Earth News

Fall 2006

Earth News, v30, Fall 2006

Department of Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa.

Copyright ©2006 Department of Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/earnews

Part of the Earth Sciences Commons, and the Higher Education Commons

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.
The Tyrannosaurus rex skull is a recent addition to the Earth Science Department and will be displayed in Latham Hall in the future. It is a replica of *T. rex* AMNH 5027, the full skeleton of which is displayed in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.
With a new president at UNI and a new dean of our college, we started the 2006-2007 school year with a sense of excitement and hopes that we will be able to survive the continuing budget problems and make things turn around for the better. These have been difficult times for UNI and for the Department of Earth Science. But with a wonderful group of students and devoted and highly productive faculty, we have been able to weather the tough times. In fact, there are some exciting new things to report. This fall we have a new degree in the Earth Science Program: Air Quality, B.S. This should be attractive to students seeking careers in governmental regulation of air quality, industry compliance with the Clean Air Act, and private consulting. Another new venture is the development of an Earth Science Advisory Board. This group will serve to provide guidance and counsel to the Department and its students. We anticipate having the first meeting of the Advisory Board next spring. Another activity in which we have become involved is “Field Trip UNI,” whereby school groups come to visit the Department and we spend some time showing them around Latham Hall and explaining some of the things we do in the Earth Sciences. We have had groups of 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th graders visit us so far. We added an adjunct to our Department this year when we hired Paula Even (Earth Science B.A., 2003, Environmental Science M.S., 2005) to teach some of the Astronomy, thus providing some time for Siobhán Morgan to carry out her administrative duties now that she is Associate Dean in the College of Natural Sciences and Coordinator of the Liberal Arts Core Program. Other faculty happenings are Lynn Brant’s upcoming retirement at the end of his academic year, and the start of Tim Cooney’s phased retirement this fall.

As far as my activities, I taught Oceanography last spring along with a couple of labs in Physical Geology, and this fall I am teaching my regular Geomorphology. I have had a number of students conducting Internships both fall and spring semesters as well as during the summer. In addition, I have also been fortunate to have had undergraduate research students both fall and spring semester. Last spring Breanna Hennessy conducted an intriguing study of minor moraines of the Des Moines Lobe in Hardin County. She is now in grad school at New Mexico State University. This fall Mike Loux is conducting a SEM study of quartz grain surface textures on sediment-filled wedges on the Iowan Surface. I am also working with Mohammad Iqbal in supervising the research of Scott Beason, a grad student in the Environmental Science Program, as he studies aggradation of glacial meltwater streams on Mt. Rainier. All of this has helped keep me pretty busy, but it is really interesting. And then there are all those committees that, just when you think you might have some time to start working on that research, take whatever time was left away from you. This summer saw the 5th offering of the Geology of Iowa for Teachers short course. We are very pleased with the success of this course and look forward to our continued partnership with the Iowa Limestone Producers Association. We already have the dates set for next summer and have started to receive applications.

Bonnie and I were able to visit Jennifer and David and the kids in Abu Dhabi during the summer, and David and I even had some time to travel into the mountains of the interior and along the coast of Oman. Talk about hot and humid. I would have to say it was probably the hottest I have ever been. I am used to being in the field in Alaska, not the deserts of the U.A.E. and Oman. But it was really interesting and incredibly scenic. Kyle still lives in Phoenix, and we try to visit him once or twice a year, too. Although hot, Phoenix is nothing like the heat and humidity of the Arabian Peninsula.

Lois tells me, as far as she can determine, this is our 30th Dept. of Earth Science Newsletter. There have been lots of changes over that period of time, but one thing that has never changed is our desire to give our students the best education we possibly can and to instill in all of them, majors and nonmajors alike, an understanding of and an appreciation for the way the Earth works.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying life.

Best wishes,
Jim Walters
When I was an undergraduate at Penn State I lived on the east edge of town. Some three miles away Mt. Nittany rose almost a thousand feet above the valley floor. Some woods, a farm, a sizeable limestone quarry, and two very lightly used roads lay between the streets I walked daily and the foot of the mountain. The mountain was completely wooded but its slopes were smooth and its top was broadly rounded. Dense subdivisions and a four-lane highway, bounded by cyclone fences, lie along this route today, but forty years ago it was a pleasant walk through the countryside.

I first climbed Mt. Nittany one evening with a friend when I should have been studying for a physics exam the next day. Looking out over the valley and the university that night in March put much into perspective. Unfortunately it didn't teach me much physics.

My favorite time to climb that mountain was at night in a snowstorm. Winter storms in Pennsylvania can be the gentle sifting of snow upon a still landscape; preparing a new world for us to awaken to in the morning. On Mt. Nittany during such storms one could be assured of being alone - unless a friend came along. The trees and snow muffled all sound, but it was never dark. Lights from the town, even though they were miles away, bounced from snow to low-hanging cloud then back to the snow. Every tree and branch could be seen. Such ascents called for the gathering of the driest wood available to build a fire. Sitting around a blazing fire on the top of the mountain while those in the valley below huddled inside from the storm was an experience worthy of Thoreau.

One evening during a heavy snow, I headed out across the woods and farm fields to climb Mt. Nittany alone. The light was unusual that night as it bounced not only between clouds and snow on the ground but also off the many flakes falling from the sky. I got to the pasture field of the farm and was enveloped in a near-perfect white-out. My feet touched the ground with each step but looking forward or down or to the sides was as if I were totally enclosed in a cloud. I saw neither the ground in front of me nor where I stepped. I walked along like this for some time enjoying the sensation of this unique experience. Then I remembered the quarry.

One side of the quarry was a vertical drop of perhaps a hundred feet. Falling over that precipice would be the end of me. In the spring, they might wonder how it was that my body came to rest in the bottom of the quarry. Surely foul play would have been suspected. To understand that I was merely inspecting the snowstorm would have never occurred to them.

But I had no wish to die that night, and the sudden remembrance of that quarry and knowing that my location was slightly in doubt brought to my backbone a tremendous shiver. I stopped dead in my tracks. I knew that as long as I didn't move I was safe. The next step might lead me over the edge, but standing there, I was safe. Slowly I turned to look back to where I had been. I could see the edge of the trees through which I had just come, and from that scene I could get my bearings—to see where I was and to plot my next steps. I concluded that the quarry lay to my right a safe distance and I could proceed. I continued on my way to Mt. Nittany without incident.

This is my last year teaching in the Department of Earth Science. After 25 years I shall retire next June. There is a slight twinge of anxiety running up my backbone as I contemplate my next steps, but unlike the hike through the field, I cannot stop in my tracks and be safe while I get my bearings. Time keeps moving and I have to determine my course as I move. But I can look back for guidance.

I see the collegiality of the Department, the friends I have made along the way, and the
I continue to work away at our STORM Curriculum Project, using online and real-time weather data to teach basic weather concepts to students in grades K-12. During the summer of 2006, we held an air quality workshop in which teachers began the development of Air Quality Curriculum for high school science classes. These materials will be refined and offered for field-testing by the start of the 2007 school year.

The professional development project that has had me traveling often to Chile is now over, ending with a trip to Chile in August to do the final evaluation. The project was quite successful, and now five other universities from around Chile would like to expand our project throughout their country. If this all comes to fruition, I’ll spend more time south of the Equator. (By the way, there is no preferred direction for water to swirl down sink drains in the southern hemisphere, any more than there is in the northern hemisphere—I knew that before ever going to Chile, but had to experiment for myself!)

Last April, 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 13, 2007. 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.

 ****************

Alan C. Czarnetzki
Professor of Meteorology
Hello again to all our friends and alums! We hope things are going well for everyone. My daughter is a senior in high school this year, so we've begun the process of looking at colleges with her. You'd think that working in a university setting would make this process a breeze for me, but it's not! All the forms and web sites start to look the same after a while. We're also starting to feel anxious about having an 'empty nest' next year. At the same time, we're thankful for all the intellectual growth the K-12 years have brought.

This fall I'm excited to note that our new B.S. Air quality major is officially in place at UNI! This new major offers our students a focused program of study in applied meteorology, an area that has a good national job market. 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 seventh 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." This course may be offered again in summer 2007. 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 2006 offering of the Meteorology course has 21 students. The Weather Analysis and forecasting course will be offered in spring 2007. I've been advising 2 graduate students in the Environmental Science M.S. program. One of these students began his work this past January, having come to the U.S. from Nepal in August 2005. I'm also in my fifth year of providing weather forecasts each weekday morning to Iowa Public Radio station KUNI. Since October 2005, I've also been producing an expanded segment on selected aspects of the weather for KUNI. These segments air each Saturday morning at 8:34 a.m.

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

**********

Ken De Nault
Associate Professor of Geology

Greetings to all. It is time for another Earth Science Newsletter report. Actually, I am a bit tardy with my contribution. It has been a busy and full year. I spent time researching and visiting the New Madrid Fault Zone. This culminated in an October field studies trip to the zone with students. We started by examining damage to Daniel Boone's home located west of Saint Louis. The house slid about eleven inches down a slope due to one or more of the five great quakes that occurred between December 1811 and February 1812. From here we traveled to New Madrid, Missouri. Thousands of sand boils, blows, and depressions are still very visible. We visited perhaps the largest sand boil in the world, about one and a half miles in length. We observed grabben fissures and seismically induced liquefaction features. We saw evidence of present liquefaction, including mechanically induced liquefaction (MIL) of roadbed and rails caused by trucks and trains and hydraulically induced liquefaction (HIL) due to high water of the Mississippi River. Past and present landslides along the Mississippi River were of great interest. One slide is being "developed" for homes and the other underlies the town of Hickman, Kentucky. If you ever have a chance to visit Hickman, you should plan to spend a few hours looking at the slope failure evident in the old downtown area.

I continue to teach the standard courses, though this Spring will be a bit challenging as in addition to the normal Optical Mineralogy-Petrography and Volcanology courses, I will be teaching an Honors Section of Physical Geology.
I continue to race a Formula Mazda successfully. I won the Midwest Division Championship for the third year in a row and went to the Runoffs race for the National Championship. Because of Buck’s medical condition, I had to drive from Cedar Falls to Louisville to Topeka non-stop. I arrived in Topeka about 11:00 AM, grabbed a Denny’s Grand Slam Breakfast, and was on the track at 1:00 PM for qualifying. I qualified 13th. In the race, I was hit in the first turn on the first lap. The impact damaged the suspension and really fouled up the alignment. But, I managed to finish eighth. I got the “hard charger” award for the person who bettered his position the most in the race. I think if I had not been hit, I could have worked up to third or fourth.

On a sad note, Buck’s health has declined to the point that he underwent surgery the end of October. As I write, he is recovering at a specialty medical center in Chicago. The hope is that the operation will greatly reduce his pain and maybe, just maybe, restore greater use of his hind limbs. On a happy note, all my granddaughters are doing great, I am enjoying good health, I continue to find teaching rewarding, and I will again play the part of Marley’s Ghost in the Waterloo Community Playhouse production of Christmas Carol.

I hope all of you had a good year and that the next year is filled with challenge, excitement, and rewards. Remember, that we always like to hear from you and I always like to get specimens (especially sand) from far away places.

**********

Paula Even
Instructor of Earth Science

I am currently working in the Earth Science Department at UNI as an adjunct instructor for Astronomy. It’s a terrific place to be and a great group of people to work with. I also assisted with the Geology of Iowa for Teachers this past summer. All I have to say about that is the “Thunder Woman” van rocks!

Family life is always busy. My husband, Gene, continues to be busy farming, working at Deere’s and being active with scouting and the Foresters. My oldest son, Chris, works for the city of Jesup, and is athletic director and girl’s basketball coach for St. Athanasius in Jesup. Wes is continuing his graduate studies at LSU. This summer he was “forced” to attend a computer grid workshop on the beach at South Padre Island. The life of an astrophysicist is tough! Russ is completing a triple major at UNI and working at John Deere. Amanda is attending Alaska Southeast in Juneau, Alaska through the National Student Exchange program and earning her outdoor recreation certificate there. Matt is a senior at Don Bosco and was recently elected Order of the Arrow Lodge Chief; both keep him extremely busy.

The days of vacations where the whole family went are gone. Now I go with whoever is available! Chris and I headed to Louisiana for Mardi Gras (and to see Wes too!) in February. The parades had fantastic floats but I don’t really care for the crowds. I’d much rather be out on the bayou! In March, Gene, Matt, and I went down to Missouri and Arkansas. Luckily we missed the string of tornadoes that went through and had power where we stayed. My previous experiences with Arkansas were a quick drive through the northeast corner on the way to Louisiana ... not too exciting. The northwest part of Arkansas though was beautiful and I’d like to go back, especially in fall when the leaves are turning. In August, Wes, Amanda, Matt, and I headed up to Thunder Bay in Canada via the north shore. I’ve always loved Lake Superior and we had a good (and wet!) time. Of course my travels pale in comparison to Amanda’s trip to Nepal to go trekking in the Himalayas and her current stay in Alaska. I enjoy hearing about her adventures though and seeing the pictures!

I hope all of you are doing well. Have terrific year!  

**********
This is my sixth year of teaching in the UNI Earth Science Dept., still subbing for Dr. Czarnetzki and Dr. Cooney while they do Project STORM activities. I also still teach three sections of Elements of Weather and one section of Elements of Weather Lab each semester. My blurb is nothing special this year, but we’re all allowed a not-so-impressive blurb every so often, right?

In the past year, I turned 30 years old and promptly started noticing gray hairs. Then I promptly pulled them out. Eventually, I realized they came back (or more were popping up), so I gave in and am just leaving them now. It’s a bit irritating, though, since if my hair starts turning really gray, my image of looking like I’m in high school will be totally ruined. What if I no longer have to show my ID to get into an R-rated movie? I am at a loss.

Otherwise, my latest fun news is that the ever-generous Dr. Walters gave me a geode. I’d never had my own geode before, but now I have a pet rock to keep me company in my office. My pet geode’s name is Stonie. He doesn’t do a whole lot, and he’s pretty quiet. If you’re nice, he’ll let you open him up so you can see his cool internal crystal structure, but that’s about all he’ll do. One of my graders, Jen Deck, gave me google eyes to put on him. It didn’t really help. He still just sits there silent. Alas, he’s a great pet, isn’t he? I don’t have to feed him or walk him or take him to the Vet, and he’s a really good listener. Plus, he’ll live for ages, so I’ll have a friend for life! I would recommend that all of you get your own pet geode. I would also recommend you have a great year and stay down to earth...science.

**********

John R. Groves
Associate Professor of Geology

Greetings alums and friends of the department! The past year was another good one here at UNI. It included customary field trips to the Devonian Fossil Gorge with the Earth History classes, to Arkansas and Oklahoma with the Stratigraphy & Sedimentation class, and to the Ashfall Fossil beds in Nebraska with the Fossils & Evolution class. In March I landed a new grant from the American Chemical Society to document rates of foraminiferal origination and extinction during the Late Paleozoic ice age. Foraminifera are microorganisms with a superb fossil record, and the Late Paleozoic ice age was a period of roughly 30 million years (320 to 290 million years ago) when continental glaciers covered much of Earth’s Southern Hemisphere.

Adam Lee, a Geology B.A. major, is working as my undergraduate research assistant. I presented preliminary results of our work at a meeting in Natal, Brazil.

Well, enough about recent history. What I really want to address is historical contingency—the notion that all events are contingent upon preceding, oftentimes chance events. Let me illustrate with a little story about how I became a paleontologist.

Back in the fall of 1978, while an undergrad Geology major at the University of Oklahoma, I participated on a stratigraphy class trip to the Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. The two day trip involved an overnight stay in the small town of Marshall. Now just because Marshall is a tiny place doesn’t
mean that it lacks recreational opportunities. In fact, some classmates and I recreated well into the night at a local tavern.

The next morning I arrived fashionably late for breakfast, and the only available seat in the diner was next to Dr. P.K. Sutherland, our stratigraphy professor. Dr. Sutherland was a reserved older gentleman who was somewhat uneasy around students. We sat together for a moment in awkward silence. Then he initiated our breakfast small talk with the question: “So, John, what do you propose to do with your life?” Huh? “Well,” I replied “I’m kinda interested in fossils.” Sutherland loosened up at this response. He advised: “You know, if you want to make a living as a paleontologist, you’ve got to work on microfossils. And it just so happens that I’ve got a Master’s research project for someone willing to work on microfossils.” He went on to describe the project and then offered me a two-year research assistantship.

After the field trip, in the course of a few short weeks, I accepted Sutherland’s offer, applied for and was accepted into OU’s Geology graduate program, and began to get used to the idea that I now had a rudimentary plan for my life. Sutherland further arranged for me to work as a summer intern with Amoco’s prestigious paleontology research group in Tulsa. One summer internship evolved into four, and then, after an interlude in Iowa City where I earned a Ph.D., into 15 years of professional employment in the course of which I worked on material from throughout the United States, Arctic Canada, Norway, Russia, Azerbaijan, Peru, and Bolivia. The saga continues to this day.

I’ve often wondered how things might have turned out had I showed up for breakfast in Marshall a few minutes earlier and found a seat next to my drinking buddies. Would I have become a paleontologist, or perhaps an accountant or a salesman? Isn’t everyone’s life defined in large measure by a relatively small number of chance events? What if your parents hadn’t met at the high school dance in Grundy Center? Contingency isn’t limited just to human affairs, but it applies to all of history from the Big Bang onward. Would life have evolved on Earth had the early planet been a little hotter or a little cooler? Would mammals have diversified so magnificently had the dinosaurs not been wiped out by a bolide impact?

So what’s the message here? Should we just wait around for a lucky break? No! I tell my students that “luck” is the intersection of preparation and opportunity. Preparation requires hard work, but only through preparation is it possible to recognize opportunities for what they are. In fact, exceptional preparation can even create opportunities. Work hard, be prepared, and then capitalize on wonderful opportunities that arise when you least expect them!

*******

Thomas A. Hockey
Professor of Astronomy

********

This year I taught about planets, moons, Sun, and stars
And hosted Fall 2005 Departmental Seminars.
I spoke at the Astronomy Society.
(But don’t blame me for the Pluto anxiety)

Kristen and Holly ran the planetarium.
Morningside gave me a talk honorarium.
In the Courier appeared my views on Einstein.
Northern Iowan asked about Intel Design!

We all were photographed in purple and yellow.
Come Spring I became a third-year Carver Fellow.
That summer I taught at Lakeside; liked it a lot.
Matt and I wrote a paper on the new Red Spot.

Went to see the eclipse of the Sun in
Greetings to all! This past year was another great year for me and I hope it was great for you as well.

Here is an overview of my professional activities this past year. I taught Environmental Hydrology and a few sections of Physical Geology last spring. A research article on data from our Summer Lakes Study was published in the Journal of Hydrology early this year. Another article on experiential learning of water sciences has been submitted to the Journal of Geoscience Education. This work was done with a co-author at SUNY, New Paltz. Meanwhile, I took the responsibility of Associate Editor (geology/archeology) for the Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science. Also, I had the opportunity to serve as the newly elected member of the North-Central GSA management board. This fall, I am teaching Physical Geology again. Teaching this class is always fun. I am also teaching Global Systems, which is a required class for our Environmental Science M.S. students.

My graduate student, Jihyo Chong (Joe) has recently finished his thesis work and earned an M.S. degree in Environmental Science. His project dealt with nutrient loss from agricultural fields in Grundy Center, Iowa. Joe is currently a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno. He will soon start working on his Ph.D.

Sushil Gautam, a student from Nepal, is working on his M.S. in Environmental Science under my supervision. He is using Nitrogen isotopes as tracers to detect sources of groundwater pollution in northeast Iowa. Additionally, I am co-advising Scott Beason in his graduate work on aggradation of major river channels at Mount Rainier National Park. Both Sushil and Scott made excellent progress in their field work this past summer.

My daughter, Tasnia, is eleven-and-a-half years old. She is in 6th grade now and is excited as always to learn new things. My wife and I worked hard this summer to keep rabbits away from our yard. Happy New Year to all!"
the gully-washer rain two days later wash the seed into furrows. Another project was the moving of about 10 cords of firewood from one location to another a few 100 feet away and doing it mostly by hand in the hottest month. The stiffness and pain was telling me this old body is aging fast. Winter indoor projects will soon be on the agenda.

To those of you who have sent in a reply for this 2006 Earth News, we thank you. Next year we would like to hear from you again and also from even more alums.

**********

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

Amy is still in Texas at Fort Bliss as an about to be 1st Lt. She completed her training in the Patriot missile field, but is now working as a staff officer in the headquarters because she is going to have a little boy in early December. Her husband Dave spent a year in Baghdad and got home safely in early January. We are all grateful for this to be over with. He then did a follow-on school at Fort Bliss and has just started a new assignment there.

Kelly is still in Nevada teaching at the Andre Agassi School for disadvantaged students. Her third year has started out with being pregnant, and on October 16 she and Aaron had a little girl named Ruth. Aaron is still working on his dissertation in Russian history, and hopes to complete it this year.

Fran is still a full time student at Iowa working on her PhD. So if you see a yellow bug heading south on I-380 it is probably her off to class.

As for me, the Elements of Weather class this semester has been an enjoyable one so far.

**********

Siobahn M. Morgan
Professor of Astronomy

Hello Earth Science friends and family!
How’s it going? Are you ducky? With the weather outside right now, you know my response to that question would be “YES”. Actually that is pretty much my response regardless of the weather. Lois is threatening to have other people write our blurbs if we don’t get them in to her on time, and I know I can’t disappoint all of my “fans” who eagerly await my pearls of wisdom. Gee, can my ego be any bigger (no, not really). So here’s what’s been happening at Rancho Morgano over the past year. Not long after last year’s newsletter, my poor little dog, Millie, had some bladder stones. Now you have to think about this a bit. She weighs only 20 pounds, and is of a size that fits nicely on one’s lap—an excellent leg warmer during the winter months I might add. These bladder stones were HUGE! One is about the size of a brazil nut. Ouch. 😃 Fortunately she got through the surgery just fine and is back to her loud and obnoxious self. Apart from that, things have been pretty quiet at home over the last year.

In terms of curricular matters I finally tackled the last of the regular astronomy offerings, “Planets,” this past spring semester. I had a bunch of crazy kids who decided that I didn’t make the class difficult enough. In fact they went above and beyond the call of duty and
took the time to make a diorama. Yes, you read that right—they made a diorama of the solar system. This one is not too scientifically accurate though. For example a bottle of Tabasco sauce is holding up the Sun, and various other objects near and dear to my heart are depicted on the planets. For example, Venus is the eye of Sauron from “Lord of the Rings.” And Uranus...well, I’m not going to go down that path—I’ll let your imagination fill in the blanks on that one.

Usually I can talk about my exciting travels. Well not this year—I guess I’m in an off year for that. I did give a presentation at the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines, after some arm twisting from some former students (yes, I’m talking about you Rachel and Kristen). And just today I gave a presentation at the Iowa Science Teacher Section meeting in Cedar Rapids (more arm twisting from De Anna). Yup, I’m putting some major mileage on my car.

Perhaps some day I’ll even get to Illinois! Or that might be just too much excitement for me to handle—I think I’ll stick to the easy stuff for now, like Mason City or Marshalltown. Actually I’m just kidding, since I’m going to Seattle in January with a couple of my astronomy students. We’ll be presenting our research at the semi-annual astronomy conference there. I do plan to spend a good portion of the time drinking gallons of fine Seattle coffee. Odds are after this trip I won’t be able to sleep until at least mid-February, or March if I have any of the espresso.

Apart from that things are pretty quiet here in Iowa, and we’re always glad to hear from former students. So if you do stop by the department, make sure you say “hi” or at least let me know if you are “ducky” or not. Quack, quack, quack.

Lee S. Potter
Instructor of Geology

Last year continued with me as “adjunct” faculty, teaching sections of Environment, Technology, and Society in both semesters. I took ten students on the Spring Break trip to New Mexico and Arizona and once again enjoyed the “balmy, sunny” conditions of the American Southwest. I am looking forward to the promise of teaching E, T, & S, now one of many Capstone courses, again in the spring, along with taking the Spring Break field trip duty again. We are currently planning to head back to Big Bend National Park, with a mixture of parts of some old trips with some new stops planned. I also hope to get a couple of manuscripts in review this year. On the home front Karen and I continue to watch the river and make the house safe and happy for doggy and kitties (Heidi, Henry, Abby, and Petey). This summer saw a proliferation of blue heron and kingfishers. It also provided time for Karen to develop a business in stained glass and me to head north to the copper country of northern Michigan. Old grads stop by and say “Hello” when you are in the neighborhood! [Note: I was threatened yet AGAIN with the phrase “if you don’t write a blurb, someone will write it for you.” Please send your vote for the best person to write about Lee to lee.potter@uni.edu. Will it be Lynn Brant, Siobahn Morgan, or an unknown write-in candidate? Remember it is an election year.]
Wayne I. Anderson  
Professor of Geology  
1963-2000

I truly enjoyed my 37 years on the UNI faculty (including 25 years as Head of the Earth Science Department), but retirement continues to be the best "job" I've ever had. A highlight of 2006 was the arrival of a new granddaughter from China in March. Lovely "Phoebe" brings our grandchild total to seven. Five grand kids live in Iowa and two are in Fort Collins, Colorado. Jan and I spend about five months of the year at our cabin in rural Custer County, Colorado and six or seven months in Cedar Falls. In February, we enjoyed two weeks of birding in southern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, adding several new birds to our lists. July and August were wetter than normal in southern Colorado, and Custer County was nearly as green as Iowa for part of the summer. Jan and I reached a few new localities in our treks in the Sangre de Cristo Range and in the Wet Mountains, and, along the way, we observed some new geology and some spectacular wildflowers. Look for an update on our web site in early 2007. We are working on it now, (www.uni.edu/~andersow/). The web site focuses on geology and wildflowers of Custer County, Colorado. Best wishes to all.

********

Nancy Howland  
Former Earth Science Secretary

I just returned from beautiful Door County, Wisconsin. I stayed on the Green Bay side of the peninsula at Sister Bay and my motel room opened right out to the Bay waters. While there I also took the ferry for a day to Washington Island and ate many Icelandic and Scandinavian foods. I made it back through Death's Door and onto the mainland again. The goats grazing on the rooftops of many buildings was something I got a real kick out of. Door County is truly a vacationer's paradise...the fall colors were absolutely gorgeous.

A lot of my time is spent with the House of Hope in Waterloo. Being on the Board of Directors for three years and Treasurer for the past year has consumed many hours of my time each month paying bills and doing payroll. Currently, we are planning and working on the Silent and Live Auction being held at the John Deere Supervisor's Club on the evening of December 5.

The remainder of my time goes to my family. Little Colton just celebrated his first birthday. He is a delightful little boy. All of the other kids are in school and involved in numerous activities. All of them like school which is wonderful.

I'm looking forward to reading about all of you and I hope everyone will have a great New Year.

**********
The New Madrid Fault Field Trip

This is the Southwest Bell switching station in New Madrid, MO. The original building was the brick structure. When Southwest Bell found out about the potential for a major earthquake in the area, they retrofitted their buildings. In this case, they built a steel cage around the old brick building.

Richard Golz Estate Donates Items to Earth Science Department

Long-time friend of the UNI Department of Earth Science, Richard Golz, died on August 18, 2006. Richard received his undergraduate degree from UNI and his master’s from the University of Oregon in Corvallis. He taught at Waterloo West High School and later Waterloo East High until retirement. He was involved for several years with the Alpine Environmental Studies Program in Colorado through the Waterloo Community Schools. Richard had wide-ranging interests, including the Earth Sciences, and Geology in particular. The Department of Earth Science is the recipient of over 400 books, 1,500 maps, and 5,000 slides from Richard’s vast collections. These materials have been added to the Department’s collections and will be of use for instructional and research purposes for both faculty and students in the Department. We very much appreciate this generous gift and know that Richard would have been pleased that portions of his collections are being put to good use.
FALL 2006 QUARRY OPEN HOUSE FEATURES DEDICATION

The fall 2006 Quarry Open House was held at the former Yokum Quarry near Finchford on October 1st. Operated for over 70 years as a limestone quarry, the owner, Basic Materials Corp. (now known as BMC Aggregates), reclaimed the site as a natural area and turned it over to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. Nearly 2,000 visitors attended the dedication event and enjoyed a variety of activities including geology walks to the quarry face, sunspot observing, a fishing derby in the quarry lake, fossil and mineral hunting, and various displays. Participating groups included the UNI Department of Earth Science, the Iowa Geological Survey, IOWATER, Hawkeye Community College Natural Resources Management Program, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society, to name just a few. The new preserve is called Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area and includes a lake surrounded by scenic limestone bluffs and both forested and prairie areas.

***************
SPECIAL ALUMNI PROFILE---AARON SPURR
Earth Science Teaching Graduate

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) has named Aaron Spurr the 2006 recipient of the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award for the State of Iowa AND the Central Section of the NAGT.

The following is taken from the Fall 2006 Newsletter of the NAGT Central Section:

"Aaron Spurr graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Earth Science from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 1997 he received a M.S. in science education. Aaron is an outstanding example of dedication, knowledge, ingenuity, and professionalism in an educator. A teacher at Price Lab School—Northern University High School, Aaron acts as a facilitator of knowledge in his classroom. 'When one walks into Mr. Spurr's class it is clear he has honed his skills at advancing students' learning.' He strives to individualize his instruction to the needs of his students and has been nominated for many teaching awards. 'At the core of Mr. Spurr's teaching is his belief that teaching is not 'telling' but instead providing the environment, opportunity, and stimulus of questions that lead all students to a conceptual understanding.' Aaron integrates technology and earth science to engage his students. He works to create a learning environment where students grow, pose questions, and gather new information. His class is consistently nominated as one of the best in the 9th grade at the Price Lab School. Aaron has also made significant contributions to the Price Lab School by introducing new technology, acting as the WebMaster, and serving as the technology liaison for the schoolwide Web-based PowerSchool Program. He works diligently with students, faculty, and administrators to develop a community of learning by sharing 'his pleasant disposition and his willingness to be part of the solution.' Aaron collaborates with university faculty and other educators to develop web-based curriculum. He presents and publishes on a regular basis and is well-respected by his students and colleagues. His accomplishments include being a Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science in 2005 and receiving National Board Certification in the Area of Adolescent/Young Adulthood Science in 2001."
PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS INVADE LATHAM HALL

The Department of Earth Science has begun participating in a program called "Field Trip UNI." School groups from around the state are invited to contact us and arrange to visit the Department for about an hour to an hour and a half (sometimes 2 hours). We introduce them to the different disciplines represented in the Department and give them a tour of some of our facilities. Because most groups are over 25 students, we break the group into two and lead them to different rooms for the activities. The students watch a planetarium show, learn about ground water pollution, view a tornado machine, learn about severe weather, see and learn about some really interesting fossils, view some exciting computer simulations of geologic processes, and even have the chance to break a geode. So far we have had the following groups visit us: Isaac Newton Christian School 5th grade, Green Mountain-Garwin 11th graders, North Linn 9th graders (the largest group so far, with 65 students and 6 adults), NU High 8th graders, Dyersville-Beckman Junior High, and Walnut Ridge Baptist Academy 8th graders. We hope the students and their teachers come away with the understanding that the Earth Sciences are a very exciting and dynamic discipline, offering many choices of study and career options. We have received many favorable comments from our visitors. For more information on arranging a group visit to the Department go to http://www.earth.uni.edu/visit.html.
## EARTH SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

### SPRING 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Dr. Kenneth De Nault, Associate Professor of Geology, UNI; &quot;My Life With a Wolf&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Roth, Associate Professor of Physics, UNI; &quot;Planetary Ring and Satellite Formation&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Dr. Raymond Anderson, Iowa Geologic Survey, Iowa City, IA; &quot;The Mid-continent Rift System in Iowa&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Holmes Semken, emeritus faculty, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; &quot;Excavation and Interpretation of the Tarkio Valley Giant Ground Sloth, Page County, Iowa&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Dr. Keith Kutz, Iowa Energy Center, Ames, IA; &quot;Geology and Geography of Iowa: Implications for Energy&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Breanna Hennessy, UNI undergraduate geology major; &quot;Characteristics of the Des Moines Lobe Washboard Moraines, Hardin Co., Iowa&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Spring Break Fun on the Rocks in New Mexico and Arizona&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FALL 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Dr. Siobahn Morgan, UNI; &quot;The Moon Landing Was Fake! And Other Misconceptions in Astronomy&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Scott Beason, Environmental Science Grad Student, UNI; &quot;Environmental Implications of Aggradation on Major Braided River Channels at Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Dr. Lynn Brant, Associate Professor of Geology, UNI; &quot;The Darkness in my Life: The Social and Economic Costs of Coal&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Gaylen Hiestermann, Tetra Tech, Inc.; &quot;Career Opportunities in Environmental Consulting&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Dr. John Groves, Associate Professor of Geology, UNI; &quot;Foraminiferal Origination and Extinction During the Late Paleozoic Ice Age&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Undergraduate student research presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants and faculty in the summer 2006 offering of the Geology of Iowa for Teachers course at the Lehigh Portland Cement Quarry in Mason City.
### MAJORS IN THE EARTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>College City</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haley Albe11so11</td>
<td>D.Min. Earth Science</td>
<td>Bondurant, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankeny, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi Anderson</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldora, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolana Artz</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Vinton, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa City, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Balk</td>
<td>B.S. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Becker</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Boesen</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbandale, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Boom</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettendorf, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Booth</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evansdale, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbi Brace</td>
<td>B.A. Interpretive</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janesville, IA</td>
<td>Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bumgarner</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven, MO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Busiek</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Cargin</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmetsburg, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty Chapman</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Covemaker</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Crane</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartley, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Hanson</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bondurant, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nei Hartness</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterlo, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Hensel</td>
<td>B.A. Earth Science</td>
<td>Davenport, IA</td>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterlo, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Hubacher</td>
<td>B.S. Geology</td>
<td>Marion, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterlo, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Kagy</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Karsten</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Tipton, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Phair</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew Kreman</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Tipton, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Kraft</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Waverly, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Koenne Porto</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Pratt</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Lester</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Tama, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Liska</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Stratford, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Maricyn</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Rigdon</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Jejun, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Romero</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Roth</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Falls, IA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Saini</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Schmadeke</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Waterloo, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Schwartz</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Gilbertsville, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Schwack</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Riceville, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Sheets</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Indianola, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Naturalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Timpnerley</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Le Mars, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Trusheim</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Toledo, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Ullicki</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Lehigh, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Wahl</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Nevada, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Washburn</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Wilson</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Urbndale, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Wolter</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>La Motte, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching and Geology B.A.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Wooten</td>
<td>B.A. Geology</td>
<td>Emmetsburg, IA</td>
<td>ES Teaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science B.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greetings one and all! It is once again time for the yearly update of your favorite Sigma Gamma Epsilon chapter. You'll be happy to know that we've hit the ground running. This year our vice president is Bree McClenning, our secretary is Nicole Wilson, and our Treasurer is Vaughn Gross. These officers and all of our active members are making our plans run smoothly and constantly suggest great new ideas for the group.

At the end of last year the Earth Science Department held its annual banquet. Hartman Reserve provided shelter for the food and the amazing company gathering. At this banquet several awards were given out as well as scholarships. The W.A. Tarr Award was given to Bobbi Brace, former SGE president.

Last spring our group went on a trip to Chicago to see some of the museums. We had so much fun that we decided to go back this semester! November 18 at least 8 of us will be headed back to the windy city to check out all the interesting things we missed the first time around. The main draw this time is the Museum of Science and Industry, which will be displaying 150 different kinds of live frogs! --We are HOPPY to go!!

In addition to planning a trip, our group has also been making progress in the fund raising and educational areas of the department. A couple weeks ago a car full of us drove down to Keokuk for a day to gather geodes. Our plan is to cut, shine, and sell them for profit for more fun and educational excursions! Would you like to buy a geode? © Also, a topic which has been discussed for a couple years now is finally progressing. We are making rock and mineral bags for the Physical Geology students. The goal is to sell them to the students as study aids.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and happy. Stop by the good 'ol student room anytime! From all of us in SGE, have a wonderful next year!

Jennifer Wahl
Chapter President
STUDENT INTERNSHIPS


Christina Dilling, Earth Science Teaching. Interpretive Programs Assistant at the Army Corps of Engineers, Saylorville Lake; Saylorville, IA. Summer 2006, J. Walters.


Brent Fechter, Interpretive Naturalist. Conservation Assistant at Page County Conservation; Clarinda, IA. Summer 2006, J. Walters.

Benjamin Fogt, Earth Science. Conservation Assistant with the Grundy County DNR; Grundy County, IA. Spring 2006, J. Walters.


Jerry Schmitz, Earth Science. UNI Tall Grass Prairie Reconstruction project; Cedar Falls, IA. Fall 2006, J. Walters.

Jesse Ulicki, Earth Science. Park Intern at Dolliver Memorial State Park; Lehigh, IA. Summer 2006, J. Walters.


STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

North-Central Section Meeting
Geological Society of America
Akron, OH
April 11-22, 2006


John R. Groves and Scott R. Beason (Earth Science B.A.—'05). Foraminiferal Evidence for the Age of the Mississippian Pella Formation (southeastern Iowa).

Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, IA
April 21-22, 2006

James Stainbrook and Mohammad Iqbal. Temporal and Spatial Effects of Agriculture on the Hydrologic Systems of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area.

2006 CNS Summer Undergraduate Research Program
UNI Seerley Hall
July 28, 2006

Bobbi Brace (Earth Science) and Peter Berendzen (Biology). Link Between Regional and Distribution Pattern of the Greenside Darter (Etheostoma bennioideus: Percidae).

Geological Society of America
Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
October 22-25, 2006

Scott R. Beason (Earth Science B.A.—'05), Elizabeth Beauleu, Sharain Halmon, Mohammad Iqbal, Paul Kennard, and James Walters. The Environmental Implications of Aggradation on Major Braided River Channels at Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington.
SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

Heather Boom, Earth Science B.A. — Charles J. Hearst Scholarship; Academic Achievement Award; and Nominee for McCollum Scholarship

Bobbi Brace, Geology B.S. — W.A. Tarr Award; Science Symposium Scholarship '02-'03, '03-'04, '04-'05, and '05-'06

Nicolas Brown, Earth Science Teaching — Academic Achievement Award

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

Jennifer Engelkes, Earth Science Teaching — Charles J. Hearst Scholarship; Academic Achievement Award; and Nominee for Potter Scholarship

Trent England, Geology B.A. — McKay Award

Amanda Even, Earth Science B.A. — Science Symposium Scholarship '05-'06, and '06-'07

Breanna Hennessy, Geology B.S. — Purple and Old Gold Award; Academic Achievement Award; C.J. Hearst Scholarship; and Nominee for Dean’s Student Award

Rodney Hubscher, Earth Science Teaching/Geology B.A. — Academic Achievement Award

Holly Kagy, Earth Science Teaching — Larry Kelsey Scholarship; CW Lantz Undergraduate Scholarship; and Nominee for James & Cynthia Kenyon Scholarship.

Allison Martin, Earth Science Minor — Academic Achievement Award

Adam Lee, Geology B.A. — Science Symposium Scholarship '04-'05, '05-'06, and '06-'07

Rebecca Nachtman, Earth Science Teaching — Academic Achievement Award; CW Lantz Undergraduate Scholarship; and Science Symposium Scholarship '03-'04, '04-'05, '05-'06, and '06-'07

Jessica Keene Ponto, Earth Science B.A. — Louise Hearst Speer Memorial Scholarship

Stacey Reisdorph, Earth Science B.A. — Academic Achievement Award; and Earth Science Scholarship '06-'07

Alicia Rigdon, Earth Science Teaching — Freshman Earth Science Scholarship '06-'07

Andrew Tate, Geology B.S. — Academic Achievement Award

Jennifer Wahl, Earth Science B.A. — Nominee for Irene M. Thompson Scholarship; Science Symposium Scholarship '03-'04, '04-'05, '05-'06, and '06-'07

Megan Washburn, Earth Science Teaching — Earth Science Scholarship '06-'07; McKay Award; and Nominee for Student First Scholarship

Nicole Wilson, Earth Science Teaching — Academic Achievement Award; and Earth Science Scholarship '06-'07

Interesting fact — The cost of UNI tuition per semester in 1976 was $315 and in 2006 it is now $3056.
THE CHARLES J. HEARST SCHOLARSHIP

The Department of Earth Science has three Departmental Scholarships that it awards annually: the Larry Kelsey Memorial Scholarship, the Louise Hearst Speer Scholarship, and the Charles J. Hearst Scholarship. The Charles J. Hearst Scholarship was established in 1983 by Gladys Hearst in memory of her husband, who was an Earth Science major at UNI. Born in Cedar Falls in 1904, he worked on the family farm until his retirement in 1964. He died in 1980. He and his brother, poet James Hearst, were well known and very active in the community and were co-recipients of the Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce’s Representative Citizen Award for 1980-81.

The Charles J. Hearst Scholarship is awarded annually upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Department of Earth Science to assist a capable undergraduate student majoring in the Earth Science Department. Selection is based on consideration of academic ability and financial need.

The 2005-2006 academic year recipient of the Charles J. Hearst Scholarship was Breanna Hennessy, a Geology B.S. major now in graduate school at New Mexico State University. Writes Breanna, “Receiving the Charles J. Hearst Scholarship allowed me to focus on my academics. Unusual as that may sound, the scholarship helped take some of the financial burden of paying for classes off of my shoulders and allowed me to work less, therefore giving me more time to focus on my classes, my undergraduate research, and applying for graduate school. Receiving the scholarship was such an honor, one I will be proud to say I received for the rest of my life!”

Breanna Hennessy, Geology B.S., 2006; 2005-2006 academic year recipient of the Charles J. Hearst Scholarship
2006 EARTH SCIENCE GRADUATES

Samuel Becker----------Earth Science
(December)

Heather Boon---------Earth Science
(December)

Nicolas Brown---------Earth Science Teaching
(May)

Matthew Butterfield---Earth Science
(May)

Jason Cochrane------Earth Science Teaching
(May)

Jennifer Engelkes---Earth Science Teaching
(December)

Ben Fogt-------------Earth Science
(May)

Sam Goertz----------Earth Science
(May)

Breanna Hennessy-----Geology B.S.
(July)

Courtney Ita--------Earth Science Teaching
(May)

William Lester--------Earth Science Teaching
(December)

Erin Miner----------Earth Science
(July)

Bruce Muschick------Earth Science
(December)

Charles Robertson---Earth Science
(May)

Nicholas Scheetz-----Earth Science Teaching
(May)

Jerry Schmitz--------Earth Science
(December)

Nicholas Scheetz-----Earth Science Teaching
(May)

James Stainbrook-----Geology B.A.
(July)

Andrew Tate----------Geology B.S.
(July)

Brandon Yarbrough----Earth Science
(May)

Left to Right: Bruce Muschick, Brandon Yarbrough, Courtney Ita, Heather Boon, Erin Miner, Bobbi Brace, Jessica Ponto, Breanna Hennessy, Jennifer Engelkes, Sam Goertz
GIFTS FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCE

Wayne & Jan Anderson
Bard Concrete
Basic Materials Corporation
Becker Gravel Company
Shelley Beardsley
Barb Berquam
BMC Aggregates, L.C.
Bill & Teresa Brecht
Bruening Rock Products, Inc.
Cessford Construction Company
ConocoPhillips
Tim & Darlene Cooney
Coots Materials Company, Inc.
James & Jane Cuddeback
Douds Stone, Inc.
John Graham
Greene Limestone Company
Ardith Hansel
ILC Resources
Iowa Limestone Producers Association
Kelly Kaleta
Kuhlman Construction Company
Lee Crawford Quarry Company
L.R. Falk Construction Company
L & W Quarries, Inc.
Lehigh Portland Cement Company
Linwood Mining & Minerals Corporation
Steve Little
Martin Marietta Aggregates
Paul Niemann Construction Company
Preston Ready Mix Corporation
Dean & Ann Rigdon
River Products Company, Inc.
Riverstone Group, Inc.
Roverud Construction, Inc.
Schildberg Construction Company
Linda Sliefert
Mary Ann Smith
Stanley Strike
Kenneth & Deborah Thompson
M. Paul Verdon
Weber Stone Company, Inc.
Wendling Quarries, Inc.
Wiltgen Construction, Inc.
Deborah Yerkes

WE INVITE YOUR SUPPORT

The Department of Earth Science increasingly relies on contributions from our alumni and friends. We sincerely appreciate this support, which helps us continue a tradition of excellence. Your gifts help finance Departmental activities which cannot be met by the allocated Earth Science budget.

We invite your continued support, 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.
Shelley (Langin) Beardsley  
17031 Meadowlark Drive 
Peosta, IA 52068  
e-mail: sbeardsley@duque.k12.ia.us  

Graduated in 1977 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1993 with a M.A. in Science Education. Currently employed as a High School Science Teacher in Dubuque Community Schools. “Am in my 30th year of teaching high school science. Each year seems to bring MANY changes to our business. This year our district has a new computer program (web based) for reporting/recording grades – Centerpoint. This is an excellent idea for parents to have access to their student’s grades, but there are so many problems with it that it has not been made available to parents on the internet and it is NOT user friendly. Oh well, such is the current educational system. I still enjoy working with the kids, especially the astronomy students. My enrollment in this course has steadily increased and it is definitely a high point of my year. My district is beginning our science curriculum study and I am a part of the ‘curriculum mapping’ we are doing. Thought that as one got older, things would slow down a bit. Not so, YET! My family has done a lot of golfing and camping this past summer. We were very busy attending golf tournaments (one a week) this summer for our daughter. The hard work and time she put in paid off as she won her division in the T-H Golf Tourney (sponsored by the Dubuque Telegraph Herald and KWWL). We will soon add a Golden Retriever pup to our family as we just put our last one to sleep. Our dogs are such an integral part of our life. We never leave them behind on trips. We go, they go.”

Eldon Bird  
1835 Harding Ct.  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
e-mail: ebird@qonline.com  

Graduated in 1970 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1972 with a M.A. in Earth Science. Currently retired from teaching at the middle and high school level. “Retired from the Davenport Community School District after 32 years of teaching at the middle and high school level. Currently working during the summer recreation season for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Natural Resources Management section. Beginning a part-time position with the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency as a science consultant during the school year. Both leave plenty of time to fish, golf, and hunt!”

Mark Brackin  
304 West Laurel  
Gillette, WY 82718  
e-mail: mbrackin@cvn.com  

Graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as a Science Teacher with the Campbell County School District. “After 30 years of teaching Astronomy, Earth Science and Chemistry at the High School and 27 years of teaching night classes in Physical and Historical Geology, I am retiring. I plan on buying a walking stick and hitting any teenager that gets close enough to touch! Seriously, my wife and I plan on traveling full time in our RV and visiting all of the places on her list and the places I have taught about but not yet seen. Clear skies.”

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

Graduated in 1972 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as an Executive Director with the Lewis and Clark Museum. I taught Earth Science for 30 years in St. Charles, retiring in 2002. Since then I’ve been working part-time at the Lewis and Clark Museum as Director of Education and have recently been appointed executive director of the facility. My wife, Teri, (UNI ’73) retired as an elementary teacher in 2003. Our son, Dan, is an aerial photographer and computer programmer for Surredex Corporation; son, Jon, is a student at Southern Illinois University.”

Craig Davis  
39 Falling Star Court  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
e-mail: craigbdavis@houston.rr.com  

Graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Geologist with Newfield Exploration Company. “I have been working on numerous projects in China for the past year. I am now a veteran China traveler, having eaten things I have never heard—like sand worms (slimy but satisfying). In October we are headed out to far western China to review data on some potential new blocks in the Tarim basin. Judging from Google Earth it should be reminiscent of ISU field camp in the Big Horn Basin, WY. On the family side we now have 8 granddaughters and 1 lone grandson. I still have 4 kids in college and therefore will have to work until I am 70. My oldest son, Ben, is at The University of Texas. He is defending his MS in geology this next week. He did a structural thesis in some newly opened Precambrian aged talc mines near Van Horn, TX. Very interesting and difficult...”
geology. I spent last Thanksgiving week in the field with him reviewing the geology. He will be presenting his work at the GSA convention in Philadelphia in October. So if you are there go listen to his talk.”

Mary Hogan
2490 4th Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
e-mail: maryhoganwbl@yahoo.com
Graduated in 1979 with B.A.s in Earth Science Teaching and Geology. Currently retired. “Call or visit anytime.”

Jim Janssen
1020 4th St. SW
Waverly, IA 50677
e-mail: jansseni@waverly-shellrock.k12.ia.us
Graduated in 1972 with a B.A. in Geology and in 1980 with a M.A. Currently employed as Director of Curriculum & Staff Development for Waverly-Shell Rock School District. “The Janssen’s continue to enjoy good health, satisfying jobs, and a keen interest in UNI. It is pleasing to see UNI’s graduates doing very well.”

Leslie Knapp
10583 Boundary Creek Terrace
Maple Grove, MN 55269
e-mail: leslie.knapp@earthtech.com
Graduated in 1975 with a B.A. and in 1977 with a M.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Program Director with Earth Tech, Inc. “We still live in Maple Grove, MN just north of the Twin Cities. Jeff is teaching geology and geography at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Century College. He is leading another field trip to the Black Hills and Badlands this summer. Leslie is still leading the environmental group for Earth Tech’s Minneapolis office. Our daughter, Jenny, is a senior at the University of MN-Duluth and studying History and Foreign Studies this year. She will be getting a degree in International Studies, History, and Foreign Studies this year. Jenny spent last year’s spring semester studying at James Cook University in Cairns, AUS, such a tough life. I had to go visit while she was there, also tough duty. Our son, Jon, is also going to school at UMD and is taking science courses. He has even informed me about majoring in biology or geology. Since both of our hockey players have moved on, I decided to pick up the puck and start playing on a Women’s Hockey Association of Minnesota team called “Babe’s on Blades.” It is great fun.”

Robert (Bob) Lancaster
5094 Rockcress Ct
Marion, IA 52302
e-mail: bob@wildflowersphotography.com
Graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1976 with a M.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as owner of Lancaster Consulting, Inc. “I am a proud, 1st time grandfather. My daughter, Jennifer, (UNI ’01) and her husband Tony (UNI ’02) had a baby girl in July. Adam (UNI ’03) is in his 3rd year studying Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State. I am happy to report that both businesses are doing well. My photography continues to win awards and contests, including an exhibit at the Old Capitol Museum in Iowa City entitled, “The Animals Among Us”. I hope everyone is doing well.”

Deborah L. Miller
4921 NE 38th Street
Des Moines, IA 50317
e-mail: debmiller1@aol.com
Graduate in 1974 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed in Specialist Quality Assurance and Testing with Nationwide Insurance. “I have experienced many delightful high points since the last newsletter. My husband, Denny, has retired from high school teaching, so we have more time to travel now. We went on a 14-day tour of China in October 2005: Great Wall, Forbidden City, Ming Tombs, Terra Cotta soldiers, tea farms, acupressure and more. We then cruised last March around San Juan, St. Thomas, and Haiti. We snorkeled and toured the sites on the islands. I had cataract surgery in June, so all the color and clarity is back for me to enjoy. I still have central vision blindness, but I don’t let it slow me down. I still teach people how to test software and recently presented two breakout sessions at a Quality Assurance symposium on the things to look for when reviewing software requirements. I have one grandchild, Colin, who is 1 ½ years old. He is a happy boy and the pride of his grandma.”

James Sass
535 St. George
Dubuque, IA 52003
Graduated in 1972 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as President of Peerless Service Co. “Have been involved in water supply industry since 1972. Peerless Service installs and maintains large capacity deep well turbine pumps for industrial and municipal accounts throughout the Midwest. The ethanol industry is a current high growth market for our contracting service. I am married to wife, Diane, who is Deputy Director of the Dubuque Museum of Art. We have 3 children and 2 grandkids.”

Larry Smith
16467 Noble Point Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
e-mail: ljsmith@brooksrangepetro.com
Graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently employed as Chief Geophysicist with Brooks Range Petroleum Corp. “I started working late last year for a new independent oil company.
Ken Thompson
2801 Westlake Dr.
Emporia, KS 66801

e-mail: kthompson@emporia.edu

Graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching and in 1985 with a M.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Professor in the Earth Science Department/Departments of Physical Sciences at Emporia State University. “Wife Deb (B.A. ’78, UNI) teaches at Timmerman Elementary and is completing her 28th year of teaching. She satisfies her fine arts interests by playing the piano and volunteering to assist with Emporia High School theatre and music groups. Son Tyler will graduate from Emporia High School this academic year. He keeps busy with his involvement in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Currently, his college plans are to pursue a degree in chemical engineering with a medical emphasis. Of course, his parents hope college scholarship dollars are headed his way! I am now a full professor. Like many in education, including higher education, I find it a challenge to come up with the time in a day needed to complete all expected duties. I am the faculty advisor for the ESU NSTA Student Chapter. A couple of manuscripts of which I am a co-author are set to appear soon in the Journal of Geoscience Education and the Journal of Science Teacher Education. I look forward to reading news about the UNI Earth Science Department past and present faculty and staff plus its many graduates. We enjoy the Flint Hills. If you are ever traveling south on Interstate 35, please stop. Finally, the check is in the mail!”

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. I have just become an Accredited green star professional which is project managing for Environmental Sustainable Design in Building Works. We build government offices, schools, hospitals, police stations, etc. Finally, a way to combine my Art Science and Architecture. David and I still live on our yacht and hope to head off sailing again some day soon.”

Kim (Ploeger) Buelt
7523 Quail Trail NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
e-mail: kbuelt@linnmarr.k12.ia.us

Graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Earth Science Education and in 1993 with a M.A. in Science Education. Currently employed as a Chemistry Teacher with the Linn-Mar Community Schools. “I am in my 18th year at Linn-Mar. Teaching Chemistry, department chair and cheerleading coach. I am also going back to school for my second Masters, in Educational Leadership this time. My son is 13, in the 7th grade and loves all areas of science, of course!”

Pat Lyman
1108 Floral Court
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: BS89@aol.com

Graduated in 1989 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Product Development Technician with John Deere. “Getting closer to retirement, eligible February ’07. Shooting more, golfing not at all. Kidney disease made some major gains on me this past year but I am still here and upright. Stop in and visit if you are in the area. Hope all is well with all of you.”

Brad Muhlenbruck
2043 13th St.
Coralville, IA 52241

e-mail: bmuhlenbruck@cc-amana.k12.ia.us

Graduated in 1984 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a high school science teacher. “I am presently in my 23rd year of teaching, the last 18 at Clear Creek Amana. Our district has grown tremendously during that time and I now teach Physics, Chemistry and Astronomy. I have been married to my wife, Gretchen, for 7 years and we both enjoy the Iowa City area, especially during football season.”

Lee Potter
2628 Cottage Row
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

e-mail: leepotter@uninet.edu

Graduated in 1984 with a B.A. in Geology. Currently teaching at UNI. (see faculty/staff section for additional information)
Jim Schneider  
2324 Leonardo St.  
Davis, CA 95618  
e-mail: csotis@sbcglobal.net

Graduated in 1986 with a B.A. in Geology.  
Currently employed as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-NRCS. “I’m still working as a Soil Conservationist in Dixon, CA. Really enjoy my job helping farmers/ranchers protect the natural resources. We have been in CA for 7 years now. We said we would only stay 3 but if you can handle all the people CA does have a lot to offer. Now I decided I’m not leaving till I feel an earthquake. My wife, Colleen, works for the same USDA agency but in a different office. Our boys are 7 and 5. Brian is into bugs and Jake skateboards. My brother (76) still lives in NE Iowa so he keeps me up to date on UNI news. Best to everyone.”

Aaron Spurr  
533 Fireside Dr.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
e-mail: aaron.spurr@uni.edu

Graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 1997 with a M.A. Currently employed as an Instructor of Teaching and Science Education at the Price Lab School. “This is my 9th year teaching at Price Lab School at the University of Northern Iowa. I currently teach Earth Science and photography and keep the school web site and other servers running. I also teach Current Technologies in Science Teaching for Science Education each semester. Our oldest child, William, is now 9 years old, and Sarah is 4. They’re total opposites, which makes life fun and interesting. I still enjoy doing photography and ham radio as hobbies. This last summer I started home beer brewing and have been having a lot of fun with that.”

Jeff Tisl  
506 Easy St.  
West Union, IA 52175  
e-mail: jeff.tisl@idals.state.ia.us

Graduated in 1985 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as the Northeast Iowa Regional Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship—Division of Soil Conservation. “I currently live in the hills of Northeast Iowa, otherwise known as God’s Country. Career wise, I now assist Iowa’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other conservation groups to gain better access to various federal and state funding programs to provide local initiatives with additional (temporary) technical and administrative staff. In many cases, these opportunities may also provide participating students with additional experiences to include in future resumes.”

1990s

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

Graduated in 1997 with a B.S. in Geology.  
Currently employed as an AGI Congressional Science Fellow with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in Washington, DC. “Earlier this year, I applied for and received the American Geological Institute’s 2006-2007 Congressional Science Fellowship. Despite my contentment with my position as an Exploration Geologist at ExxonMobil, I packed up a small subset of my life and moved to Washington DC in late August. The summer was busy as I prepared for the move and my upcoming wedding (I’m getting married the day after Thanksgiving this November). My partner, also a geologist, has stayed behind in Houston to maintain his career and our home there. In the meantime, he and I commute between Washington DC and Houston every 2-3 weeks. Upon moving here and completing a two-week orientation program with the AAAS (publishers of the journal Science), I interviewed with various offices on Capitol Hill. I was offered and accepted a job with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This is a one-year appointment that will go through the fall of 2007. During this year, I will be working on policy related to the reduction of venting and flaring of natural gas, biofuels (such as ethanol), carbon sequestration, and a variety of other topics. So far, the experience has been eye-opening and quite exciting. I work with some exceptionally bright people and there isn’t a day that passes where I don’t learn something new about our government, science policy or just the politics of the day. If you find yourself in D.C. in the next year, please look me up, as I would be happy to show you around D.C.”

Barbara Berquam  
2202 Yorkshire Drive  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
e-mail: baberquam@cfu.net

Graduated in 1991 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as an Emergency Management Coordinator with the Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission. “As of September 2006, I am the Black Hawk Co. Emergency Management Coordinator, which is a job change for me. On the home front, I enjoy digging in the dirt planting perennials and annuals. Our garden displays year around color, with flowers in bloom from March-November. Lots of rock in the garden too—a small, almost-natural outcropping of limestone around the ponds, limestone wall stone terraces, Colorado sandstone patio, a few glacial
erratics here, a few fossils there, a scattering of geodes. For the garden, the rocks provide structure. For me, the rocks carry lots of memories of friends, fieldtrips, and great years at UNI in the Earth Science Department.”

Bradley Block
12031 Whispering Pines Drive
Custer, SD 57730

E-mail: bcblock@gwtc.net
Graduated in 1993 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Chief of Interpretation with the State of SD at Custer State Park. “Bradley continues his interpretive and educational services career with Custer State Park for his tenth year. This past year witnessed several exhibit projects, such as a multi-panel interpretive signage assignment along one of the park’s trails. A historical site dating back to 1874 also received interpretive signs, depicting the cultural changes within the Black Hills. And finally, he has been working on an in-house project within one of the park’s visitor centers. Along with serving as the park’s Chief of Interpretation, he has also been elected for his third (and final) term as Director for Region 5, associated with the National Association for Interpretation. He has recently become active with the South Dakota Parks and Recreation Association. Adding to his portfolio, he has conducted several presentations for park staff within his home state, along with interpretive peers across the Midwest. Bradley’s family has not increased, yet his kids (Logan and Darian) have kept him and his wife (Cherri) busy. Logan just entered 1st grade and thoroughly loves the academic season. Darian, on the other hand, began preschool this year and would rather be outdoors hiking. In Bradley’s “spare” time, he volunteers as an assistant football coach for the local varsity football team...making for a nice break from park visitors. Like past submissions, if anyone happens to be in western South Dakota, give Bradley a call. He and his wife (also an UNI alumni) enjoy visiting with past college buddies.”

Melinda Carriker
2833 E. 57th Ct.
Des Moines, IA 50317

E-mail: minnamell@aol.com
Graduated in 1997 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Supervisor of Native American/Ioway Farm with Living History Farms. “I have been learning more about native plants in Iowa and the uses they once had. I am also planting some of them at work and at home. It is a great feeling to plant items that are guaranteed to thrive in the Iowa climate, that do not need a great deal of maintenance, look really nice, and help out the wildlife as well.”

Micah Cutler
1612 Linden Ave.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

E-mail: mecutler@gmail.com
Graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in Geography. Currently employed as a GIS Coordinator for Hardin and Franklin Counties. “Well, we’ve moved back from western Iowa and landed in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Though technically in north central Iowa, it’s less than an hour from UNI. Go Panthers! It’s nice to be back in Panther territory. I’ve taken a position as GIS Coordinator for both Hardin County and Franklin County. Coordinating the GIS efforts for two counties has provided some new challenges and great rewards. I continue to be active in both the Iowa Geographic Information Council and the Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization, an affiliate of the Iowa State Association of Counties. We are excited about the upcoming statewide LiDAR acquisition that will be taking place in the next couple of years. This is an exciting time for GIS in Iowa. My husband and sons continue to bring me great joy as we start a new chapter in our family in central Iowa.”

Paul de Neuvi
205 2nd St. NE
State Center, IA 50247

E-mail: pdeneui@pc-1.w-marshall.k12.ia.us

Angie Erhardt
21563 180th St.
Holland, IA 50642

E-mail: angie.erhardt@tetratech.com
Graduated in 1998 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Project Manager/Environmental Scientist with Tetra Tech. “I’ve worked at Tetra Tech (which was formerly known as Maxim Technologies) for 7 years, as a certified groundwater professional with the State of Iowa. Chad and I have a little boy. Elliott is almost 2 years old. Hope everyone else is doing well.”

Jennifer M. (Weber) Erich
4221 Rose
Houston, TX 77007

Graduated in 1996 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a prospector with ExxonMobil. “Greetings fellow alumni! I have recently switched positions within ExxonMobil away from petrophysics and more towards prospecting. I am working in a mature field in the Gulf of Mexico and there are plenty of opportunities left to drill, but they are increasingly more difficult to reach. In February 2007 Andy and I are expecting our first child so I will be taking several months off for maternity leave. So far, everything is going well and...”
I am looking forward to the new challenges that parenthood will bring!”

Cindy Freiberg
1109 Maple Ave.
Osage, IA 50461
e-mail: cindyfreiberg@yahoo.com

Graduated in 1994 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Sales Supervisor with Gemini Inc. “Jim and I have relocated back to Iowa, hoping it is our last move with the new home we purchased. I have lots of room for rocks and animals. Our children have all remained in Minnesota at jobs and homes they moved to. We spend a lot of time driving to see the kids and grandsons. Amy and Jeremy have Isaac and Noah who will be 5 and 3 this coming year. They love camping and the outdoors. Jody and Nate are in St. Cloud so this gives us a good reason to go north several times each season. Their son, Ayden, is 18 months and loves fishing already and camping also. I figure to immerse them in the great outdoors early on so I have my little scientists when they go to school. Tory is Katy and Greg’s son and they live in Apple Valley. He will be 4 soon and also loves fishing and camping. We spend a lot of time, as in previous years, at Hayward Wisconsin and the North Shore. I have some samples for our labs to bring down the next time I get thru Cedar Falls. Hope everyone has had a good year and call or email me if you have news about your families. Best wishes to everyone at the Earth Science offices and around the country.”

Gaylen Hiesterman
2110 Rownd Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: gaylen.hiesterman@tetratech.com

Graduated in 1992 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as an Office Manager with Terra Tech., Inc. “Margaret and I have kept busy enjoying our son, Savoy, as he turns four this year. We’ve enjoyed camping, boating, fishing and even some rock hunting in the last year. Margaret recently took on the role as Finance Director for the YWCA of Black Hawk County. I am the Office Manager for Terra Tech’s (formerly Maxim Technologies) Waterloo office and continue to work on environmental site assessments and remediation projects in Iowa.”

Eric Niemann
305 W. Broadway
Plattsburg, MO 64477
e-mail: eniemann@mn-a.net

Graduated in 1990 with a B.A. in Science and a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as an Erosion and year here...yikes! In my free time I coach basketball and club volleyball.”

Amy Freiberg Miller
314 Langford Ave.
Kenyon, MN 55946
e-mail: mom2isaacnoah@yahoo.com

Graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a PC Manager with Marathon Multimedia. “I have been with Marathon Multimedia (www.marathonmultimedia.com) for seven years now and have enjoyed some work travel this past year to San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Durham. The company has expanded recently with the acquisition of DBPub (Boston, MA) as well as new product offerings. I was recently promoted to managing our project coordinator staff who are the daily contacts to the medical societies we work with. The company manages the research/abstract collection process for medical societies from around the world, and provides this research publicly through publications, CD’s, online sites, as well as webcasts. On the homefront things are also busy as usual. We added a boat to the household this year, so with a boat and camper now we really feel as if we have adapted to MN life! Isaac started full-time Pre-School this fall and really enjoys it (although it probably helps that his teacher Ms. Jenny is also his Aunt Jenny). Noah is now 2 ½ and is a very outgoing child that enjoys entertaining anyone who will give him the time. Our family enjoyed camping trips this summer to Hickory Hills, Backbone, Hayward, WI, and Adventureland. Feel free to drop an email anytime and have a happy holiday season!”
Sediment Control Inspector for the City of Lee's Summit. “I recently completed year seven as Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector for the City of Lee’s Summit, Missouri. The job continues to present new challenges, however, my interest has tapered-off. After seven years of testing new communication and cooperation strategies, an exit plan is in order. In fact, I’ll be back in school in a couple of months preparing for my next career, in which I will be a Funeral Director. My son Joseph is a sophomore at Lee’s Summit West High School. He will turn 16 on Dec 4. He wants a car—go figure. My wife, Teresa, is an RN in a clinic at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.”

Mike and Cynthia Stevens
617 E. Felix
Marshall, MO 65340
e-mail: mstevens68@sbcglobal.net

Mike graduated in 1992 with a M.A. in Science Education; Cynthia graduated in 1993 with a B.A. in Earth Science Natural History Interpretation. Mike is currently employed as an 8th grade Science Teacher with the Marshall school system. Cynthia is currently a Tourist Assistant at Van Meter State Park. “I’ve been rather busy as of late and notice I should’ve typed a lot sooner. But, better late than never. After 13 years of teaching a Malta Bend, I’m now a rookie teacher again. As summer vacation began, I was offered an 8th grade science position here in Marshall. So, instead of being the “department,” I’m sharing responsibilities with another teacher. Also, going from a K-12 school with about 120 students to an 8th grade class with over 200 students has been different. Still teaching evenings at Missouri Valley College and writing materials for the Missouri’s Department of Education. Cynthia has gone through some changes at work as well. The remodeling work that started last year has now been completed at the Visitor Center. And with the end of the work came a name change, the building is now called Missouri’s American Indian Cultural Center. Still getting things organized out there, but for the most part the building is ready for visitors. As for our four-legged kids, they’re still a source of good entertainment and are always glad to see both of us when we come home. However, some times stepping on balls from Cody, bones from Britney, or things that have been brought in the middle of the night from Sam are at times experiences that are a little inconvenient. That’s about it from here. Take it easy.”

Carrie Thorpe
17611 W. East Wind Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338
e-mail: frisbee23@cox.net

Graduated in 1998 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a cook, maid, teacher, nurse, and friend with her family. “This year has been big. We’ve decided to homeschool our two children (Dylan-6 and Amanda-4) and I have started a graduate program at the University of Arizona. I’m working on my M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science. My husband is busy being a professor of economics. So, in the words of my best friend, we’ve got a lot of learning going on here. Other than that, we’re excited to see how the Chase for the Cup plays out. Since we only live a few minutes from the track, we’ve become Nascar enthusiasts. Boogity Boogity Boogity.”

Keri Aufdencamp
8337 Emerson Ave. S
Bloomington, MN 55420
e-mail: drnne@k12.sha.us

Graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as an Environmental Specialist Senior with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. “We have a new addition to our family! Morgan Ann was born on September 3. Taylor enjoys being the big sister and wants to help with Morgan all the time."

Scott Beason
416 G St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: scott@beezer.com

Graduate in 2005 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently an Environmental Science graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa. “Hello everyone! Since graduation from Earth Science program, I was accepted into the M.S. Environmental Science program at UNI. I am conducting my research on the implications of aggradation on major braided river channels at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Aggradation is the increase of bed height in a river channel over time due to sedimentation. Braided rivers at the park increase around 6-12 inches per decade on average due to this process. Hopefully, I’ll be graduating in May, 2007. The end of college is looking near and now begins the interesting process of finding a full time job. I hope to find something in the hydrology realm, preferably out west somewhere. I can’t wait to be done, but I’m going to miss the people in the department! I hope everyone is doing well!”

Jonnie Becker
314 Andrews St.; P.O. Box 411
Nashua, IA 50658
e-mail: jbecker@greene.k12.ia.us

Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Science Teacher with the Greene Community Schools. “I just got a new job teaching physics, chemistry, and
physical science at North Butler High School in Greene, IA. I was also selected to be in the UNI PRISST program to get certified to teach Physics so I will be on campus next summer to finish the program. I am still working on my masters in Science Education at UNI as well. However, all that is going a little slow since the arrival of my first child. Leah Arlene Becker joined my life on April 16, 2006. She was my little Easter egg! I thought that whole process was going to be the end of me, but I made it and am considering having more....EEK!!! Charlie and I are still doing the golf course thing as well so if you are ever in the area and want to hit a few, our club, Raleigh Hill, is a nice little get away. I was also blessed to receive two honors last year, The Golden Apple Teaching Award, and the Who’s Who Among American Teachers both of which come from student nominations. If you want to check out what is happening in Becker’s world of science Google my name and you’ll find my HUGE web page.”

**Kristen Borseth**
12720 Sunflower Dr.  
Urbandale, IA 50323  
e-mail: [krisborseth@yahoo.com](mailto:krisborseth@yahoo.com)

Graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Programs Coordinator and Interpreter for the Science Center of Iowa. “I had another great summer working in Washington at Mount Rainier National Park as a Park Ranger. Recently I came back to Iowa to a full time job at the Science Center of Iowa as a Program Presenter/Interpreter and now Programs Coordinator.”

**Matthew Boyce**  
2829 Dewey Ave, Apt. #104  
Norman, OK 73072  
e-mail: [mattheboyce@ou.edu](mailto:mattheboyce@ou.edu)

Graduated in 2004 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently a researcher’s assistant with the University of Oklahoma. “Most recently, I’ve been spending time finishing Master’s work in Geology at the University of Oklahoma with plans to move to Denver, Colorado, January 2007, to work with EnCana USA. My experience at OU has been as grand as my experience at UNI; I still am not ‘wise to the world,’ but feel I know a great deal more about geology than two years prior, specifically in the realm of stratigraphy. I can’t lie, life is passing fairly smoothly without grandiose disappointments or wonderful spectacular occurrences, thus, I can wrap up this message now with my best wishes to all of the UNI faculty, alumni, and students! Hope to be in touch with you in the future. Best, Matthew.”

**Jihyo Chong**  
1775 Evans Ave., #214  
Reno, NV 89512  
e-mail: [chongj3@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:chongj3@unr.nevada.edu)

Graduated in 2006 with a M.S. in Environmental Science program. Currently working on my PhD. “I am enjoying my new school life in Reno, NV. This is my second semester. Last spring it was hard for me to get used to the new school system as well as new classes. Now, I like this weather and this place. Even my daughter was born on December 17, 2005, and I am happy to see she is growing fast. Hopefully, I really want to get my degree in the near future as I planned, and finally, I want to work in an industry.”

**Paula Even**  
P.O. Box 135  
Gilbertville, IA 50634  
e-mail: [pmfeven@aol.com](mailto:pmfeven@aol.com)

Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 2005 with a M.A. in Environmental Science. Currently teaching at UNI. (see faculty/staff section for additional information)

**Amanda Fowler** (Late 2005 submission)  
410 12th Ave. NE #4  
Hampton, IA 50441  
e-mail: [amandajoflower@hotmail.com](mailto:amandajoflower@hotmail.com)

Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Geology and also a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a sub and long-term sub in teaching with the Hampton Community School District. “My family and I just recently moved to Hampton because my husband transferred to the Hampton Fareway store from the Marshalltown Fareway store. We have two children, Emma Grace is 2½ years old and Alyssa Gabrielle is 1 year old. I am enjoying being a stay-at-home mother and substitute teaching. I will be long term subbing next spring for eight weeks at the Hampton Middle School for 7th grade science. This will be a great experience and an opportunity to get my foot in the door for future positions.”

**Breanna Hennessy**  
1990 Wyoming Ave. #15  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001  
e-mail: [breanna_hennessey@yahoo.com](mailto:breanna_hennessey@yahoo.com)

Graduated in 2006 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently a graduate student and working as a teaching assistant at New Mexico State University. “After completing Field Camp through Oklahoma State University in the Summer of 2006, I started my first semester of graduate school in Geology at New Mexico State University. My thesis work will involve field mapping in the Flinders Range, part of the true Australian Outback. I will be mapping an area around the Wirrealpa diapir which includes abundant Archaeocyathid reef complexes and dolomite which replaced the salt in the diapir. I will begin my field work in June 2007 and continue it throughout the summer. I also work as a teaching
assistant in the Department of Geological Sciences for the Introduction Geology lab which keeps me busy grading papers and preparing for class. Other than that I am just enjoying the fabulous southwestern U.S. weather and all that Las Cruces has to offer. Take care and see you around the next outcrop!"

Aaron Janssen
15135 Memorial Dr. #2303
Houston, TX 77079
e-mail: aaron.l.janssen@conocophillips.com

Graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed with ConocoPhillips. In a message to one of our faculty Aaron wrote that he is getting married the weekend of Nov. 4, 2006. Aaron, Congratulations and Best Wishes from the UNI Earth Science Department!

Jill (McGinnis) Jones
435 Annette Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445
e-mail: jonesji@berkeley.k12.sc.us

Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science, and in 2004 with a B.A. in Education. Currently employed as a Science Teacher with the Berkeley County School District. “I have taught Physical Science for 1 ½ years at Fort Dorchester High School teaching ninth grade students. I am currently teaching 7th grade science at Berkeley Middle School. I just had a daughter, named Hailey, three months ago. I am currently living in South Carolina and enjoying teaching middle school students.”

Kelly Kaleta
6203 Marble Hollow Lane
Katy, TX 77450
e-mail: kelly.kaleta@shell.com

Graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Geologist—Alaska Exploration Team with Shell Exploration and Production Company. “Another busy year has gone by...Still working for Shell’s Alaska Exploration team and enjoying lots of travel both for work and for fun. Hubby and I just moved to the ‘burbs, and love living in our new home...outside of the city. Hope everyone is doing well; y’all should give a shout if you’re ever down in Houston!”

Jesse Koch
3459 Oak Hill Dr.
North Liberty, IA 52317
e-mail: jesse-koch@uiowa.edu

Graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently a graduate student at the University of Iowa. “My wife, Ambr, and I will both be graduating from the University of Iowa in the Spring of 2007. Along with my academic responsibilities, I am also the head teaching assistant for the Earth History course with over 250 students. I enjoy teaching and interacting with students and I hope to do so in the future. I’m in the midst of finishing my M.S. thesis on the sequence stratigraphy of the Dakota Formation in southeastern Nebraska. My future prospects are scattered all over the country at the moment. I am considering four PhD schools (Nebraska, Kansas, Alaska, and Penn State) to continue my work in sequence stratigraphy and paleoenvironment reconstructions. I am also considering taking an academic hiatus from getting my PhD and going to work in the energy industry for a few years. Job opportunities have arisen with ExxonMobil, and Ambr and I are considering a possible move to Houston, Texas when we graduate. At this point, the only thing we know is that we have to pack and move next spring. I have to say that I truly miss the Earth Science Department at UNI. I can’t forget the school (and excellent professors) that taught me the fundamentals of geology. No matter where Ambr and I end up, we will always stay in touch.”

Andrew J. Kuker
1809 West 5th St., Apt #5
Storm Lake, IA 50588
e-mail: akuker@slesd.org OR
mr_kuker@hotmail.com

Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Chemistry/Physics teacher in the Storm Lake High School. “I’ve been teaching for three years at Storm Lake High School. My teaching curriculums consist of chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, and Integrated Science. I also have headed the participation for the Physics Olympics and have taken students to NASA with the help of our AEA. I coach freshman basketball, JV tennis, and 7th grade volleyball. I recently got married to Brooke Freeman, June 16th, 2006. She is also a teacher in the district.”

Charlotte (Campagna) McDermott
300 Turtledove Lane NE
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
e-mail: cmcdermott@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Earth Science and in 2005 completed my teaching certificate. Currently employed as an Earth and Physical Science Teacher with Linn Mar Community Schools. “Hello! This year has been full of change. I finished my teaching certificate through UNI in December 2005, and accepted a part-time teaching position through Linn-Mar Community schools at their alternative high school in the spring of 2006. I then accepted a full-time teaching position for the high school around the end of the school year last year teaching an Earth and Physical Science class for the 2006-2007 school year. I got married this summer, and went to the Bahamas on our honeymoon, which was fantastic. My husband,
Adam, and I are also expecting a baby at the end of December of this year, so our life will be full of even more changes. Hope you all are doing well, talk to you soon!

Kari Newcomb  
2023 Crescent Dr. #8  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
e-mail: Karin(@.uni.edu  
Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Science Teacher at Columbus High School. “I am currently in my third year of teaching high school science at Columbus High School, in Waterloo, IA. I have also returned to UNI to pursue my Master’s degree in Earth Science Education. On April 14, 2007, I will be getting married to Matt Schmidt, also an Earth Science alum.”

Jack Northrup  
3720 Florence Blvd  
Omaha, NE 68110  
e-mail: jlnorthrup@fbx.com  
Graduated in 2001 with a B.A. in Earth Science Teaching. Currently employed as a Planetarium Director with the Omaha Public Schools. “I have started to branch out the planetarium program a little bit this year. I have added a new course called IT Essentials that works with students to find and fix problems with computers and other IT devices. Also we are doing some work with robotics now—the students are designing and building accessories for the robots. We are working on some robots that are similar to the mars rovers to drive around the school. This fall I was the co-host for the Western Alliance Conference of Planetariums (WAC). Planetariums from across the USA were invited and it was quite a powerful networking session. I was amazed with the interest that my students had with all the people visiting our planetarium.”

David M. Suchan  
3315 Mt. Vernon Dr.  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
e-mail: dmsuchan@hotmail.com AND dmsuchan@uni.edu  
Graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as a Physical Geography Lab Instructor at the University of Northern Iowa. “I have continued my education at UNI, pursuing a M.A. in Environmental Geography. I have been a teacher’s assistant and research assistant in the past year. I have discovered a passion for teaching and one day hope to teach at the junior college level.”

Shawn Thomas  
420 10th Ave. NW  
Waverly, IA 50677  
e-mail: shawn_c.thomas@yahoo.com  
Graduated in 2001 with a B.S. in Geology. Currently employed as a Park Guide/Ranger with the National Park Service. “I am currently working seasonally for the National Park Service, with a specific focus on cave parks. I spent the past summer in the Black Hills of South Dakota at Jewel Cave National Monument, where I guided all cave tours offered by the park. Outside of work, I participated in exploration efforts at Jewel Cave and Wind Cave, which are now the 2nd and 4th longest caves in the world, respectively. My most recent exploration trip was a 4-day expedition into Jewel Cave, with the purpose of surveying at the far edge of the known cave system. I am spending the winter season at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, where I will offer guided cave tours and present interpretive programs on the geology of the Guadalupe Mountains. Aside from caving projects within Carlsbad Caverns, I will also have the chance to assist with the exploration of Lechuguilla Cave, considered by many to be the most significant cave discovery of the 20th century. Best wishes to the Department and Earth Science Alumni!”

Jared Trullinger  
1917 Delwood Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
e-mail: canyoufeelit@hotmail.com  
Graduated in 2000 with a B.A. in Earth Science. Currently employed as an Adjunct Instructor and Part-time Advisor with Eastern Iowa CCD and William Penn University. “My wife, Amy, and I still live in Iowa City, and we are expecting our first child in the spring. I continue to work for the Eastern Iowa Community College District and William Penn University, teaching courses in humanities, religion, ethics, and philosophy. In addition, I advise students on a part-time basis for Scott Community College of the EICCD. At this point, I am also nearing completion of my coursework toward the Ph.D. in higher education administration at Illinois State University, and I am scheduled for comprehensive exams this fall.”
A DECADE AGO, Ken De Nault's daughter, Lisa Keehner, then a veterinary student, called him about a timber wolf. Buck, who had been chained in an abandoned feedlot, was near death from mistreatment. Someone was needed to oversee his recovery.

De Nault, a geologist, told himself his plate was full: his fieldwork travel schedule was fully booked, as were the geology courses he taught as an associate professor at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. The last thing he needed was an emaciated wolf (Buck weighed just 51 pounds—he's a svelte 120 now) suffering from injuries, mange, malnutrition and parasites.

Despite misgivings that befriending a wolf might be "the stupidest thing I've ever done in my life," De Nault brought Buck home. And the wolf enriched the man's life in ways he never could have imagined.

Buck recovered and became an instructional animal. He and De Nault have visited schools, care facilities and youth programs across the United States, appearing before more than 200,000 people. Wolves are often portrayed in myths and folklore as evil creatures. De Nault believes Buck's work helps dispel this misinformation.

"Everywhere Buck has gone, he's been an ambassador for wolves," he says.

Buck's greatest impact has been with abused children, who find his story especially inspiring. "I show them his scars—his ears where they were eaten off by flies—and I say 'bad things happen.' The natural response to mistreatment—for any creature, wolf or human—is to get angry," De Nault says. "We can choose to let our anger control us or we can, like Buck, say, 'Whoa, glad that's over. Now let's get on with life.'"

De Nault takes Buck with him to work, where the trickster likes to hide books and play ball with students. The wolf also accompanies him to the track—De Nault's hobby is racing Formula Mazda cars. Buck has become a minor celebrity at the track and has an ESPN sports pass, complete with an identifying paw print, that gains him access to restricted areas.

Working together, De Nault and Buck have educated many humans about wolves. Though many are wary of the animals, the National Wildlife Federation states that there has never been a documented case of a healthy, unprovoked wolf killing a human in North America. "We have a lot of prejudices about animals," De Nault says, "but none are as wrong as our beliefs about wolves."

— NATALIE PEARSON

Reprinted with permission by Stanford Magazine.