and Dr. Walters showed students the remediation efforts on Dry Run Creek. Dr. Hockey is going to give a lecture on space invaders (meteors, comets, solar radiation, etc.) and Dr. Groves on the great Permian extinction. We have had field trips to the landfill and to Basic Materials Corporation’s Waterloo sand operation. Some in the class are going to join me for another expedition to the New Madrid Fault Zone. I think the course has gone well but I would appreciate help. I am especially interested in examples of practical environmental programs from the real world. Information and data on case studies that could help our students understand the importance of geologic processes and could help instruct on mitigation of problems would be most appreciated.

I had one of the best Crystallography classes in a long time. They earned a day at the track in spring where they will be able to drive a race car. I am trying a new tactic in Systematic Mineralogy by introducing all the determinative techniques in the first weeks and then the encyclopedic review of the mineral kingdom. My hope is that students will have more time to practice identification techniques. This hopefully will give them a better grasp of identification techniques and more self confidence in identifying unknowns. So far, I think it is working.
I have been studying and researching the effect of geology on human history and culture. It is amazing how some geologic events have greatly shaped human history, such as the eruption of Thera (Santorini) that greatly shocked the Minoan civilization, reducing its strength so that the Mycenaean and Ionian Greeks could expand and prosper, bringing with them the foundation of modern democracy, rule by those to be governed. On the other hand, the much celebrated 97 A.D. eruption of Vesuvius that preserved the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and various country Roman villas, seems to have had no impact on the Roman Empire or the course of civilization. There are no known records of the Romans even mounting a rescue effort after the eruption. Remarkable.

On a sad note, Buck went to the Great Spirit on March 31, 2007. He was making a remarkable recovery from his back operation when he contracted a subcutaneous infection. Heroic efforts were expended, but to no avail. He is greatly missed.

I continue to race a Formula Mazda and won the SCCA Midwest Division Championship for a fourth year in a row. A slight medical problem reduced the number of races and first place finishes. The condition haunts the shadows but I plan on racing again in 2008. I just finished a race in Virginia where the triplets came to watch grampa race for the first time. One of the triplets, Madeline, discovered that the button on the dash was the “go” button and not the horn. Fortunately, the crew chief saw her going for the button in time to get the car stopped before she went too far. It was an exciting weekend.

I am still active in the Waterloo Community Playhouse playing Marley’s Ghost in last Christmas’ production of Christmas Carol.

My best wishes to each of you for a rewarding new year. Please keep us in mind as you travel. I always like samples of sand from far away places.

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Paula Even
Instructor of Earth Science

I am currently working in the Earth Science Department at UNI as an adjunct instructor for Astronomy. This summer my husband Gene and I flew to Alaska with our youngest son Matt to visit Amanda in Juneau. After finishing a year at Alaska Southeast through the National Student Exchange program, Amanda spent the summer as a glacier guide for TEMSCO. I flew up to the Mendenhall Glacier to see Amanda at work while the guys went on an extended helicopter flight. The Mendenhall glacier is a captivating place and I spent a lot of my time in Juneau there. We also had the opportunity to go whale watching and saw porpoises and sea lions in addition to the humpback whales. We concluded our visit with a ferry ride to Skagway and a camping trip in the Yukon. It definitely is the land of the midnight sun! We set up camp one night along a beautiful lake at midnight but that was no problem since the sun was shining! We saw several bears (but no moose!) and the scenery was breath taking. It was an amazing trip!

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Joseph J. Gale
Instructor of Earth Science
I have begun my (lucky) seventh year of teaching in the UNI Earth Science Department still subbing for Dr. Czarnetzki and Dr. Cooney while they do Project STORM activities. I continue to teach three sections of Elements of Weather and one section of Elements of Weather Lab each semester. I may not have mentioned it in the past, but I also regularly teach a section of Elements of Weather in the summer, usually during May. Last summer, I not only did that, but I was asked to assist Dr. Czarnetzki’s Studies in Air Quality workshop in July. The workshop was full of long days and hard work, but it went well. The teachers enrolled in the workshop were very enthusiastic, and I had fun working with graduate student, Keshab Simkhada, as we helped get everything ready and kept things flowing smoothly throughout the workshop. The only negative was the huge hailstorm that hit Cedar Falls on Monday evening, July 16th. My car got dinged. However, we did get some pictures of the hail, and the largest stone we measured was 1.5 inches in diameter. Some areas around the city received hail over 4 inches in diameter! It was quite the storm.

Also this summer, I did a little traveling. Actually, for me it was a lot of traveling because I rarely venture out of the state of Iowa. In late July, I visited a friend who lives in Oak Park, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Luckily, the cicada infestation was about over by the time I visited. So, I had a good time. Chicago is a neat city. There are many things to see and do that the majority of people enjoy. The museums are fun. The zoos are really fun. The traffic’s not fun. Iowa traffic is much better.

I also traveled twice to visit a friend who lives in Colorado. The first time, I went by plane! I had only been on a plane for one trip in my life, and that was in 2000 when I went to Orlando, FL, to present my M.S. thesis work at a conference. Joe and the planes didn’t get along well, to say the least. I didn’t have any desire to go on a plane ever again. Well, I was somehow talked into a trip from Des Moines to Denver to see my friend and also to see if I could have a better plane travel experience than the other time. It did go better, mostly thanks to Dramamine and anti-anxiety medications! Yay! Oh, and Colorado was fun. It was a short trip—just for part of Memorial Day weekend. Therefore, later in the summer, I came back by car with my neighbors. This time, I was able to see some mountains and other picturesque views. I also participated in my first wine tasting—and I don’t drink, ha! It was interesting, though. I actually really liked one of the wines that tasted like cherries, and my friends bought a bottle, and I drank more with dinner that night. I think I had about eight small gulps! Yeah, I know, I’m a drunk. Anyway, Colorado is a great place to visit, but the traffic around Denver and surrounding areas is a bit too much for me, especially the way the Coloradans drive. Once again, Iowa traffic is much better.

So I concluded from my busy summer that I can handle traveling every so often, and even have fun doing so, but after a short time I always long to return home to Iowa and get back to my usual way of life. I hope many of you reading this feel the same way. Many places in the world are great places to stop, but Iowa is a great place to stay.

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John R. Groves
Associate Professor of Geology

John Groves with the conference logo for the XVI International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian Systems, held in Nanjing China. The Congress was followed by a field excursion to the “tower karst” region of Guizhou Province in South China.

Greetings alumni and friends of the department! As I write this we in the Earth Science department are in the midst of a very busy stretch. In two days I’ll be taking my Stratigraphy and Sedimentation class on the annual four-day trip to Oklahoma and Arkansas to examine a variety of sedimentary rock types. The following week I’ll take my Earth History
class to Devonian Fossil Gorge at the Coralville Reservoir, and then the week after that I'll be in Denver for the national meeting of the Geological Society of America. Other geology faculty and I already have participated on field trips associated with the Geological Society of Iowa and the Tri-State Geology Field Conference.

I racked up a few frequent flyer miles last year in the course of presenting invited papers in Brazil, Turkey and China (see photo). One of the papers was co-authored with Adam Lee, Geology B.S. major, who was my undergraduate research assistant for the 2006-07 academic year. A second paper was co-authored with Stacey Reisdorph, Geology B.A. major, who completed an undergraduate research project under my supervision.

Three other items are newsworthy. 1) I was honored recently to be named recipient of the Dean’s Award for Superior Achievement in Research within the College of Natural Sciences. Although it’s gratifying to receive recognition for one’s work, the award largely reflects on the supportive research environment within our department and college. I’m indebted to my students, faculty colleagues and college administration for sustaining this environment. 2) In a freak gardening accident last May I damaged the meniscus in my right knee. A week later I underwent arthroscopic surgery. And then two weeks after that I was able to play golf again. An unexpected consequence of the surgery was a marked improvement in my golf game. I hope to injure the left knee next summer. 3) Geology faculty within our department have agreed to organize and lead next year’s Tri-State Field Conference, which will be attended by students and professionals from Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. I am frantically trying to learn a little about our local bedrock geology so that I can write the field trip guidebook and provide narrative at each of the field stops.

Warm regards to all, and please stop by for a visit if you’re in town.

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I am working very hard to provide our students with great course work, travel, and research opportunities. I truly believe that UNI is the best place to study geology as an undergraduate in the state of Iowa. I will lead the Earth Science Spring Trip (May 10-21) through South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado. If you are a UNI graduate, live out west, and would like to share your earth science/geology job with us please contact me (chad.heinzel@uni.edu or 319-273-6168). I am collaborating with the Iowa Geological Survey (Ray Anderson, Deb Quade, and Steph Tassier-Surine) on a proposal to map the surficial geology of the Waverly Quadrangle through the USGS sponsored EDMAP program.

It is great to be back in the Midwest, and teaching at the University of Northern Iowa (Go Panthers!)

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Thomas A. Hockey
Professor of Astronomy

Following the extremely successful Earth Science Open House '07, Hockey lectures in what remains of Latham Hall. The subject is Ptolemaic astronomy. Based on attendance, it must have been a Friday.

The “Institute for Cultural Astronomy” occupies what some of you remember as the Latham Hall darkroom. (We rarely take analog photographs anymore.) It is the fancy name I give to three related projects that take up my time these days. First, there is my on-going Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers (Springer 2007-). This set is available on-line, as well as in print; the on-line version allows regular additions and updates. Second, as Vice Chair of the American Astronomical Society’s Historical Astronomy Division, I commission and edit all the obituaries-of-record that appear in the Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society. Thirdly, I now manage Archaeoastronomy: The Journal of Astronomy in Culture, the peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture and published by the University of Texas Press. As you can tell, I have a lively time with a lot of dead people. Stop by to visit on any occasion—as long as you’re not afraid of the . . . darkroom.

My UNI RAISE Program abstract (with student Matt Oliphant) is at:
http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2006DPS....38.1108S

What I did at this year’s Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop is at:
http://www.nd.edu/~histast/abstracts.html

My interview on Iowa Public Radio is podcast at: http://stream.public
http://weblogs.uni.edu/hockey/broadcasting.net/
production/mp3/kuni/local-kuni-599023.mp3

My latest NPR StarDate (script by TAH) is at:
http://realaudio.cc.utexas.edu/general/stardate/s
d20060722.rm

I’m still blogging at:
http://weblogs.uni.edu/hockey/

P.S.: I did leave Latham Hall long enough to travel with Yuliana to the Dominican Republic this year (foreign country number thirty), but quickly scurried back to teach Investigations in Earth Science!

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Mohammad Z. Iqbal
Professor of Geology

Let me begin by extending my greetings to all. I hope this note will find you in good health and spirits. It is indeed exciting to write this brief note, knowing that it would be read by so many friends of the Department. Here is an overview of my professional activities this past
year. I taught Hydrogeology and a few sections of Capstone in the spring and summer. This fall, I am teaching Physical Geology again, which is always a fun class to teach. An article on experiential learning of water sciences has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Geoscience Education. The paper deals with effectiveness of on-campus wells in teaching geo-hydrology courses. Another article on isotopic characterization of Iowa rains came back from Hydrological Processes with good reviews. The isotopic data on Iowa rains in the current literature is far from adequate. I expect this article to make a good contribution in that regard. Meanwhile, I continue to serve as the Associate Editor of geology/archeology for the Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science and as a member of the North-Central GSA management board. Besides, I am on the organizing committee of the Midwest Groundwater Conference, which is coming to Iowa next year. It will be held in Dubuque from Sept. 29 through Oct. 2. The most exciting news that I have to share with you is regarding a new hydrology lab in the Department of Earth Science. My proposal to the Iowa Carver Foundation seeking funds for a new hydrology lab has been successful. They are funding $158,000 to build the lab as well as to buy a few pieces of equipment. This is an exciting time for the Department because this lab will help us expand water sciences curriculum by providing our students with rigorous experiential learning opportunities. Needless to say that water quality education is a high priority in the state of Iowa.

My graduate student from Nepal, Sushil Gautam, has recently finished his thesis and received an M.S. in Environmental Science. Sushil used nitrogen isotopes as tracers to detect sources of groundwater pollution in northeast Iowa. Additionally, I co-advised Scott Beason in his graduate work on aggradation of major river channels at Mount Rainier National park. He got done at about the same time as Sushil and earned his M.S. degree. They both are now working and directly applying their expert knowledge gained at UNI.

For my daughter, Tasnia, years are going by quickly. She started middle school this year and is enjoying her time with new friends and teachers very much. Mom took her to Bangladesh for a 6-week trip this past summer. Now Dad has to listen to all her exciting experiences endlessly.

I wish you all a wonderful year in 2008.

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Lois Jerke
Departmental Secretary

This is my fifth newsletter and I’m beginning to feel as if I know some of you, by name that is. Thanks to those of you who have stopped in and introduced yourselves so I have a face to put with the name.

As I work with each of the faculty’s blurbs it is apparent how much we all love to travel and I guess I’m no exception. So……I’ll tell about a trip we took last February. My sister and brother-in-law, my husband and I were gone nearly 3 weeks enjoying the scenery of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, and Arizona. The Utah national parks—Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion were a beauty like we had never seen. We also enjoyed our visit to Hoover Dam. Every day consisted of lots of driving, daily Dairy Queen stops and many laughs all along the way. Upon arriving in CA we were able to visit friends and family with more sightseeing in the San Diego area for several days. The tour of the Kartchner Caverns (near Tucson, AZ) was absolutely amazing. These were discovered by two men in 1974 and not revealed to the public until 1988 when the Kartchner family sold the land to the state of Arizona. Upon entering the cave one passes through a series of sealed doors and each rear door is closed before opening a forward door. This is to keep the dry desert air out of the humid (98%) cave. The cavern is closed to the public, when the female bats come
and give birth, for a few weeks each
spring/summer. This limestone cave system is
considered one of the top 10 in the world. This
is definitely a “must see”.

I wish you the best and please stop in
should your travels bring you back to UNI.

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Jack Miller
Adjunct Instructor

The Miller household is once again in a
state of upheaval not with wedding plans but
with the cry of grandchildren. Two are here and
another on the way.

Amy is still in Texas at Fort Bliss and is
now second in command in her battery and
about to be a 1st lieutenant. She has the daily
duty of keeping her commander out of trouble.
Dave, her husband, is on the road monthly.
Jack, their little one is a real cutie.

Kelly is no longer in Nevada teaching at
the Andre Agassi School for disadvantaged
students. She and her family moved to Montana
where husband, Aaron, got a teaching position at
Montana State Western. So far they have all
enjoyed the move. Little Ruth will have a new
brother/sister in the next month.

Fran is still a full time student at Iowa
working on her PhD. She has passed both her
written and oral comps, so all that is left is the
dissertation. So if you see a yellow bug heading
south on I-380 it is probably her off to class.

As for me the class this semester has
been an enjoyable one so far.

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Siobahn M. Morgan
Professor of Astronomy

Hello Earth Science alumni, friends,
family and everyone else. I hope things are
going well with you. Of course everything is
just “duddy” for me. That’s my response to
pretty much any situation, as many of you know.
I suppose that just shows how old I’m getting. I
had the misfortune to bring up the topic of the
supernova that occurred in 1987 in my
astronomy class the other day. I innocently
asked my students “how many of you were not
even alive in 1987.” The majority of the class
raised their hands. I guess I’m old now. Also
I’m now wearing trifocals, so that pretty much
makes it official. Next thing you know, I’ll be
going on about “the kids of today have it so
easy, why in my day we’d...” Uh-oh, I think
I’ve already had that conversation. That’s
enough complaining about the passage of time,
on to the exciting business at hand—the
newsletter “blurb”!

This has been a hectic year. It has been
hectic in that I now have three different jobs (but
not three times the salary). While I continue to
teach astronomy to young impressionable minds,
I’ve also taken on the job of Associate Dean for
the College of Natural Sciences. And do you
know what that entails? Doing all of the stuff
the Dean doesn’t want to do. Well, that’s not
really true, but one of the best parts of the job is
recruiting high school students to major in the
college. So if you happen to have a
son/daughter/student who has the potential to be
a great scientist, just send them over here! My
third job is as the Liberal Arts Core Coordinator.
You might know it as “General Education”, but
the Liberal Arts Core is the one thing that all our
students have in common, and I get to control it
all! Bwah-ha-ha-ha! Well, it’s not really so much “control” as it is filing, collating, reminding, reporting, contacting, negotiating, and so forth. The end result is that I now have 3 different offices (but only use 2), 3 different jobs, and not a heck of a lot of free time.

In spite of all of these tasks, I have still been able to cause some mischief and I started out the year in Seattle at the American Astronomical Society conference with two students. We filled up on so much espresso I don’t think I slept for a week after coming back to Iowa. Apart from that trip, I didn’t attend any other conferences or go to exotic locales. The regular “pulsating stars” conference that I usually attend was not scheduled until after I had already committed to visiting the Science Center of Iowa (in Des Moines) and help some astronomy campers understand the Universe. So no exotic foreign trips for me this year, just good old Iowa heat and humidity. And bugs. Lots of bugs.

Things may have been quiet this past year, but I expect things to heat up with all of the events we have planned. We’ve just finished the “Earth Science Day Open House”, which was a resounding success. I might be a bit biased, but I’d say the star of the show was our new planetarium projector. We’re going to have the biennial convention for Sigma Gamma Epsilon here in a few weeks, and then Family Weekend the following week. And don’t forget Homecoming. I don’t know how the students get through all of this stuff when I have a hard time keeping up with it all. Uh-oh, I’m complaining about being old again. I guess that’s a sure sign of being old, right?

Looking at my “to do” list, I see I can cross off the item “newsletter blurb” now and get on to the 50 other tasks that await. I suppose the best thing about all of these other jobs is that I’m never bored. So if you happen to wander over to UNI, you might catch a glimpse of me rushing from one meeting to the next, coffee cup filled to the brim (I think it’s actually welded into my hand now). I’ll try to stop long enough to chat with you. But in case I’m going too fast, just let me know that you are “ducks” since that pretty much says it all, right?

P.S. Millie the wonder dog says “hi”. Actually she says “woof”, but I think it translates to “hi”.

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Lee S. Potter
Adjunct Instructor

A busy year and a refreshing change of pace. Last year continued with me as “adjunct” faculty, teaching sections of Environment, Technology, and Society in both semesters. I took nine students on the Spring Break trip to Big Bend National Park and once again enjoyed the “balmy, sunny” conditions of the American Southwest. This was followed, in rapid succession by a trip to New Mexico to talk at the NM Geological Society meeting (and vacation!), a trip back to northeast New Mexico to do field work, office relocation, and a trip to Cologne, Germany to attend the Goldschmidt conference. Field work in the Chico Hills was a surprise addition to the summer schedule with the help of in-service science teacher Amy Jacobson (East Des Moines HS) as my field assistant. This trip was funded by the RAISE (Research Avenues in Science Education) project at UNI. The program also allowed us to tackle analysis of the Chico Hills Carbonatite in the lab, which we are writing for publication. The trip to Cologne gave me the chance to hobnob with my fellow wizards and visit an area of alkalic volcanoes somewhat similar to rocks in the Chico Hills. The highlight was a field trip to Laacher See, a 12,000-year-old phonolite volcano (see photo), followed by a visit to the Vulkanbrau Haus. At home, Karen continues to work on her stained glass business and we both wish we had more time to watch the river. Karen was pleased to
show off her wares at ARTapalooza, a juried show on Main Street in September. Old grads stop by and say "Hello" when you are in the neighborhood! [lee.potter@uni.edu]

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EMERITUS FACULTY/STAFF

Wayne I. Anderson
Professor of Geology 1963-2000
and
Head of the Department of Earth Science
1970-1995


Greetings to all. The past year has gone quickly, but it was a good year overall. I have experienced improved health during the past year for which I am very thankful. Jan and I did lots of hiking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains last summer, and we ventured to some interesting geologic localities in other parts of Colorado. The San Juan Range provided views of some exceptional volcanic geology and a 15-mile hike into the Wheeler Geologic Area gave an opportunity to study some classic hoodoos. In addition, I got a chance to probe the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary at Trinidad, Colorado. In contrast to the famous marine Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary site in Italy, the stratigraphic setting in southern Colorado preserves a coastal coal-swamp sequence. The boundary site is well exposed and easily accessible at Trinidad Lake State Park.

During spring of 2007, Jan and I returned to southern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona to do some birding, and we also spent a couple of weeks at our Colorado cabin, coming and going. In addition, we spent June through September in Colorado. It was nice to have Aaron Spurr, UNI graduate and current staff member, pay a visit to our cabin in July. Aaron and his kids were treated to a visit by our neighborhood black bear. We all (bear not included) enjoyed a train trip through Royal Gorge and a visit to Great Sand Dunes National Park. Rain was abundant in the Wet Mountain Valley last summer, and local ranchers were delighted with their hay crop.

At various times throughout the year, we enjoyed time spent with our four children (now adults in early-to-mid career stages of their professions). Some of the best times were those spent with our seven grandchildren.

I wish you good health and all of the best for the coming year.

Note: Dr. Anderson joined the UNI faculty (then State College of Iowa) with a "new" Ph.D. degree in the fall 1963. He retired in June 2000. The John Deere tractor came fresh off the assembly line in Waterloo in 1963. The tractor is still hard at work in the hay fields of the Wet Mountain Valley, near Westcliffe, CO. Dr. Anderson is no longer hard at work and greatly enjoys retirement.

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Lynn A. Brant
Associate Professor of Geology
1982-2007

Picture of tenders at Belfast, Maine

Before heading westward for my second summer in Montana and as a teaching assistant
at Penn State's geology summer camp, I bought a used 35mm camera. A new single lens reflex was outside my budget but I was able to purchase a really fine old Zeiss Ikon for $65. Over the years, I have purchased other cameras, some new and some used, ranging in size from 35mm to 4X5. The Hasselblad I bought in Hong Kong was sold so I could make a down payment on my first house. My latest purchase is a "point and shoot" digital thing that takes amazingly good pictures.

Over the 45 years of my pointing cameras at things I have taken mostly pictures—not photographs. I make a distinction here between the recording of some scene and a piece of art that includes the mind (and soul??) of the photographer. I filled a half-gigabyte card (hundreds of images) on a recent trip to Maine—all just pictures. The "point and shoot" camera determines the exposure and does the focusing all in an instant, then click it's over. It's too easy and too fast and too superficial. I've reverted to being just a snap shooter again.

My first pictures were to record the fantastic scenes at summer camp—those mountains and that big Montana sky! Then I started to think about showing some of those scenes to future students. Practically all of the slides I showed over my teaching career were my own. For years—actually for most of my life—I took pictures to someday show to students, even though most never left the little yellow boxes they came back in. One of the realizations about retirement was that I had no reason to take pictures of neat geologic features any longer because that future audience of students was no longer there. However, this was a very minor adjustment, but I do have hundreds of little boxes of slides!

But I have also made some photographs; most with larger-format cameras. Although the 4X5 is big and heavy, requires a heavy tripod, uses expensive film, and necessitates a big darkroom and enlarger, it is my favorite camera to make photographs—and it is the "making" of photographs. I remember a barn north of Waverly that attracted my attention one autumn day. There was something about that barn with all its angles and its silo that intrigued me, but I couldn't quite get it until I realized I was zeroing in on an open door that led to the completely dark interior of the building. Aha! The negative was exposed and then developed and then taken to the darkroom. I believe it was Ansel Adams that said the negative is like the score of a symphony and the print is the performance. As much creativity can be invested in the print as in the negative—there is no one way to print a negative. I remember spending hours printing that photograph. In another case, a sunset over some railroad tracks I recorded on a negative had me awake at night trying to figure out how I would print it. It was a challenge that required a lot of time and a lot of paper (meaning money) but it now hangs in the bank lobby in Cedar Falls.

I always liked to work in black and white so it was particularly irritating when someone would utter the phrase, "Oh, wouldn't that be pretty in color!" After suppressing my first urge to strangle the person I would suppress the second urge to say, "If I wanted it in color I would have used color film!" A well-made black and white print can't be beat—color often distracts.

Another thing happens when a photograph is made—there is a kind of ownership of the scene. By ownership I mean a connection to a place that is more than just a casual familiarity. After studying a scene and then studying the photograph, an emotional attachment develops. An abandoned railroad station in Cedar Falls had a screen door, and all debris was removed. But that long-ago workman's efforts are remembered in my photograph and lives on in me as a result of seeing that detail.

I have a print hanging on the wall next to where I'm typing this. I was at the old Motor Mill in northeast Iowa one day, and I wondered what was inside one of the buildings—a barn. The front door was locked but the ground rose to the second level in the back where I was able to slide open a door. I startled a flock of pigeons that quickly flew away. It was dark inside with only a bit of light coming in the door I had opened and some opening up and to the right. The exposure took nearly a minute. But over a century's history is recorded on that photograph. The construction of the building is easy to see with its rough stone walls and post and beam timbers held together by wooden pegs. It's not
pretty, as my wife will tell you. Every horizontal surface is covered with pigeon droppings. Before the barn floor (second level) was removed, or fell down, the first level had been whitewashed. At some point, used metal roofing of this or another building was laid across the beams where the barn floor had once been. A tangle of wire or cable was piled on top of that. On the first level there appears to be a horse-drawn sledge. And of course, the elements make a fair composition of varying textures, shapes, and lines.

That old urge to make something worth contemplating and owning tugs at me still. To drape the dark focusing cloth over my head and camera as I study the upside-down image, to tilt the lens and achieve perfect focus, to measure the light and determine the settings—all part of making a photograph.

Best wishes to all of you for this coming year.

************
Nancy Howland
Former Earth Science Secretary
1996-2003

This past year has been very busy and it has slipped by all too quickly. A large part of the year I was in Sioux City with my brother who had a stroke in October and his wife who was diagnosed with cancer at the same time. Through many long hours of therapy, both have recovered and are doing great.

This summer I went to Florida with my family for a wonderful week together. It was fun to watch the excitement of the grandchildren as they experienced all the many new wonders around them: first plane ride, the ocean, seagulls, alligators and of course Disney World.
EARTH SCIENCE OPEN HOUSE

For the last several years, the Department of Earth Science has teamed up with BMC Aggregates (formerly Basic Materials Corp.) to host a Quarry Open House in one of BMC’s local quarries. This fall the open house came to Latham Hall. Well over 500 people came through the doors on Sunday, September 30 to experience a variety of activities including displays, demonstrations, short talks, Planetarium shows, and other earth science activities. Two field trips to the Messerly Quarry near Finchford were held in conjunction with the open house and attracted good crowds. Rock, mineral, and fossil identification and even rock cutting took place as people wandered through the building. Kids were especially busy in the “make and take” room. Participating exhibitors included BMC, the Iowa Geological Survey, Iowa DNR, IOWATER, the Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society, the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District, the Dry Run Creek Watershed Project, and (of course) the Dept. of Earth Science. Short talks included presentations on Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Antarctica, Overview of Iowa Geology, Severe Weather, Tornadoes, T. rex, The Blue Moon, and Geoarchaeology in Sicily.

The Open House was an opportunity to showcase the Earth Sciences through what we have here at UNI in the Department of Earth Science. Students, faculty, and staff all pitched in to make this event a great success, and many favorable comments were received from visitors.
EARTH SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

The Department of Earth Science Advisory Board was established last summer, and their inaugural meeting was in April 2007. The second meeting of the Board was in October 2007. The Board consists of 19 individuals who have a sincere interest in the UNI Department of Earth Science and are interested in providing guidance and counsel to the Department and its students. They have identified as their purpose:

- to provide input to the Earth Science Department regarding its programs, program content, and quality, especially as they relate to current trends in employment, technology, K-12 education, and other appropriate areas;
- to serve as a sounding board for departmental program changes;
- to serve as a contact for students regarding outreach needs and potential internships and/or employment;
- to serve as an advocate for the Department with the UNI higher administration;
- to assist in increasing linkages between the Department and outside organizations; and
- to assist in rallying support from alums and friends of the Department to raise funds for scholarships or equipment purchases.

Current members of the Earth Science Advisory Board:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Dr. Ray Anderson</td>
<td>Senior Research Geologist</td>
<td>Iowa Geological Survey</td>
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<td>Dr. Steve Baedke</td>
<td>Assoc. Professor of Geology</td>
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<td>Dr. Steve Bennett</td>
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<td>Bradley Block</td>
<td>Chief of Interpretation</td>
<td>Custer State Park</td>
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<td>Matt Boyce</td>
<td>Geologist</td>
<td>New Ventures, Encana Oil &amp; Gas (USA) Inc.</td>
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<td>Cortney Dierks</td>
<td>8th grade Science Teacher</td>
<td>Waterloo Hoover Middle School</td>
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<td>Dr. Brian Hynek</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>University of Colorado</td>
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<td>Derric Iles</td>
<td>State Geologist</td>
<td>South Dakota Geological Survey</td>
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<td>Craig Johnson</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Iowa Academy of Science</td>
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<td>Mary Lestina</td>
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<td>Sherman Lundy</td>
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<td>Jack Northrup</td>
<td>Planetarium Director</td>
<td>Omaha Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Oates-Bockenstedt</td>
<td>7th grade Teacher and Department Chair</td>
<td>Eden Prairie Public schools</td>
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The UNI Department of Earth Science has had a Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national honor society in the Earth Sciences, since 1974. On October 19-21, our Chapter hosted the 40th Biennial Convention of SGE. Although there were some Thursday early arrivals, most participants arrived Friday, and the afternoon and evening were spent on reports from the National President and Province Vice Presidents and Chapter delegates. We also assigned participants to various standing committees and they began their deliberations. On Saturday an all day geology field trip in a chartered coach took us to Backbone State Park, the Osborne Welcome and Nature Center, and Pikes Peak State Park. Participants were treated to excellent weather, great geology, and spectacular fall colors. The field trip ended at the Maize Maze east of Elgin, where we spent some time getting lost in the corn. Other highlights of the day, according to some of our out of state visitors, included seeing the world’s largest strawberry (at Strawberry Point) and the world’s largest pink elephant at Marquette. The meeting finished up on Sunday with committee reports, discussion, voting, and a final send off of all the attendees. With approximately 40 in attendance, the Convention was a great success, and our Chapter members can be proud of how smoothly the event ran.
Gamma Sigma Chapter – Sigma Gamma Epsilon

It’s hard to believe the 40th Biennial Convention of SGE has come and gone. Our chapter, with the help of Dr. Walters and Dr. Morgan, was busy preparing for the convention for the last few months. It was an honor to host this event.

In addition to planning the Biennial Convention our chapter has been initiating new members each semester. We managed to find time to take a trip to Chicago last spring. We visited the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum, and the Shedd Aquarium. Last fall we went geode hunting in southern Iowa which is an adventure in itself.

Our student room is a popular place to be. Quite often you’ll find us in the student room by eight in the morning studying and we will stay until twelve at night. Somehow we always find time for get-togethers which include bowling, holiday parties and movie nights. It’s important to take study breaks and have a sense of humor. Our student room is a very popular place to be.

Gamma Sigma members have had many volunteer opportunities. We recently hosted an Earth Science Open House which featured activities such as using a seismograph, rock cutting and identification, a series of short talks, planetarium shows, and a visit to the local quarry. We’re currently planning volunteer events for next semester.

Many members have remained busy by doing undergraduate research, some of which was presented at the Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting, the Sigma Xi Research Conference, and the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting held in Denver.

As for fundraisers we held a successful Geode Sale last spring with the rocks we recovered from our geode hunting adventure. We’ve also put together rock and mineral study kits and sold them to physical geology students and others outside of the department. We held another successful sale which involved selling Earth Science t-shirts and SGE sweatshirts.

Gamma Sigma has had a busy year; however, we always find time in our busy schedules to have fun.

Bree McClenning
President, Gamma Sigma Chapter

Front Row – L-R: Desirae Weber, Kristin Jorgensen, Bree McClenning, Amanda Even, and Drew Kreman
Back Row – L-R: Nicole Wilson, Jenny Wahl, Stacey Reisdorph, Adam Lee, and Scott Beason
March 2007 saw a return to a perennial UNI favorite destination, Big Bend National Park, Texas. I had the great pleasure of leading nine students into the wilds of the Trans-Pecos region.

The itinerary was similar to the one we followed in 2003, with the addition of three new stops: a visit to the Grapevine Hills, and an extra cave tour of the Slaughter Canyon Cave at Carlsbad Caverns NP, and a late-night visit to view the Marfa Lights. Also covered were Monahans Sandhills SP, Persimon Gap, Boquillas Canyon, Ernst Tinaja (some pushed on to the top of the Cuesta), Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive, Dog Canyon, Dagger Flats, and the hot springs by the Rio Grande. Five of us summited Emory Peak and all hiked the South Rim Trail of the Chisos Mountains. We camped at Rio Grande Village and got to know neighbors in the campsite next door from the University of Texas—El Paso Rec Department. They let us join their camp for a night in exchange for an astronomy lecture (thanks Nicole). Other camps included Monahans, Ft. Davis, and an unnamed gypsum quarry (with human sized selenite crystals) on BLM land near Carlsbad Caverns.

Several students took the class for 100-level credit to satisfy the experiential learning component of the Earth Science and Earth Science Teaching majors and gathered information on volcanic stratigraphy (see photo above), cyclicity of turbidites, caves and karst, and atmospheric aerosols.

All in all, an excellent trip! Lee Potter
EARTH SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

SPRING 2007

February 12
Dr. Chad Heinzel, Minot State University;
"Greek, Phoenician, & Roman Colonization:
Environmental Implications of Developing Societies in Ancient Sicily"

February 19
Dr. Pablo A. Llerandi-Roman, Purdue University;
"The Effects of a Professional Development Geoscience Education Institute Upon Secondary School Science Teachers in Puerto Rico"

February 27
Dr. Katherine McCarville, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, IA;
"Diatremes are a Gull’s Best Friend: Avian Paleontology Fossil Lake, Oregon"

April 23
Roger Vachalek, Forecaster, National Weather Service;
"Severe Storm Spotting"

FALL 2007

September 17
Adam Lee, UNI undergraduate geology major;
"Adventures at a Geology Field Camp"

October 1
Lee Potter, UNI adjunct instructor in Earth Science;
"The Chico Hills Carbonatite: Update on the Chico Sill Complex and Why Every Researcher Needs a R.A.I.S.E."

October 15
Dr. Steven McCluskey, West Virginia University;
"Medieval Church Orientations"

November 5
Richard Leopold, Director of Iowa Department of Natural Resources;
"Iowa Environment and Energy Overview"

November 12
James Hodina, Air Pollution Control Officer of Linn County Public Health;
"The Air Quality Profession"

December 3
Jeff Kennedy, KWWL-TV Meteorologist;
"The Life of an On-Camera Meteorologist"

Students with the new t-rex skull in its display case.

Front row L-R: Bree McClenning, Tiffany Eggers, Stacey Reisdorph
Back row L-R: Rodney Hubscher, Adam Wooten
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SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

Scott Boose, Earth Science B.A. – Charles J. Hearst Scholarship; and Nominee for C.W. Lantz Undergraduate Scholarship

Lynn Cargin, Earth Science B.A. – Louise Hearst-Speer Scholarship

S. Scott Davis, Earth Science Minor – Academic Achievement Award

Tyler Engelhardt, Geology B.A. – Academic Achievement Award

Amanda Even, Earth Science B.A. – Academic Achievement Award; Science Symposium Scholarship ’05–’06, ’06–’07, ’07–’08; and Nominee for Student First Scholarship

Matthew Even, Earth Science B.A. – CNS Earth Science Scholarship ’07–’08

Brett Gamb, Earth Science Minor – Academic Achievement Award

Maria Hoekstra, Earth Science Teaching – Academic Achievement Award; and Nominee for James & Cynthia Kenyon Scholarship

Holly Kagy, Earth Science B.A. and Earth Science Teaching – Academic Achievement Award; Nominee for James & Cynthia Kenyon Scholarship; and Nominee for Albert A. Potter Scholarship

Andrew Knight, Earth Science Minor – Academic Achievement Award

Elisha Kubalsky, Earth Science Teaching – Academic Achievement Award

Adam Lee, Geology B.A. – Academic Achievement Award; Iowa Space Grant Consortium Scholarship; and Nominee for Irene Thompson Scholarship

Michael Loux, Earth Science Minor – Academic Achievement Award

Stacey Reisdorph, Geology B.A. and Earth Science B.A. – Academic Achievement Award

Alicia Rigdon, Earth Science Teaching – CNS Earth Science Scholarship ’06–’07, ’07–’08

Christina Spielbauer, Geology B.A. – CNS Earth Science Scholarship ’07–’08

Philip Trusheim, Earth Science B.A. – Academic Achievement Award; and Nominee for C.W. Lantz Undergraduate Scholarship

Jennifer Wahl, Earth Science B.A. – W. A. Tarr Award

Nicole Wilson, Earth Science B.A. and Earth Science Teaching – Larry Kelsey Memorial Scholarship; Nominee for McCollum Scholarship; and Nominee for Dean’s Student Award

THE WANDERING COPROLITE FUND

Established by Kevin and Nancy Prochaska (read their update in this newsletter) in 1986, the Wandering Coprolite Fund, which was named after Kevin’s favorite fossil, has grown significantly over the years and has helped provide needed assistance to many students. The fund was set up specifically to help defray travel expenses for students participating in field trips and travel related to participation in professional society meetings. A look at just the last five years shows:

>2003–2004 – support for two students to participate in the SGE Biennial Convention in Utah.

>2004–2005 – support for three students to participate in the Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting at Cornell College.

>2005–2006 – support to two students to participate in the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.


>2007–2008 – support for four students to participate in the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of Kevin and Nancy, we have been able to provide travel assistance to these students and to help them participate in opportunities and experiences they may not have otherwise had.
STUDENT INTERNSHIPS


Lynn Cargin, Earth Science. Environmental Education Coordinator Assistant at Dickinson County Nature Center; Milford, IA. Fall 2007, J. Walters.

Brian Gellerman, Earth Science. Collection Assistant at the UNI Museum; Cedar Falls, IA. Fall 2007, J. Walters.

Emily Marienau, Earth Science. Weather Assistant at KWWL Weather Center, Waterloo, IA. Spring and Summer 2007, A. Czarnetzki.


Emily Schmadeke, Interpretive Naturalist. Unit Counselor at Camp Little Cloud Girl Scout Camp; Epworth, IA. Summer 2007, J. Walters.

Ryan Schulte, Geology B.A. Ranger Intern at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park; Fort Dodge, IA. Fall 2007, J. Walters.


Jacob Wolter, Interpretive Naturalist. Educational Assistant at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium; Dubuque, IA. Summer 2007, J. Walters.

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting
Central College
Pella, Iowa
April 27-29, 2007

Loux, Michael and James Walters. “Quartz Grain Surface Textures as an Indication of Infilling Processes and Depositional Environments Associated with Ice-Wedge Casts in Northeast Iowa.”

Reisdorph, S., and J. R. Groves “Multivariate morphometry and rates of morphologic evolution within the fusulinid genus Beedeina/ (Desmoinesian regional stage/Ardmore Basin, southern Oklahoma, USA).”

The Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
Denver, CO
October 28-31, 2007

Reisdorph, S., and J. R. Groves “Multivariate morphometry and rates of morphologic evolution within the fusulinid genus Beedeina/ (Desmoinesian regional stage/Ardmore Basin, southern Oklahoma, USA).”

International Geological Conference
Nanjing, China
June 19-30, 2007

Groves, J. R. and A. Lee presented a joint paper “Global cooling and glacial eustasy as controls on foraminiferal origination and extinction during the Late Paleozoic ice age.”

UNI Summer 2007 Student Research Seminar

Jennifer Deck (RAISE) and Thomas Hockey. “Red Spot Junior: A rare occurrence”
Beginning in the fall of 2006 the Department of Earth Science began to offer a major in air quality, one of the only such programs in the nation, according to Alan Czarnetzki, professor of meteorology and one of the main designers of the program. “Much of the need for such a program of study arises from the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, which in turn reflects the public’s concern with clean air,” Czarnetzki explained. Each state is required to design a State Implementation Plan that will ensure compliance with the federal law. State agencies (in Iowa, the Air Quality Bureau) issue permits for the emission of pollutants from large stationary sources and then monitor compliance. They also determine, through computer modeling, the impact of new or expanded sources of pollutants on air quality. In addition, private consulting companies work with business and industry to minimize the emission of pollutants, and some corporations have their own staff who deal with these issues.

A Bachelor of Science degree in air quality will produce a pool of graduates who are ready for employment at mid-level management positions in state and federal agencies as well as in industry and consulting firms. “Clearly, there is a need for individuals with this expertise,” Czarnetzki said. Many of those currently occupying such positions have had to educate themselves on the job in order to have the expertise to discharge their responsibilities, he noted.

Earth Science’s new major focuses on the measurement and analysis of air quality. Thus, the degree is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from applied chemistry, meteorology and computer science. “Computer simulations help us understand how pollutants disperse,” Czarnetzki added. Another strength of the program is its close association with UNI’s Science center for Teaching, Outreach and Research on Meteorology (STORM), which is actively involved in air quality education, research and outreach. In 2002, STORM staff developed a training module on atmospheric dispersion models for National Weather Service forecasters, and STORM has supported graduate student research in odor dispersion from Iowa hog confinement, atmospheric aerosol measurements over Iowa and modeling aerosol transport over Iowa. “The interaction between STORM and the new B.S. program is mutually beneficial to students and faculty,” Czarnetzki said. (taken from the UNI CNS Connections, Winter 2006-07)
CF native spends three years sailing South Pacific

By META HEMENWAY-FORBES
Courier Life Editor, 319-291-1483 or meta.hemenway-forbes@wcfcourier.com

CEDAR FALLS — “I never dreamed I’d sail anywhere.”

There’s a good chance Lisa Britzman ate those words and spit them out, one by one, somewhere in the South Pacific. Britzman, a Cedar Falls native, hadn’t planned to sail the world. But as happens frequently in life, plans change.

A 1978 graduate of Cedar Falls High School, Britzman studied geology, cartography, biology and art at the University of Northern Iowa. After graduation, she took a job in Colorado helping develop maps for the U.S. Geological Survey. A transfer took her to Seattle, changing not only her career goals, but her life.

It was there that she met her husband, David Peck, a civil engineer with a sailing hobby. He had always dreamed of owning a boat and sailing the world.

“He was without a boat when I met him,” Britzman said. “When his parents passed away, he said, ‘Life’s too short.’”

The couple sold most of their belongings, stored the rest and shifted gears toward a new life.

They spent $80,000 on a 43-foot boat and sailed to California with their cat, Dewey. There they spent months preparing the vessel for several years at sea. The boat, christened “The Francis” after Peck’s father, was outfitted with an auto-pilot mechanism, numerous sails, safety equipment, a global positioning system, a system that converts salt water to drinking water and a solar energy system. The improvements cost between $50,000-$60,000.

While in California, the couple recruited two extra crew members to accompany them. Two sets of hands would not be enough.

“Someone has to be awake at all times,” Britzman explained.

Britzman has chronicled their journey in an online journal, complete with photos.

August 26 and 27, 1999

...I was very nervous as we headed out to the Pacific Ocean, for I knew that this was the beginning of the all night watches and I wasn’t sure I was ready for that! ...It’s hard to believe this is my life now as we head off on our big adventure down the coast.

The group set off from the California coast, cruising through the South Pacific. Over three years they sailed, stopping at the tropical ports of Marquesas, Fiji, Bora Bora, Western Samoa, New Caledonia and others.

While Britzman enjoyed life at sea, it wasn’t always smooth sailing.

“We hit a few bad storms near the equator. There were a few times I would get scared,” she said. “I didn’t realize how well the boat could handle the water.”

Still, choppy seas made for plenty of seasickness and challenging life aboard the vessel.

April 19 and 20, 2000

...We had always heard and read that once you reached the trade winds it was smooth sailing. Well the huge swell is hitting us on the stern port side and rolls us from side to side. It makes maneuvering around the boat very interesting and sleeping very difficult. ...We are slowly learning to time every movement with the swell so we don’t get beat up too bad. You constantly have to be hanging on to something or you go flying across the boat to land on something usually not soft. ...Cooking is another story. You can’t set anything down unless it is held down by something else or it goes flying across the counter. We have special tools that hold our pots and pans on the stove while we try to cook. ...All this constant rolling back and forth form port to starboard is not making (crew member) Markus or I feel very good. ...If you don’t hear from us very often it’s because I’m too seasick to write in this computer. ...

Along the way, the crew of The Francis met with other sailing enthusiasts. They fast became members of a traveling community of 50-100 boats.

“The one thing I learned about sailing—it is the great equalizer. There were people who were doing it on a 28-foot boat with barely enough money to eat and hoping each day to catch their meals. (Then there were) multimillionaires who had all the fanciest equipment money could buy plus paid crew to get them from place to place. ...We were somewhere in the middle. But the great thing was we all shared the same anchorages, experienced many of the same things and all became great friends, for the sea bonded us as one.”

Britzman and crew made it to Australia, where they sailed up and down the Great Barrier Reef. They had intended to keep going, to circumnavigate the globe. Then 9/11 happened, followed by the Iraq war.
"Our insurance company said they wouldn’t insure us to keep going because we’d be entering a dangerous part of the world,” Britzman said.

So they docked in Australia, where they’ve been ever since.

Britzman took an environmental position with the Queensland Department of Public Works, and Peck is employed once again as a civil engineer. They live on their boat in a marina.

The couple are going through the immigration process, and should be full Australian citizens by June or July.

Britzman’s family in Cedar Falls kept tabs on her through her online journal.

“When Lisa and David told us of their plans we were scared to death and excited at the same time for them,” said her mom, Sharon Britzman. “When we realized how well prepared they were for all situations, it helped us to relax a little. I actually got a map of the Pacific Ocean and marked their route as Lisa sent the longitude and latitude readings every few days.

“We are proud of their accomplishments and their spirit. They’re having a great adventure, one that most of us only dream about.”

UNI to expand hydrology education with new lab funded by Carver Trust

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa –

Room renovations; modern, specialized laboratory equipment; and new computers will give UNI physical- and life-science students hands-on experience and a more in-depth look at the complexities of the relationship between earth and water thanks to funding from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust.

A gift of $157,887 has been awarded to create a new hydrology lab in Latham Hall, Room 123. Hydrology, or the field of water sciences, is an integral part of UNI’s Department of Earth Science curriculum.

“Water quality has received a lot of attention in the Midwest since the early 1980s,” said Mohammad Iqbal, professor of geology and environmental science. “The new hydrology lab will give students experience with state-of-the-art scientific equipment, a better understanding of the cause-and-effect relationships in water pollution, and an opportunity to apply scientific research, in which field and laboratory data are used to implement policy changes.

“Students will be better prepared to link their classroom learning with field situations.”

UNI’s earth science program prepares students for careers as geologists, environmental scientists, teachers, hydrologists, geochemists, astronomers, natural history interpreters and meteorologists. At the graduate level, the department contributes to programs in science education and environmental science.

The new lab also will support outreach activities, including workshops for Iowa teachers, and strengthen research ties between UNI and other institutions and organizations in the area of water quality, according to Iqbal, who also is the director of this project.

“What the students learn in the hydrology lab will be carried on to the communities where they live and work, as they become involved in addressing long-term water quality issues,” said Iqbal. “This effort will make UNI students better prepared to enter graduate school as well as the job market.”

Renovations are expected to begin in September and be completed this December.

“The Carver Trust is very pleased to assist in the development of this laboratory,” said Lynne Sasmazer, program director of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. “We believe this project is consistent with our longstanding priorities of supporting basic scientific research, especially in areas with implications for human health, expanding student access to unique educational opportunities and strengthening the technological and scientific infrastructure of Iowa’s institutions of higher learning.”

UNI is leading a collaborative initiative among the three state universities to address mathematics and science education in Iowa, exploring efforts to improve performance of Iowa students, prepare more high-quality mathematics and science teachers for Iowa’s schools and bridge the gap between K through 12, Iowa’s community colleges and the state universities.

(taken from UNI News, Friday, August 3, 2007)
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributions from our alumni and friends are of increasing importance to the Department of Earth Science. Your gifts allow us to continue the tradition of excellence we have established over the years. In particular, we are able to use your contributions to help fund student participation in professional science meetings where they can present the results of their undergraduate research projects. In addition, since travel costs have increased significantly in recent years, we can use contributions to help defray student travel costs on field trips.

We sincerely appreciate the financial support friends and alumni provide and remind you that if you are contacted by the UNI Foundation you can always designate your gift to the Department of Earth Science. Tax deductible contributions to Earth Science may be sent directly to the Department of Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0335.
Mary Ann (Marsh) Smith
846 Kings Cove
Princeton, IL 61356
e-mail: duaneandmaryann.smith@gmail.com
Graduated in 1968 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1971 with a M.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as an Earth Science/Physical Science teacher at Bureau Valley High School. “Still teaching and still loving it. I continue to learn new things that I can incorporate into my teaching. Duane and I continue to explore new places with an eye to the landscape. We’re hoping to make it to Bay of Fundy this summer. I’m also trying to incorporate the people of science into my teaching which is a stretch for someone who avoided history like the plague. The kids keep me young. Katie and Greg are now the parents of Audrey, 16 months, and Benjamin, 2 months. (Grandkids are the BEST.) Beth is in Senegal, West Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer Small Business Consultant, learning about this ‘hardest job you’ll ever love’ motto of the corps. Alex is working toward a secondary math education degree. Greetings to Wayne Anderson and to other Boomers from the 60s and 70s. I love to hear from you all.”

Gary Bard
10119 Green Oak Blvd
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804
Graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1976 with a M.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as Chair of the Chemistry Department at the University of Saint Francis.
“Graduated UNI in 1975 with a B.A. in Science; UNI 1976; M.A. in Earth Science; Iowa State University 1982: Ph.D. in Geology. I retired from the United States Air Force in 1994, and I am currently the Chair of the Chemistry Department at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, IN.
In addition to my administrative duties, I am teaching physics and earth science courses. My wife, Bich Hop, is a psychology graduate from the University of St. Francis, and she now works for Easter Seals ARC. We have three sons, two of whom graduated from Hanover College in 2003. Curtis, a history major, is going to graduate school at IPFW (Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne). Tim, a physics major, is a database programmer and information systems manager for a viatical management firm. My youngest son, Christopher, will graduate from high school this December.”

Bill Brecht
805 Longview Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63301
e-mail: wbrecht@yahoo.com

Keith Francis
11742 W. Quincy Place
Morrison, CO 80465
e-mail: toohip4u@msn.com
Graduated in 1974 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as a Physical Scientist with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. “After 32 years of working for the Feds I’m nearing retirement. Soccer officiating and golf occupy my free time. My wife teaches Early Childhood for Denver Public Schools, three kids all graduated from college.”

Mary Hogan
2490 4th St.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Graduated in 1979 with B.A.s in Earth Science Teaching and Geology. Currently retired. “Proud owner of a Jack Russell Terrier puppy, Snoopy. Cute, smart and very energetic. First time I have had a puppy instead of an adult dog and I never knew puppies could be this enthusiastic! If you are in the Twin Cities area please call or stop in for a visit.”
Russell Jacobson
402 McArthur Drive
Urbana, IL 61802
e-mail: rjjacobson2@insightbb.com
Graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geologist emeritus with the Illinois State Geological Survey. “It has been an interesting year. After 34 years at the Illinois Geological Survey I retired on June 1 with a full retirement. I remain with an office and some research projects as an emeritus staff member now (still doing geological mapping, geoscience outreach and some coal geology). I have been working primarily in Montana for my dinosaur work with the Judith River Dinosaur Institute (directed by my good friend, Nate Murphy). We spent two weeks about 80 miles north of Billings in a Late Jurassic Morrison site that we have worked for 3 years. Two years ago we recovered a sauropod that is both a new genus and species and should be named in a paper this fall by Nate. We are now working along the same ridge line on flanks of Little Snowy Mountains and have found a bone bed that runs 2-3 miles—enough bone for several lifetimes and careers. Currently we have found remains of several Stegosaurids (species may be new) in the area we excavated this summer. Next summer we’ll return for 3 weeks and we now have a 99 year lease with the rancher to work this site and put a permanent field station building at the site. Also spent 2 weeks exploring in Judith River Formation and found several interesting specimens for future work. Family is doing well, my grandsons are growing quickly (5 and 7 years old). Linda is still working as a teachers aid with autistic children in one of the Urbana schools. My website (www.dinoruss.com) is still busy and doing well as part of the dinosaur work I am doing.”

Norm Meader
3443 E. Lee St.
Tucson, AZ 85716
e-mail: nmeader@email.arizona.edu
Graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geophysics Administrative Associate with the University of Arizona. “This past August I completed 20 years of employment with the Department of Geosciences, and a year from now I will qualify for retirement. It’s hard to think about doing that, though. My career in Geosciences has been a great experience for me, and I could hardly have been more fortunate. I purchased a piece of desert property almost two years ago now, and I plan to spend much of my later years living there amidst a community of wonderful friends. The land is isolated and very peaceful. I continue to enjoy the out-of-doors, one of my life-long loves.”

Kevin Prochaska
411 Laurian Way NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144
e-mail: kprochaska@bellsouth.net
Graduated in 1978 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently self employed as an author. “Another big year for the Prochaska Machine! Kevin is getting his 4th book, The Francis Tree, published around July 2008. It is quite an interesting book about a young boy who wanders into a hollow tree and stumbles upon animal heaven. Nancy continues to teach business at Kennesaw State University, and Cassie is now enrolled there as a freshman. Eleventh-grader Sarah is acting up a storm, eighth-grader Heather is a terror on the volleyball court, and sixth-grader Thomas is a master of the video game Realm.”

Larry Smith
16467 Noble Point Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
e-mail: ljsmith@gci.net
Graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as a Chief Geophysicist with Brooks Range Petroleum. “I’m busy getting ready for our upcoming exploration field season on the North Slope. Christine is still working at the Anchorage Museum as assistant curator. Alec (21) is working at Costco. Stuart (19) is a Freshman at UAA here in Anchorage.”

Barb Berquam
2202 Yorkshire Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: baberguam@cfu.net
Lisa Britzman
33-45 Parkyn Parade
Mooloolaba Queensland, Australia 4557
e-mail: spiritofdesign@hotmail.com
Graduated in 1986 with a B.A. in Geology.
Currently employed as an Interior Architect and ESD Consultant with the Department of Public Works—Project Services. (Please see article entitled “CF native spends three years sailing South Pacific” within this copy of Earth News.)

Karen (Bauer) Browne
2780 Millbank Row
Maineville, OH 45039
e-mail: karenbrowne@earthlink.net

Our daughter has just started pre-school which has opened the door to many new experiences. I am working for a paper converting company in Cincinnati. Things are very fast-paced here but there is much to see and do—especially hunt for fossils (a veritable paradise).”

Randal Gritzner
P.O. Box 404
Sebastian, TX 78594
Graduated in 1983 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a teacher in Texas. “Randal teaches at the South Texas ISD’s Science Academy, has been named Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher of the Year and lives in Sebastian, TX.” (taken from UNI Today, Summer 2007)

Joe Hau
1607 Randallwood Court
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Graduated in 1984 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed with Chesapeake Environmental Management, Inc. (CEM) “Wanted to let you know that we hired Shishil (Gautam, M.S. Environmental Science, UNI, 2007) in September, and he has been a fine addition to our staff. Shishil is instrumental in helping us assess hazardous materials liabilities for a federal highway project in southern Maryland. With the addition of Shishil, CEM has grown from 10 to 15 staff this past year, largely due to our growth in providing environmental impact studies in support of large highway projects here in Maryland. We’ve also expanded our stream and wetland mitigation and restoration services, which are required for nearly every new development around here. Our other large projects include multiple geologic/wetland/aquatic biology assessments for dredged-materials disposal management in the Chesapeake Bay and the Port of Baltimore; and environmental compliance and development of web-based environmental management systems for Martin State and Baltimore/Washington International Airports. Best regards to our friends at UNI!”

Jeff Jackson
Graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Earth Science. “Currently is director of sales for 20th Century Fox/MGM. He spent 20 years in the entertainment industry and lives in Mount Juliet, TN.” (taken from UNI Today, Summer 2007)

Kendall Mattson
11905 Coon Hunters Road
Blue Grass, IA 52726
e-mail: mattsonkendallr@johndeere.com
Graduated in 1988 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a HITACHI Mining Instructor at the John Deere Training Center.

“I have great memories of the ‘good old’ days back at UNI and the positive learning experiences I had in the Earth Science Department. The love of rocks and processes I developed in the department has never left me. After teaching in public education for many years, I have made a change. Often I find myself way over my head in coal, gold, copper and all the rocks a person could ever possibly care to see in their lifetime. My new responsibilities take me into the heart of the mining world as a technical instructor for Hitachi mining equipment. This includes troubleshooting and operator training for the loading shovels and the trucks. You may better
know our trucks as Euclid. A few years back Hitachi purchased Euclid and is slowly making the name change to Hitachi. The opportunities are endless and the travel is as often as I choose. The Western U.S. keeps us busy but another trainer and myself are responsible for all of North and South America. Our machines are the primary movers in the oil sands of Alberta.”

Timm Schwarz
P.O. Box 160483
Big Sky, Mt. 59716

Graduated in 1982 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed at Big Sky Ski Resort. “As I write this postcard/Alumni letter, I’m camping in the North Cascades of N. Central Washington. I’ve been camping, hiking, and marveling at the rugged glaciated peaks of this range for the last two weeks. I’m still working at Big Sky Ski Resort getting my 100+ days of skiing in and loving it. In the summer I’ve been living and working in Whitefish, MT at an exclusive country club. It gives me the chance to hike and explore Glacier National Park only 25 miles away. I have seen some pretty spectacular mountain scenery. This last spring I was lucky enough to be able to go on another Grand Canyon River Float trip for 20 days!! It is a 226 mile float I’ve done 2 years in a row now! What luck. I have friends that seem to get permits and have the trip dialed in. All the good campsites and hiking trails!! Just awesome!! I hope everyone is healthy and happy and enjoying life.”

Fernando Vieira
Zürich, Switzerland
e-mail: Fernando.vieira@spectraseis.com

Graduated in 1987 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as an IT manager with Spectraseis. “For a little over one year, I’ve been working for a small start-up Swiss company that does research in passive low frequency spectral analysis. The aim being to detect hydrocarbon deposits. You can always try to access our website, www.spectraseis.com, for further information. I worked for 2 years with Geology, but then I got involved with IT, eventually getting a masters in System Analysis, in Brazil. By sheer coincidence, last year I got hired by Spectraseis to work on the development of the system we now use to retrieve data in the field (from seismic sensors) and send it over the internet to our headquarters, in Zurich, where I am presently living. As a result, during the past 12 months I’ve been all over the place implementing our systems: from the deserts in Mexico and Sahara (Libya) to the North Sea, on a marine survey. I am happy to say that, presently, I have a less mobile position, as an IT manager for Spectraseis. Having said that, next week I’m on my way to London, attending an EAGE Congress. I just wanted to share the news with you and everyone in the Earth Science Department, since this is a new technology in the oil industry and exciting times for us here in the company.”

1990s

Allyson Anderson
1615 Swann St. NW, Apt. 20
Washington, DC 20009
e-mail: allyson_anderson@energy.senate.gov

Graduated in 1997 with a B.S. in Geology and a B.A. in Music. Currently employed as Professional Staff with the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee. “I took a full-time staff position on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where I will continue to work on energy policy that I started while I was working here in the capacity of a Congressional Science Fellow. I work for Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). My policy portfolio consists of geothermal R & D, carbon capture and sequestration (storage), and unconventional hydrocarbon R & D. This is a far cry from my work as an oil patch geoscientist, but I really love this job. I may only be here for a few months—perhaps a few years, it all depends on how relevant my policy area remains and which political party is in the majority. Other big news, I got married last fall to a lovely gentleman, Chris, who still resides in Houston, TX. He is also a petroleum geologist and spends time commuting between Houston and DC several times a month. While we know this lifestyle won’t work forever, it does work for us now and we both highly prize being able to pursue our careers and dreams. If you are in DC in the future, please look me up—it is always enjoyable to keep in touch with old friends.”
Brian Billick  
518 12th St.  
DeWitt, IA 52742  
e-mail: brianb@wendlingquarries.com  
Graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Field Coordinator with Wendling Quarries Inc. “My working news seems to be the same as always, and that is that its constant, exciting, challenging, and provides for my interests outside of work. Wendling Quarries continues to grow and expand into new territories. We are increasingly doing more work for other companies. It seems as though the workload never diminishes. My personal news has significantly changed, Carmen and I are expecting our first child in October of 2007. Being excited goes without saying, and looking forward to the life changing events I’ve been promised keeps me anxious. We still have our projects we are working on around the house, are still motorcycling when we get a chance, and still enjoy camping in our vintage Apache. I’ve become a Reserve Officer with the DeWitt Police Department. It’s a great way to become active in the community, and a great way to give back. I have enjoyed working with the officers, and look forward to many more years of service. I hope each of you is well, and look forward to finding out what’s new in your lives.”

Bradley Block  
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Graduated in 1993 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Chief of Interpretation at Custer State Park. “Bradley continues his position within the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, working as the Chief of Interpretation for Custer State Park. This past year, he has been working on several exhibit projects at various parks and recreational sites. One assignment dealt with a six-panel trail display at Angostura Recreation Area, located in the southern Black Hills. Another interpretive trail project is currently underway at Roughlock Falls in Spearfish Canyon; this site is located in the northern Black Hills and was used as the winter scenery shots in the movie ‘Dances With Wolves’. Other projects are gearing up at Newton Hills State Park near Canton and Farm Island Recreation Area near Pierre. He enjoys the additional assignments, on top of his normal duties of interpretive and educational services. Bradley was recently honored with a national award, Master Interpretive Manager by the National Association for Interpretation. The organization, consisting of nearly 5200 members nationwide, selects the Heartland Region, which consists of seven states and two Canadian Territories. As a past-time, Bradley is still volunteering as an assistant coach for the local high school football team. He enjoys working directly with the defensive backs and receivers, along with the physical training that takes place during the off-season. Even with limited time, Bradley created a side business, named ‘The Writing on the Wall’. He has crafted resumes for friends and past peers for several years, along with composing newsletters, brochures, website text, etc. For this reason, he secured his own business this past spring by signing a contract with the Black Hills National Forest. The business has been good for a one-man show. He is focused on a website for his business later this winter….so, google the business title sometime after January 1st. Finally, Bradley and his wife, Cherri, took their two kids to Walt Disney World this past February. It was an exciting trip for a seven and four-year-old, but Bradley was also caught hugging Goofy. The experience was so much fun that plans are already underway for another venture to Florida in 2010.”

Cindy Chatfield-Freiberg  
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Osage, IA 50461  
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Graduated in 1994 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Sales Supervisor and Trainer with Gemini Inc. “In my work we are currently setting up a new computer system for manufacturing and sales data. We are on line to download information by Nov. 1st and then go live on January 1, 2008. It is amazing how hard and long term of a commitment this project has become. I find that there are so few manufacturers in the U.S. We start with raw materials and make our metal and plastics, then pour, waterjet or mold our products from these items. It is one of the few companies to do so in the U.S. We need to think ahead I believe if we are to keep companies viable in the U.S. We also have one of the best recycling programs I have found. We have all our scrap metals smelted into new ingots, all plastics are remade into the new sheet we use and all paper, cardboard etc. are recycled. It has been nice to see
that several items developed at the Industrial Center at UNI were tested and set up in our Foundry in Decorah. I watch the news letters and so do the managers in our plants so we can benefit from the new advances UNI comes up with in metals and foundry work. Jim and I are on the road a lot of the year as we both commute for our jobs and we travel to see the grandchildren and our children regularly. Last week I put on 1016 miles, I was happy to be back home after all that travel. We are blessed to have 4 grandsons and one granddaughter. We have another granddaughter due any day. The grandsons love the outdoors and like to learn about the rocks, stars and animals we come across while camping or just out playing in Minnesota and Wisconsin. We are finally settled in our new home this year and haven’t any major remodeling projects left to do, so I am glad about that. I’m looking forward to the holidays this year as we are going to Faribault for Christmas and St. Cloud for Thanksgiving. It will help out our daughters so they don’t have to travel so much with newborns. Hope everyone is enjoying the fall season, call or e-mail me if you get time. Will look forward to the Christmas news letters also. It is nice to get the notes and pictures from College friends.”

Angie Erhardt
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Graduated in 1998 with a B.S. in Geology.
Currently employed as a Project Manager with Tetra Tech. Inc.

“I am currently a project manager at Tetra Tech where we conduct a variety of environmental and remediation projects throughout Iowa. Chad and I are happy to announce a new arrival to our family. Evelyn Marie was born on October 2nd and her big brother Elliott is almost 3 years old. My best regards to everyone.”

Ann Flage
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Currently employed as a Geospatial Analyst with the Harris Corporation. “I am in graduate school at Penn State currently working towards my M.S. in Geographic Information Systems. I’m also working at the Harris Corporation. I am still involved with the Census Bureau MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project. My boyfriend, Matt, and I spend most of our free time outside biking or kayaking.”

Janel Graham
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Graduated in 1998 with a B.S. in Geology.
Currently employed as a part-time Environmental Scientist with Konicek Environmental. “I am married with two little girls, Ella-4, and Sophia-1 ½. We are expecting our third (another girl) in mid-November. I work about 10 hours a week about 5 minutes away from home and then the rest of my time is spent being mommy and wife. I love all of my jobs—especially the mommy one. We also love Wisconsin and things are going well. That’s about it.”

Gaylen Hiestereman
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Graduated in 1992 with a B.S. in Geology.
Currently employed as Office Manager/Project Manager with Tetra Tech (formerly known as Maxim Technologies). “We enjoyed a family vacation in June 2007 to the Black Hills in South Dakota. Our son, Savoy, is very interested in fossils (I didn’t have to do much to get him interested in dinosaurs) so visits to the museums in Hill City and Rapid City were the highlight of our trip along with Reptile Gardens (he’s also a big fan of crocodiles). After the tour of the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in Hill City, I asked about going on a dinosaur dig and they indicated they allow people to help during the summer dig season. So guess what we’ll be doing in a couple of years?”

Brian Hynek
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Currently employed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado. “I guess my biggest news is that I am now an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado. It had been at the university for four years as a Research Scientist and made the
transition this fall. I am still studying Mars and working with NASA on the upcoming 2009 Mars Science Laboratory landing site selection. I’ve also initiated some work on a Nicaraguan volcano that is geochemically similar to environments that likely existed on early Mars. Another highlight of the year was a climbing expedition to the Ecuadorian Andes with my girlfriend. We made it to the top of one of the world’s highest active volcanoes; Cotopaxi at 19,347. The glaciers were demanding and the air a bit rarefied, but oh, what a view!”

Jason Martin
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Graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as Manager of City & National Employment. “My family has moved back to the Cedar Valley after several years overseas. I now have two daughters who were born in Brazil. Willow Martin is 6 years old and Ayla Martin is 4 years old. Leigh is Coordinating the Office of Overseas Placement at UNI and I am now managing a Staffing Agency and a Recruiting Company here in Waterloo. We place Engineers, IT, Food and Supply Chair professionals nationwide. Leigh and I both love what we are doing. We spent 3 years in Egypt following graduation where I taught at the American International School (AIS). I taught 7th and 8th grade science as well as 9th grade Physical Science. We moved to Brazil where I taught the same classes but also became the Middle School Coordinator. I am proud to say that we had an excellent Middle School and I was able to do some amazing things with my students including spelunking through underground rivers, exploring sinkholes in the Cerrado, waterfalls, and the Pantanal. While I miss the adventure of living overseas and teaching I am happy to be back in Iowa near family and friends.”

Eric Niemann
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Graduated in 1990 with a B.A. in Science and an Earth Science minor. Currently employed as President of McMullen-Niemann & Associates. “Greetings from northwest Missouri. I am still working in the manufacturer’s rep business, catering to electric utilities in the Midwest. I am able to visit many beautiful areas through my travels from MO to MN. I am now the proud parent of a teenager, as Ethan just turned 13. Sara and I are celebrating our 15th anniversary this year also. How time flies!! Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2008. Go Panthers!”

William Soesbe III
34 Graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in Science Teaching and in 2001 with a M.A. in Education. “He is the school partnership coordinator for Wartburg College’s Center for the Community Engagement.” (taken from UNI Today, Summer 2007)

Carrie Thorpe
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Graduated in 1997 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a stay-at-home mother. “I’m in the last year of graduate school for library science. Next semester I’ll be doing an internship at Estrella Mountain Community College, where I hope to get a job as soon as I graduate. I have really enjoyed learning exactly what librarians do and I’m very impressed with the amount of technology a modern librarian needs to know. The family is great, the kids are growing like weeds, and Steve and I are busy with school and the constant maintenance that comes with home-ownership.”

De Anna (Hinz) Tibben
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Graduated in 1992 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching and in 1994 with a M.S. in Science Education. Currently employed as an Earth Science Teacher in the Ames Community Schools. “Hi Everyone! My family and I still live in Nevada. We’ve had a new addition to our family! “Max” is our little shih tzu puppy who joined us last spring break. Jake is in 3rd grade and Abby started Kindergarten this year. They both like school. Both kids put together quite the fossil collection this summer from Rockford. Jake has decided he wants to be a paleontologist. (Of course, he wanted to be a firefighter last summer and a preacher the summer before. So, we’ll see....) I’m still teaching 9th grade Earth Science at Ames High and yes, I can even say I’m still...”
enjoying it! We started having star parties at AHS this fall. Memories from atop McCollum and out at Hillside came back at the first party we had! It was just “duddy!” To my former professors—thanks again for the great classroom experiences while at UNI! To my former classmates and old friends—thanks for all the good memories! Purple 4 Life!—de.”

Lyndsey (Mitchell) Anderson
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Graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Recycling Education Naturalist II with Hartman Reserve Nature Center. “My husband, Ryan, and I are really enjoying watching our son, Hunter, grow. It is hard to believe he is already a year old. How time flies!! In our ‘spare time’ (is there such a thing?) we are working to remodel our home. If any alumni happen to be in Cedar Falls, stop by the Nature Center. I would love to see you!”

Jeremy Bakker
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Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Process Operator with the City of Cedar Rapids. “The summer of ‘07 has been another exciting experience. In my time away from work I was capable of spending a few days camping and of course a little fishing. Never enough. Work is going rather well; still a far cry from making my million. Within the last 2 years I started working with the City of Cedar Rapids in the Water Pollution Control Dept. The challenge which I experience more is keeping up with today’s environmental technology. With a few more years of experience, I hope to possibly look into IDNR water quality programs. Thank you Dr. Walters and to all UNI Earth Science Department.”

Scott Beason
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Graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 2007 with a M.S. in Environmental Science. Currently employed as a Staff Scientist/Geomorphologist with ENTRIX, Inc. “Hello everyone! I hope this message finds you well… I know my life has been quite crazy lately. I graduated from UNI—again—this May (2007). This time around I received my Master of Science degree in Environmental Science. I spent the last two years studying rates of aggradation in glacially-fed braided streams radiating from Mount Rainier in southwest Washington State. The thesis I wrote amounted to over 160 pages of material, a few Geological Society of America presentations and a couple of upcoming papers about my findings. I again worked at Mount Rainier this summer, making it four successive summers I have spent working at “the mountain.” I worked mostly as an interpretation ranger but also spent my days off and most of the month of September working with the geology division in the Park studying the recent changes in streams following some record flooding the Park received in November 2006. Following that work, in October, I accepted a position as a Fluvial Geomorphologist for an environmental consulting company called Enrix, Inc. in Seattle. I currently live in Alki, part of West Seattle and have about an 8-mile, 15-60 minute commute, depending on traffic. I’m working mostly in river restoration and infrastructure protection along rivers in the Pacific Northwest. I really enjoy the job and I’m working with some great people. I’m now debating whether to get a Ph.D. but I’ve got a long time for that. I hope everyone is doing really well and either call me or send an email if you’re ever near Seattle. I’d love to meet some past alums and current students! I’ve really enjoyed my time at UNI and now that I’ve transitioned to the “real world,” I miss the professors and students. Take care and keep in touch!”

Andrew Blake
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e-mail:ablake@geodesigninc.com
Graduated in 2002 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as Environmental Staff with GeoDesign, Inc. “Greetings from an old student! Although I did not attend grad school, things are going well for me. I am currently living in Portland, Oregon, and I recently got married. Also, I’m working at a consulting company (GeoDesign,
Inc.) that I find very rewarding, which is the main reason for this email. GeoDesign is rapidly expanding and there is an employment opportunity here. They are looking for summer interns and full time staff. Your students can check our website (www.geodesigninc.com) for current openings. Also, they can send resumes directly to me, and I'll forward them appropriately. Studying geology at UNI was a great time in my life. Keep up the good work!" (This was sent in too late for last year’s issue of Earth News.)

Kaden (formerly Kristen) Borseth
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Graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Programs Coordinator for the Science Center of Iowa. "I currently work at the Science Center of Iowa as a Programs Coordinator. I create different public programs, school labs, and smaller scale demos. I also help present these programs, train new employees, and much more. I have a great time working at the Science Center because it is different every day and always entertaining. This summer was the first that I have not worked at Mount Rainier National Park since I graduated. While I missed the mountain a lot it was nice to stay in Iowa and enjoy the hot weather instead of summer mountain snows. Life is going well. I hope life is well for everyone else as well."

Matthew Boyce
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Graduated in 2004 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geologist with the IDNR-Geological Survey. "I stayed at UNI after my undergrad degree to complete a Masters in Environmental Science. After completing my two years in graduate school I started at my current position with the Iowa Geological Survey in Iowa City. I'm enjoying it here. Iowa City is a bit like Cedar Falls, except more confusing. Last summer I married Hilary Dearing, another UNI alum. We have a house, a dog with ADHD, and a normal Iowa lifestyle, including a cornfield in our backyard. We are both very proud to be UNI alums, and tell everyone we can about how great of a college it is, especially the Earth Science Department."

Justin Funk
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Graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geophysicist with Devon Energy Corporation. "I recently graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with the M.S. degree in Geological Sciences specializing in Geophysics. I spent two years working on a master's thesis focusing on tectonics in Nicaragua. I was a member of the geophysical team which acquired seismic data over Lake Nicaragua and Lake Managua. My thesis was then based on the processing and interpretation of that seismic data. I started work in the Southern Division of Devon Energy Corporation as a Geologist/Geophysicist in June, 2007. I also just got married in Cedar Falls, IA on September 15, 2007."
Nathan Green  
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Graduated in 2002 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as an Intelligence Analyst with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. “After graduating in 2002 from UNI with a Bachelor’s Degree in Earth Science, I went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Geography with a remote sensing and GIS emphasis in 2005 from UNI. My thesis received 2nd place in UNI’s outstanding Master’s Thesis award competition in 2007. I then worked with Dr. Ramanathan Sugumaran at the GeoTREE research center at UNI for 1 year researching water quality monitoring with satellite remote sensing. I then moved to St. Louis, MO in the spring of 2007 and currently work with NGA (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency).”

Elizabeth (Rohret) Gull  
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Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Program Assistant with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “After student-teaching in Australia, I taught for a year in Olathe, KS. Engagement brought me back to Iowa and I married William Gull of Nevada (a silversmith and engraver) in September, 2006. I started working in the DNR Customer Service Bureau at first and then transitioned into the Office of Volunteer Service. I write grants and handle a lot of the paperwork that makes it possible for the DNR to have programs like state park campground hosts, state park Friends groups, AmeriCorps members, and Project AWARE.”

Breanna Hennessy  
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Las Cruces, NM 88001  
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Graduated in 2006 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently a Graduate Student/Assistant at New Mexico State University. “I am currently in my second year of graduate school working on my M.S. in Geology. My thesis research is studying a fault along a former salt wall, now a salt weld, in La Popa Basin, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. This past summer I was the T.A. for the New Mexico State geological sciences field camp and was also afforded the opportunity to study salt-sediment interactions in the Flinders Range of Australia for three weeks. I’m looking forward to finishing my research and starting my thesis and can’t wait to see what the future holds. I wish you all the best and may your tomorrow be brighter than today!”

Kelly Kaleta  
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Katy, TX 77450  
e-mail: Kelly.kaleta@shell.com  
Graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geologist for Shell Exploration and Production Company. “Hello from Texas! Life in Houston has been busy! I currently work as a geologist for Shell Oil, and switched from the Alaska exploration team to the Eastern Gulf of Mexico project maturation team last December. Our group has had an exciting year so far with a very active drilling season and continued exploration in the gulf. Hubby and I are still enjoying our home in the suburbs, and traveling (for vacation, not work!) when we can. Hope everyone is also doing well and has nothing but good news to share. Give a shout if you’re ever in Houston!”

Andrew Kuker  
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Storm Lake, IA 50588  
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Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Chemistry/Physics Teacher at the Storm Lake High School. “I just recently bought a house and plan on taking graduate classes to complete my masters in athletic administration. This is my fourth year teaching in Storm Lake and whatever negatives you hear about the community it is the complete opposite. The diversity is widespread but that is what makes everything exciting, new, and adventurous. My wife and I plan on staying for the long run. She will be moving her classroom into the new elementary building in 2009 and I will soon be making another run to NASA with 6 students for a space competition.”
Charlotte (Campagna) McDermott
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“Hello to all! I am in my 2nd full time year with Linn Mar. I have been teaching Earth Science and will begin teaching Biology in the spring. My husband, Adam, and I had a beautiful baby boy this past December, which has been keeping us quite busy. AJ is just beginning to crawl and walk around things while holding on to them, so he keeps us on our toes! Hope this finds everyone well!”

Jack Northrup
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Graduated in 2001 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as the Planetarium Director with King Science and Technology Magnet.
“I am continuing to run the planetarium at King Science. A new item for me is that our school district has a mentor program for first year teachers and this year I was selected to be trained as a mentor. It has been very interesting working with a mentee, I have started to use some of the methods of questioning in my class to improve the “learning buddies” program we already use. This last summer I was selected to travel to the American Wilderness Learning School in Jackson, Wyoming. Living out in the Rockies with 27 other teachers was great. We studied the impact of gas exploration on the migration grounds for prong horn deer. We also looked at team building and ecological impact issues that could be easily taken back to school with us.”

Molly Pisarik
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Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in All Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Physical/Environmental Science teacher at Monticello High School. “Currently also in science education graduate program through UNI.”

Kelly Pratt
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Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Registered Veterinary Technician with Pawsitive Pet Care.
“After graduation I could not find a job. I did not really know what I wanted to do in the field, so I decided to go back to school to do what was my calling—working with animals. This is not to say that I didn’t love earth science. I just recently graduated from Kirkwood Community Colleges’ veterinary technician program. After graduation I had to take the National and State Board Exams. Well I passed both exams and got the title Registered Veterinary Technician. I also recently got engaged and will be getting married on September 20, 2008. I will be moving to Omaha, Nebraska for the spring 2009 semester. My fiancé is going to take classes at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in Exercise Science. Hope to see everyone soon.”

Jerry Schmitz
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“I’m selling real estate in Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, and Cedar counties.”

Andy Tate
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Graduated in 2006 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as an Engineering Geologist with the Bureau of Reclamation. “In April 2007 I took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation as an engineering geologist. Reclamations mission is to manage the water of the west. So I am principally working on dams and some canals. I have been involved in a number of large geologic investigations which have involved geologic mapping, drilling (logging soil and hard rock) and most importantly.....report writing. Thankfully I’m putting my geologic knowledge to work!!!!”
Theresa Theis  
P.O. Box 36  
Gladbrook, IA 50635  
e-mail: sciencemom@mchsi.com  
Graduated in 2001 with a B.A. in All Sciences. Currently employed as a Science Teacher in the Marshalltown Community School District. “I am beginning my fifth year in education. However, it is my first year teaching at Marshalltown. It is a different world for me because I thought I would always stay in a small school. There are more students here than in the entire town of Gladbrook. I love it though and I am teaching Earth Science for the first time! I have started to slowly begin work on my M.A. in Science Education so I hope to be stomping around campus again, at least in the summer.”

Shawn Thomas  
14 Great Basin National Park  
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Graduated in 2001 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Park Ranger at the Great Basin National Park. “I’ve been living and working at Great Basin National Park, a little known park in a remote portion of Nevada. Great Basin encompasses the South Snake Range, with high peaks, alpine lakes, and bristlecone pines, the oldest living trees on the planet. The limestone cliffs in the park contain many caves, including the deepest and highest elevation caves in Nevada. Lehman Caves is the most well known of the park caves, as it was discovered in the 1880s and developed for tourism. My work in the park consists primarily of guiding cave tours and assisting with cave resource management projects. I also continue to be involved with cave exploration projects, including expeditions at Jewel Cave in South Dakota. Multi-day survey trips based from an established camp deep in the cave have extended the known length of Jewel to over 140 miles. Great potential remains for new discoveries. I hope all is well with everyone from the Department!”

Jared Trullinger  
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Graduated in 2000 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as an Academic Advisor at Northeast Iowa Community College.

“Amy and I have experienced some major changes since last year’s Newsletter. First of all, we were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Stella Jill, on April 5, 2007. Stella is growing very rapidly, and it has been amazing to experience new life in our home. It should come as no surprise that she already loves being outside and looking at the stars. Stella also has already visited 5 states as we drove to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly in Fort Worth. Returning to Fort Worth for the convention really felt like a homecoming, even though the TCU campus has changed so much in less than five years. In addition, I began working full-time as an academic advisor at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta last January. I also have been teaching an Intro to Ethics evening course for NICC. Yes I do drive to NICC from Iowa City, but my current commute seems much easier than the old days of driving between West Des Moines, Oskaloosa, Iowa City, Muscatine, Davenport, and Bettendorf to teach 15-21 credit hours per semester and advise part-time. Plus, I can catch Dr. Czarnetzki’s forecasts and weather history reports on KUNI during my morning drive. Occasionally, I will also have speaking/pulpit supply engagements at Sunday worship services in Disciples of Christ or United Church of Christ congregations, and I have performed three wedding ceremonies already this year. Amy continues to work at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a research assistant in quality of life studies with Otolaryngology cancer patients. Last semester, I also passed my comprehensive exams for the Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Foundations through Illinois State University. At This point, I plan to hold my dissertation proposal hearing sometime this fall. My area of interest is the emergence of directors of church relations in the midst of modernization and secularization at mainline liberal, religiously-affiliated institutions of higher education.”

Brandon Yarbrough  
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Graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently a graduate student at the University of Iowa. “I am currently working on my masters in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa. My emphasis is on Land Use, Environmental Planning and Transportation Planning.” (This was sent in too late for last year’s issue of Earth News.)
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