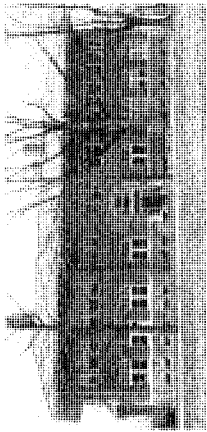
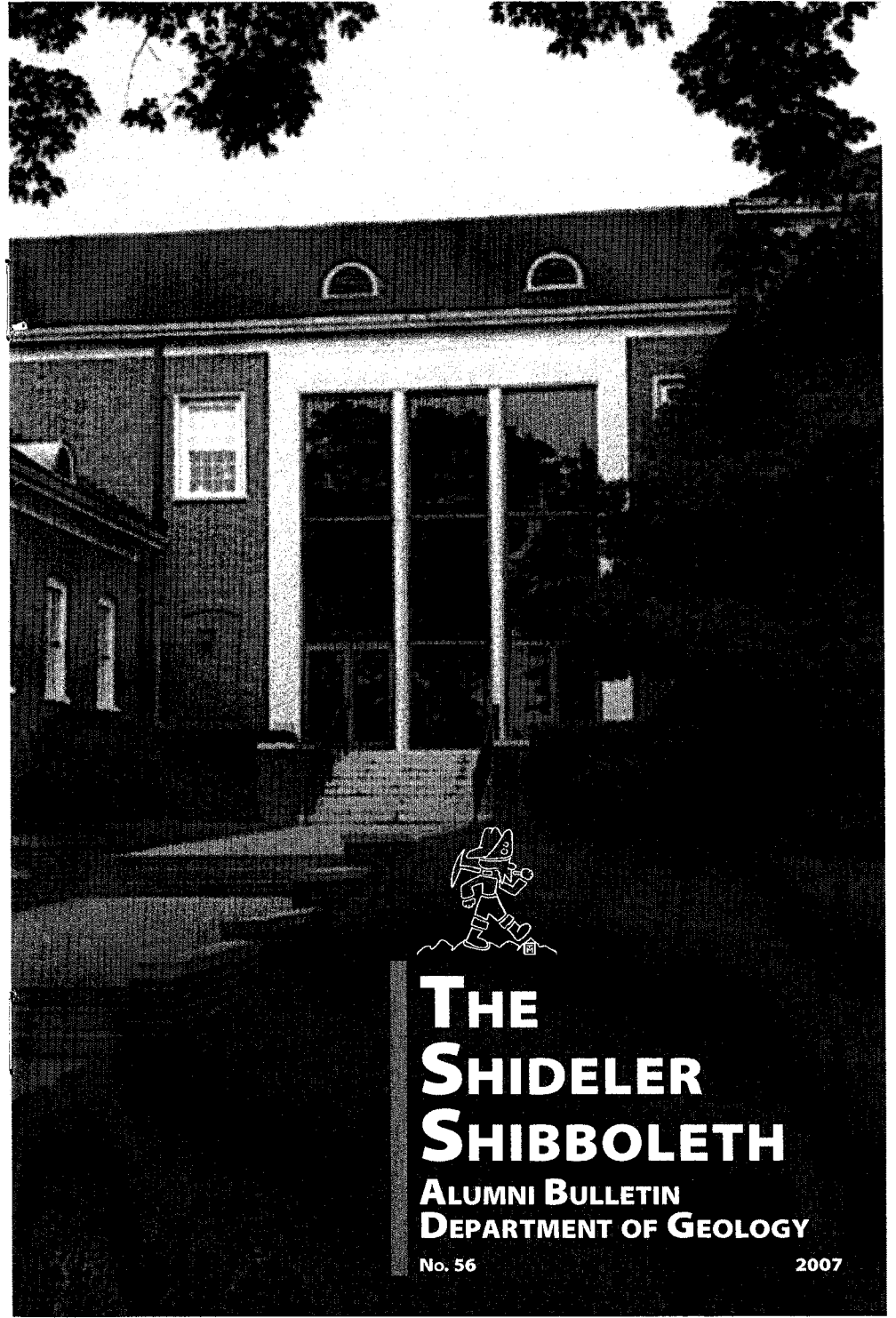


DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
114 SHIDELER HALL
MIAMI UNIVERSITY
OXFORD, OHIO 45056

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THE SHIDELER SHIBBOLETH

ALUMNI BULLETIN
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

No. 56

2007

**Miami University Department of Geology
2006/2007 Faculty and Staff**

Mark R. Boardman – Professor & Director IES

Michael Brudzinski – Assistant Professor

Brian S. Currie – Associate Professor

Yildirim Dilek – Professor

Hailiang Dong – Associate Professor

Cathy Edwards – Master Administrative Assistant

Susan Flowers – GSAB Senior Program Assistant

William K. Hart – Professor & Chair

Kendall Hauer – Museum Director

Paul Holm – Visiting Assistant Professor

Jeanne Johnston – Accounting Associate

Kathryn Kilroy – Visiting Assistant Professor

Dave Kuentz – Visiting Instructor

Jonathan Levy – Associate Professor

John Rakovan – Associate Professor

Jason Rech – Assistant Professor

Janelle Sikorski – Visiting Instructor

Darin Snyder – Postdoctoral Associate

Elisabeth Widom – Associate Professor

**Miami University Department of Geology
Website Information**

Departmental Web Address

www.muohio.edu/geology

Field Station Web Address

www.muohio.edu/fieldgeology

Limper Museum Web Address

www.cas.muohio.edu/limpermuseum/

ALUMNI COMINGS AND GOINGS

(fill in sheet, tear out and return to)

**Cathy Edwards
Department of Geology
Miami University
Oxford, OH 45056**

NAME: _____

Last	First	Maiden/ Middle	Degree/ Yr. Rcd.
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NEW (since last report) Position, Address, Mate, Degree, Family Members?

OTHER NEWS (Please let us know what you have been doing):

Please return to us by May 31, 2008!!



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Cathy Edwards

Another year has passed so quickly! I've been here for over 15 years now and seen a lot of changes take place, not only in the department, but on campus as well. This past year saw the new hiring of our University President, a new Provost and our new Dean of the College of Arts and Science. At the same time many members of our department departed for "bigger and better" opportunities. Ninad Bondre just finished his doctoral degree and a Post-Doc with Dr. Hart and recently departed for a position with Nature Geoscience in London. Deb Jaisi, Dr. Dong's doctoral student, finished his degree and after mulling over 6 or 7 offers, decided to accept a Post-Doc at Yale. We also had to bid Kati Kilroy goodbye this year and personally, I am a bit envious. Kati will be doing a lot of international travel over the next year to some amazing places. I wish her all the best with whatever the future brings her!

This spring the department decided to forgo the Baldwin Frontiers in Geology Lecture in favor of moving the event to the fall semester. We will host the 6th annual Baldwin Frontiers in Geology Lecture on November 15, 2007. Please check back to our website (www.muohio.edu/geology) periodically for updates on location and lecture subject.

I just received some very exciting news from Drs. Dong and Rakovan who have been awarded \$600,000 from the National Science Foundation plus \$250,000 from Miami in matching funds, to obtain a new High-Resolution Analytical Transmission Electron Microscope. John Rakovan was so excited when the news came in he said he couldn't get any work done! We are all excited at this news and offer our congratulations to Hailiang and John on this award!

Life continues to race along despite my best efforts to slow it down a bit. Mitch (22) just finished his fourth year here at Miami and will graduate next May with a degree in Geography. Derek (19) has decided that continuing his education is not for him and thus has been working at Jaco Waterproofing for the past 3 months and seems to really enjoy it. They seal newly constructed and older homes against water intrusion, Tyvec wrap houses and brick flashing among other tasks.

Doug has suffered some health problems in the past year and all of his doctors collectively decided he needs to be put on disability. We are presently wading our way through all the red tape required to obtain benefits. I am still content with my position in the department and anticipate retiring from this very position in a little over 9 years. So until next year, I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Shideler Shibboleth and continue to keep us up-to-date on your activities.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIR

William K. Hart, Chair

Greetings from the Department of Geology! It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed so rapidly. At the Department level, this year has been a busy and successful one, as you will learn throughout the following pages. At the College and University levels this year continued as one of change; the first year with a new President and a new Dean of the College, and appointment of a new Dean of the Graduate School. In these dynamic and challenging times, it is indeed a pleasure and an honor to oversee the continued evolution and success of the Department, and to annually communicate to you the activities and achievements of our faculty, staff, and students.

Before briefly summarizing our annual activities I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the faculty, staff, and students for their hard work throughout the year. A number of key members of the department do not have individual "blurbs" later on, thus I would like to acknowledge their excellent contributions. First, our numerous visiting faculty/staff who have been instrumental in allowing us to meet the very high university-wide demands for introductory geology courses and have been contributing in numerous other teaching, research, and technical capacities. This year our cadre of visitors included Dr. Paul **Holm** (part-time visiting assistant professor), Dr. Kati **Kilroy** (visiting assistant professor), Dave **Kuentz** (instructor/isotope lab manager), and Janelle **Sikorski** (instructor). This was Kati's final year with us and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On the research side, John **Morton** (Geochemistry Technician) continues to keep a number of our preparation and instrumentation labs running and to train new users in various laboratory techniques. I also would like to acknowledge the important contributions of two postdoctoral fellows, Darin **Snyder** (Ph.D. 1995) and Ninad **Bondre** (Ph.D. 1996), and to wish them success as they move on in their careers; Darin as a research geochemist at Idaho National Laboratories and Ninad as an associate editor for Nature Geosciences in London. And, of course, we all are very grateful for the dedication and hard work of Cathy **Edwards** (Administrative Assistant) and Jeanne **Johnston** (Accounting Associate) who really are the ones running the show!

A Brief Summary of Activities

During the 2006-2007 academic year the Department of Geology furthered its strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate student learning, faculty and student scholarship, and professional activities and service. This year the department profile included nine full-time, in-house faculty (10 total), four visiting faculty, two research associates, two active emeritus faculty (**Martin** and **McWilliams**), four support personnel, 40 majors and minors, and 26 graduate students.

Nearly 225 students participated in department hosted thematic sequences and approximately 3,000 students were enrolled in Geology Miami Plan Foundation courses (GLG 111, 115.L, 121, 141). The department also offered two honors courses, Gems and Gem Mineral Formation (**Rakovan**) and Understanding the Earth (**Hart**), and a first-year seminar course Geology and Geopolitics of the Silk

David L. Giles '60 & '63
Jeffrey Goshorn '76
Mary Graham '38
Wilbert Grove '28 & '35
Timothy Gustafson '83
Ronald Grygo '62
Donald R. Hassell '72
George Henry, Jr. '67
Joseph Herbert '68
Kurt Herman '97
Jill Hipsley '84
Ronald Hood '69
Seth Horstmeyer '00
John Humphreys '94
Terrie Ireland '84
Donald Jessiman '44
Cynthia Barnhart John '74
Joseph A. Kelly '35
Scott R. Kindt '88
Mark Kochan '77
Thomas Kridler '82
Jacqueylynn Fritz Loomis '79
Jillian Lynch '01
Michael Madlen '60
Sue Ann Marshall-Roberts '84
Lillie Holton McGinnis '79
David McMonigle
Denis Meanor '76
John Metzger
Bruce E. Miller '69
Mark Miller '83
Phillip Molling '79
Austin F. Moore '79
Douglas Morell '73 & '78
Laura Lynn Morris '91
David Nielsen '74
Catharine Graves Norman '73
David Olson '82
Robert Overhuls '48
Gerald Peterson '51
Cyrus Porter '38
John W. Queen '86
Jacob Ratliff '83
Mary Gaston Rahn '74
Joseph Reese '50
Harriet Leeds Robison '60

Peter B. Schmidt '55
Jeannette Schmitz '00
Tim Seidl '60
Ronald Silver '73
Jack Slayton '51
Edgar Smith '71
William F. Smith '55
Walter Sonnichesen '40
John Spangler '51
Richard Stafford '51
Douglas Stewart '53
Betty Swartz '82
Frank Turner '48
Richard Tyszka
George Ulahos '39
Valerie Walker '74
James Warner
Jerry Weidner
Charlene K. White '88
Philip Wilcox '81
William R. Williamson '54
Josephine Wolter '48
James Young '59

**CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
TO THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT (June 1, 2006 through June 31, 2007)**

This list is presented alphabetically, with sincere thanks to all of you!

Anthony Albrecht	Greg & Carol Hatch
Chester Baker, Jr.	Frank & Claudette Herbert
Dwight & Barbara Baldwin	Richard Jackson
Charles Balyeat	Karen Johnson
Daniel Barnett	Louise Limper
Mark R. Boardman	Randy & Layne Listerman
Glen Brown	Wayne & Helen Martin
Michelle Croasdaile	Mary McPherson
David Eyler	David Schuster
William Fausey	Peter Selover
Gene Garrison	John Slack
Dallas & Serge Gonzales	Thomas Stephenson
Jane Granger	Craig & Bev Stichtenoth
Earl Harris, Jr.	William West
William K. Hart	

LOST ALUMNI

If anyone has information regarding a person(s) on this list, please let us know so that we can update our files and assure that these people continue to receive Departmental news

William Adams '78	R. Craig Butler '78
Wendy Ahlschlager, '73	Thomas Camp '68
Namik Atalan '70	C. Merlin Campbell '44
Valija Axelrod '65	Robert Carlson '54
Lina Balseiro '54	Chi-Jen Chang '49
Francisco Barrientos '57	Nicol Chojnowski '95
Kevin Bartol '89	Shannon Collier '99
Sheldon Bergman '51	Robert Cunningham '43
Elizabeth Keller Bishop '84	Philip Davis '74
Robert Bluhm '57	Lewis Davison '52
Katherine Boulger '75	Bonnie Blake Eberlin '81
David Bratton '83	Lawrence Evans '84
Thomas Brown '79	Jack Garbutt '36
Todd C. Brown '84	Satya Gargi '85

Road (**Dilek**). Field and laboratory experiences linked to many on-campus courses and field and/or lab intensive independent study commitments remained high. Our emphasis on field- and lab-based education extends into the summer and over spring and winter breaks. For example, this year approximately 90 undergraduate and graduate students and 85 Ohio teachers benefited from 6 national and international workshop courses ranging from one to five weeks in duration. In addition to these hands-on experiences, Geology faculty (**Brudzinski, Currie, Dilek, Dong, Levy, Rech**) also supervised the laboratory and/or field oriented independent research of numerous Miami undergraduate students, including mentorship of two Undergraduate Summer Scholars, two Dean's Scholars, multiple presentations at the Miami University Undergraduate Research forum, and numerous publications and presentations at regional and national meetings.

This has been another excellent year for Geology faculty and student scholarship. The faculty (**Brudzinski, Currie, Dilek, Dong, Hart, Levy, McWilliams, Rakovan, Rech, and Widom**) received 18 new externally funded facilities, research, and education grant awards totaling nearly \$1.7M, and numerous internal grants (\$42K) in support of teaching and research. Our undergraduate, M.S., and Ph.D. students were successful in obtaining approximately \$17K from external and internal sources in support of their research and conference presentation efforts. In addition, the department generated 34 research papers in leading journals and edited volumes, 10 published reports/notes/reviews, and 68 published abstracts of formal meeting presentations. Nearly 45% of these contributions were authored or coauthored by Miami undergraduate and graduate students. The research activities and overall profile of our faculty and graduate students are diverse and multinational. Ongoing collaborations with scholars throughout North America and from more than two-dozen additional countries continue to yield field and laboratory opportunities for faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, the department began to explore enhanced educational interactions and potential joint graduate degree programs with China University of Geosciences, Beijing (**Dong and Hart**), and AGH-University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland (**Rakovan and Hart**).

The department again contributed to a spectrum of professional, community, and university organizations and functions this year. Numerous Geology faculty members served as officers of major international scientific organizations (**Dilek and Rakovan**), as editors of major journals and edited volumes (**Dong, Dilek, Rakovan, Rech**), and as conveners of national and international symposia. Our faculty continued to serve on a variety of college and university committees and actively contributed in a number of other arenas, including the Honors and Scholars Program, the Institute for Environmental Sciences, the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Graduate Student Teaching Enhancement Program, the Global Miami Plan initiative, the Environmental Co-Majors and other environmental initiatives, and the Institute for Learning in Retirement, to name a few. Faculty, staff, and graduate students also remained very active in outreach to local school districts via the Science Alliance and numerous other activities, and to local/regional professional earth science organizations. Many of our outreach activities are linked to the Limper Geology Museum (**Hauer**).

Geology Field Station

Summer 2006 marked the 60th consecutive year that the Miami University Department of Geology has sponsored geological field courses based out of Timberline Ranch in Dubois, Wyoming. Participating in the 2006 program were four Miami University graduate students, six Miami University undergraduate students, and two students from other colleges and universities around the country. Dr. William **Hart** (Geology; Field Station Director), Dr. Chris **Haley** (former visiting assistant professor, now at Virginia Wesleyan), and Dr. Matt **Brueseke** (former PhD student, currently visiting assistant professor, Eastern Illinois University) were the program instructors.

The basic field geology course (GLG 411/511) again was joined by a course designed to provide advanced graduate students with skills and experience in teaching geology in the complex and unpredictable field setting (GLG 699; Advanced Field Training). The courses, run in parallel, are broken down into two sections: [1] two traveling weeks that introduce students to the regional geology of the western Cordillera through examination and interpretation of geologic features within and between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks (WY), Hagerman Fossil Beds and Craters of the Moon National Monuments (ID), and Banff, Yoho and Jasper National Parks (AB, BC, Canada), and [2] three weeks based out of our permanent facility at Timberline Ranch, during which time students apply knowledge and skills gained during previous geology coursework and during the traveling portion of this course to the construction and interpretation of geologic maps and cross-sections.

The courses continue to integrate satellite-based navigation techniques (GPS technology) with the use of topographic maps and air and satellite photo imagery. The ability to record precise field locations with hand-held GPS units and to download these points into computer mapping software significantly enhances the learning experience. Incorporation of these techniques is critical to our goal of introducing the GLG 411/511 students to all aspects of field geology, including modern approaches to computer-aided mapping and terrain interpretation, and to mentoring the GLG 699 students in modern approaches to teaching and learning in the field. Summer 2006 witnessed the introduction of specially designed mapping rubrics to the student learning and evaluation process. With this experience in hand we have worked to modify and improve these rubrics for continued and expanded use and also unveiled our approach as a poster presentation within a Geoscience Education Division session at the 2006 Annual Geological Society of America conference. The current design of the field programs, particularly the participation of graduate students and the very essence of learning outside the confines of the typical classroom/laboratory setting provide an excellent capstone experience for geology majors. And finally thanks again to the Wells family at Timberline Ranch for their hospitality.

Thompson, Bruce (M.S.'6) – Bruce passed away August 18, 2006 at his home on Diehl Lake. He was an exploration geologist in the oil and gas industry in the west (Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and Texas) until his retirement when he returned to Ohio. Bruce was the founder of Skull Creek Oil. He was a Masonic member and was a ham radio operator for 52 years. He also enjoyed Civil War history and researched ancestors who fought in the war. He was awarded Exploration Geologist of the Year in 1994.

Bruce is survived by his wife Geraldine, daughter Heather, sons Bruce and Winston, granddaughter Hanna, brother George and sister Penny.

IN MEMORIUM

Since the publication of last year's edition of the Shideler Shibleth, we have received notice of the death of the following alumna, friends and faculty of the Department:

Bock, Charles (A.B. '57, M.S. '58) – Charles passed away on July 27, 2006 after courageously living with multiple health issues. Charles was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa fraternity while here at Miami. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in mineralogy and crystallography. After graduation, Charlie was commissioned in the Air Force, serving at Space Systems in Los Angeles and then the Edwards Air Force Base Rocket Propulsion Labs working on x-ray crystal structure and x-ray fluorescence analysis with Nobel Prize recipient Jerome Karle.

Charles moved to Utah in 1971 to work at Hill Air Force Base as a Civil Servant in the Directorate of Maintenance managing the physical science lab, Information Systems and Technology, Munitions Division in the Directorate of Material Management, and in the General's Office of Plans and Programs before retiring as Hill Air Force Base Logistics Chief Scientist in 1993. Charles enjoyed the outdoors; hiking in the national parks and mountains, duck hunting, bluegill fishing and skiing.

Charlie is survived by his wife Gail, sons David and Brian and his wife Heidi, grandchildren Daniel, Rebecca, Elsa and Sophie and a sister Judy.

Friday, Marion (A.B. '48) – Marion passed away on August 18, 2006. He served his country from 1943 to 1945 in the Navy before attending Miami University. He joined Atlantic Refining Company as a seismic party crew chief, moving 48 times in 12 years (1948 – 1960) to Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. Marion joined Texas, Inc. in 1960 rising to the position of Senior Geophysicist before retiring in 1985.

He made annual trips to the family farm in Desdemona and his beloved wife's home in Portsmouth, VA. He was a practicing environmentalist throughout his life at all family homes. Marion loved photography and captured his and his family's lives for eternal memories.

Marion is survived by his wife of 58 years Kathleen, daughter Sandra, sons Glen (Carla) and Gary (Candy), grandchildren, Jennifer, Alan, Stacy, Jaclyn and his sister Alla Rae.

Closing Comments

I invite you to learn more about our activities by reading the detailed accounts that follow. I also wish to express our sincere gratitude for the support that you, our alumni and friends, have shown over this past year. Your gifts to the Department are used in many ways. Some gifts support the **Karl E. Limper Geology Museum**, which is an important part of our outreach mission. Other gifts, to the **Wayne D. Martin Field Fund** or the **James E. Bever/David M. Scotford Laboratory Fund**, are designated to support students in fieldwork or field trips, or laboratory studies. Gifts to the **Baldwin Frontiers in Geology Distinguished Lectureship** support an annual lecture by a distinguished scientist. Unrestricted gifts or gifts to the **Shideler Fund** are used to enhance the academic mission of the Department. A newly established expendable fund (**Geology Field Station Fund**) was created through a generous bequest from the late David Delo (A.B. Geology, 1926) who was one of the "founding fathers" of what is now the Miami University Geology Field Station. For those interested in directly supporting our efforts to train future generations of field geologists, please consider a gift to this fund. Overall, your gifts and your involvement in providing employment and internship information and opportunities for our students are greatly appreciated. You play an active and important role in our accomplishments, so please keep in touch and stop by if you find yourself in the Oxford area.

FULL-TIME FACULTY PROFILES

Mark R. Boardman**(professor and director IES)**

Ph.D. University of North Carolina 1978
Carbonate sedimentology, geochemistry, climatology

Michael R. Brudzinski**(assistant professor)**

Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana 2002
Geophysics, seismology, mantle dynamics

Brian S. Currie**(associate professor)**

Ph.D. University of Arizona 1998
Tectonics, sedimentology, basin analysis

Yildirim Dilek**(professor)**

Ph.D. University of California at Davis 1989
Tectonics, structural geology, tectonic geomorphology

Hailiang Dong**(associate professor)**

Ph.D. University of Michigan 1997
Geomicrobiology, geochemistry, mineralogy

William K. Hart**(professor and chair)**

Ph.D. Case Western Reserve University 1982
Volcanology, igneous petrology, geochemistry

Jonathan Levy**(associate professor)**

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin at Madison 1993
Hydrogeology, contaminant transport

John F. Rakovan**(associate professor)**

Ph.D. SUNY at Stony Brook 1996
Mineral surface geochemistry, mineralogy

Jason A. Rech**(assistant professor)**

Ph.D. University of Arizona 2001
Paleoclimatology, surficial processes, geochemistry

Elisabeth Widom**(associate professor)**

Ph.D. University of California at Santa Cruz 1991
Isotope geochemistry, crust/mantle processes

Philip LaMoreaux – Philip continues as editor-in-chief of the Springer International Journal, *Environmental Geology*. The American Geological Institute Awareness Committee has produced a series of publications extolling the value of geological societies and science associate with Philip.

Levy, Lawrence (A.B. 1973) – Lawrence is still in Houston, though he is no longer an active geologist. Instead, he is actively involved with the world's largest indoor rodeo; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He has five children and three grandchildren that he is enjoying very much. Lawrence can be reached at hlsrvolunteer@yahoo.com with a subject line of Miami U.

Reddin, Nancy (Stanley) (M.S. 1981) – Nancy is retired from the Colorado Department of Health, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division in order to better raise her children; Kyle is now 16 and Luke is 13. She spends a lot of time taking one son to the library, and the other one to roller hockey. She recently gave Kyle is first driving lesson (yikes!). Nancy can be reached at njredding@aol.com

Reifsnider, Frank (A.B. 1937) – Frank was honored in April of 2006 for volunteering 7,186 hours to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Forbes. Wow! Congratulations to Frank on all those hours!

Saines, Marvin (Nick) (M.S. 1966) – Nick formed his own company, Saines Environmental Hydrogeology LLC and is doing groundwater consulting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As was the case in last year's edition, the return card, which you are asked to fill in and return to the Department, is now printed on the last page of the *Shibboleth*. **Please tear this page out, fill in your "coming and goings" and put it in the mail. Your editor asks that you do it now while it is still on your mind.**

NEWS FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Angerman, Charlie (A.B. 2002) – Charlie married Baofang Liu in January of 2006 in Wooster, Ohio. He also received his Master of Science degree in Geosciences from Penn State University in May of 2006. Charlie now lives in Houston and works as a geologist for Conoco Phillips.

Beskid, Nicholas (M.S. 1971) – Nicholas has been with SECOR International Inc. Environmental Consultants since August of 2006. He is still doing UST remediation work for BP and will soon go to part time, easing into retirement. He and his wife are now empty nesters and Judy hopes to retire after 2 more years. They anticipate a lot of travel and send out a big HELLO to all Miami friends.

Bliss, Franklin (M.S. 1984) – Frank has been retired for 6 years as CEO for a high tech firm in Jackson Hole and now is a rancher on the Montana/Wyoming border north of Gillette, WY. He bought land with Hell Creek Formation under it and the dinosaur/vertebrate fossils keep coming out. Frank is working with several museums for their repository. Frank has a paper coming out in affiliation with the Denver Museum of Natural Science which should be out this summer, concerning the rare Cretaceous Mammal fauna on his ranch. He encourages everyone to check out the website at www.wyomingdinosaurs.com. Frank's son will be attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in the fall.

Chimney, Pete (M.S. 1977) – Pete is still with Chevron International and this year reached the 30 year milestone of service. For the past 12 years, Pete has been with the Southern Africa Business Unit, exploring offshore Angola. Pete reports he is still amazed at the changes in the oil business over the past 30 years; that is the change from paper, seismic and well logs to completely digital interpretation and mapping. From time to time Pete sees Kim Moore (M.S. 1977) who is also in the Southern Africa Business Unit, as well as Frank Harris (M.S. 1977).

Harris-Noel, Ann Graetsch (M.S. 1958) – Ann assisted Phil Brease from the Denali National Park with a workshop for the general public on "The Geology of Denali N.P." for the Denali Institute. She also offered a class at Y.S.U. on abandoned deep coal mines for the Engineering Department and a workshop on the abandoned deep coal mines in Liberty Twp (Trumbull County) for the Liberty Township Fire Department.

Hooton, Scott (A.B./B.S. 1984) – Early this year, Scott took a position as Environmental Program Manager, Port of Tacoma, WA after being with BP for 16 years. When not working on his house, Scott spends most of his time hiking, camping, skiing and shaving those last few strokes off his handicap. Scott can be reached at shooton@portoftacoma.com.

Kilburn, Dick (A.B. '64) – Dick is traveling the world in retirement. China and South America in 2006. He was devastated to hear that Roy Reinhart passed away last December. Were it not for his leadership and personal mentoring while an undergraduate geology student, I'd be working in the salt mines.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Mike Brudzinski – e-mail: brudzimr@muohio.edu

What an enjoyable second year at Miami! It has been great to see my teaching and research programs grow in the fertile environment here in Oxford. I was fortunate to receive funding for another major research project; this one will be a field deployment of seismometers in the Pacific Northwest as part of NSF's major research initiative called EarthScope. For my continuing research projects, I was able to get a few papers in press, including high profile journals Science and Geology, so that has been especially rewarding. My first undergraduate researcher, Stephen Holtkamp, graduated this year, and I am very proud that he will be going on to Cornell for a Ph.D. to examine new geodetic ways to observe earthquakes. While I'll be sad to see him go, I will be welcoming my first two graduate students in the fall. To help get myself ready for new graduate students, I was able to offer a new graduate seminar this spring on subduction zones, and I was really pleased with the student involvement and the ideas that were generated in those discussions. I also enjoyed getting a second crack at teaching Geophysics and Environmental Geology this year, as I was able to add a few more computer based activities that helped to improve those courses overall.

Erica and I are settling into the community and we've enjoyed adding some finishing touches to our house, including plenty of yard work, and I even had enough time for a project last summer to build a deck (with lots of help). We had a chance to give it a trial run when we had folks over for an end of the semester party. It was great, and we're looking forward to more times like that here at Miami.

Brian Currie – email: curriebs@muohio.edu

Another busy but productive year. Eight weeks of field work (Tibet in May, Chile in August, Utah, in July and October), GSA in Philadelphia, a Spring Break field trip for 15 students to Death Valley, Sed/Strat, Basin Analysis, supervising the physical geology intro lab, and advising three graduate students. Too much to do and not enough hours in the day/week/month/year! The graduate students working



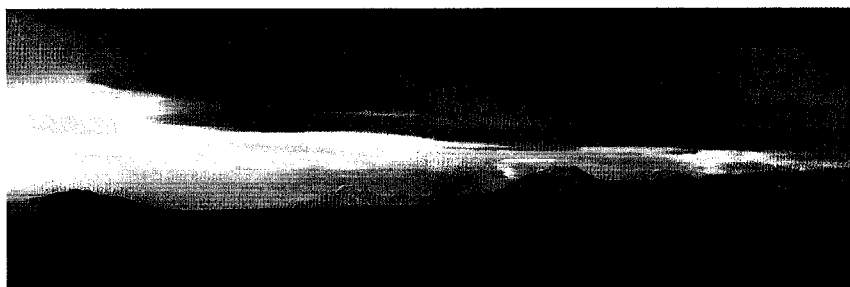
Tibetan graveyard (elev. ~16,400 ft) above the village Wongbadue, southern Tibet.

with me are all making great progress. Bill Wilcox finished his sequence stratigraphic study of the Upper Jurassic marine rocks of Utah in the spring. His thesis has helped simplify the stratigraphy of the region and put it into its proper chronostratigraphic context. Bill recently accepted a job with Chevron to work the deepwater GoM. My other students Justin Pierson and Josh Dark are currently working on a regional stratigraphic and petroleum reservoir characterization project in the Cretaceous Dakota and Cedar Mountain Formations. Their project is funded by the Utah Geological Survey and is being conducted in collaboration with Mary McPherson, a consulting geologist in Vernal. Our initial study results published last fall have been well received from independent petroleum companies actively exploring for natural gas in the Uinta basin. Both Justin and Josh had multiple internship offers from the oil companies and I think they are beginning to understand that the pay off for all their hard work may not be limited to a sound thesis and the respect and admiration of their advisor!

Back at home, both my wife Kate and son Jack (age 3) are doing great. Jack is still a prodigy when it comes to any game played with a ball. He started pre-school this spring and constantly impresses us with all the things he learns and the bad habits he picks up from his friends (So it begins!). Kate and I have loved our first year living back in Oxford after our three years on the farm in West College Corner. We are trying to convince more people to move back within the Mile Square to enjoy the community, the five-minute commute, and help raise the average age of the attendees at the weekend parties!



K-T sedimentary and volcanic rocks, Linzhou region, southern Tibet.



volcanoes of the Western Cordillera rising above the Calama Basin, northern Chile.

DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

The H. Van der Veer Hilker Memorial Scholarship: Awarded to a junior geology major selected on the basis of academic achievement and potential contribution to the community, need for financial assistance, and the recommendation of the Department.

Emily Davis

The Wells Scholarship: Awarded to a student attending field camp on the basis of grade point average and need:

Jared Gooley

Robert E. Radabaugh Geology Scholarship: Awarded to outstanding geology majors on the basis of need.

*Michael Bishop
Stephanie Brady
Nicholas Cunningham
Ryan McPeck*

The Wayne D. Martin Field Fund: This is a fund established to help students cover field expense.

*Emily Davis
Greg Denman
Andrew Furhmann
Spencer Rose
Jordan Wright*



Undergraduate award winner: Emily Davis with William K. Hart

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2006 Dean's Scholar: Awarded to undergraduates who have exhibited excellence in the classroom and the ability to take on the extra challenges of research and scholarly work.

Lauren Allen
Stephen Holtkamp

2006 Undergraduate Summer Scholars: this program is an initiative aimed at heightening the intellectual challenge of the learning environment at Miami University.

Lauren Allen
Stephen Holtkamp

2007 Miami University Undergraduate Research Forum: is designed to celebrate the scholarly accomplishment of students and provide them with the opportunity to share the results of their projects with others.

Lauren Allen & Brittany Brewer – “Using a large-scale laboratory aquifer for testing methods of measuring the vertical hydraulic conductivity of riverbeds”. Advisor: Jonathan Levy

Jared Gooley – “The antiquity of the Atacama Desert; isotopic evidence for a Miocene onset of hyperaridity”. Advisors: Jason Rech and Brian Currie

Ilya Budik – “Water and conflict resolution in the Middle East”. Advisor: Yildirim Dilek.

Stephen Holtkamp – “Determination of slow slip episodes and strain accumulation along the Cascadia Margin”. Advisor: Michael Brudzinski.

Hailiang Dong – email: dongh@muohio.edu

It has been another busy but productive year. After promotion and tenure I took my first leave for a semester in Spring 2007 since I joined the faculty in 2000. Unfortunately, I did not go anywhere except for two weeks in China, mainly due to the fact that my family was still living in Oxford. Committee work and other obligations were still as usual. The good news is that I was able to catch up on lots of writing during this “quiet” period.

My first PhD student, Gengxin Zhang, successfully defended in November 2006. He started working in June 2006 as a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Penn State University. He continues to work on microbial ecology and heavy metal bioremediation. My second PhD student, Deb Jaisi, successfully defended in May 2007, and he is now getting ready to move to Yale University as a university-wide Batesman post-doctoral research fellow. Deb will continue to work on heavy metal remediation using clay minerals. I am quite pleased to see that both Gengxin and Deb landed in a research position. My third PHD student, Hongchen Jiang, is planning to finish this fall. His dissertation topic will be microbial ecology and ecosystem functions in saline lakes on the Tibetan Plateau. He is planning to return to China to take on a faculty position at China University of Geosciences in Beijing (CUGB). Speaking of which, I am currently writing from CUGB, where I am helping to build a Geomicrobiology Laboratory. This lab will greatly facilitate our future sample processing within China.

Two new students, Shanshan Ji and Yan Liu, recently joined our group. Both are PhD students. They will continue Deb and Hongchen's research. Shanshan is from Zhejiang University in Hanzhou, China, and Yan Liu is from CUGB. Our lab is quite busy this year, having a total of 5 – 6 students including Mike Bishop (undergraduate student) and Nicole Berzins (an MS student from IES).

In research, it has been a productive year. We have published about a dozen papers in various journals. These publications are mostly led by my graduate students. I also edited a special issue of Geomicrobiology Journal, where we collected 7 – 8 papers as a result of a special symposium held in Western Pacific Geophysical Meeting in Beijing in July, 2006. I was recently elected to be a council member of the Clay Minerals Society. Early this year, we received a grant from the DOE to continue our work on Tc reduction and immobilization using Fe(III) in clay minerals.

In teaching, one noteworthy point is that in the last few years, we are getting an increasing number of students from environmental programs within campus, both in Geomicrobiology and Isotopes in Environmental Processes. This trend may partly reflect our increased emphasis on campus.

Bill Hart – e-mail: hartwk@muohio.edu

At last writing, I was t-minus 2 days from departing for Dubois, Wyoming. The summer 2006 field camp went very well. For those interested in the current field camp design and recent photos, please check out our website at www.muohio.edu/fieldgeology/. Following field camp, incoming M.S. student Emily Short and I headed back across the Snake River Plain to Boise to pick up another incoming M.S. student, Tom Hinterberger. We then headed to the hot and sunny volcanic fields of southeastern Oregon for about a week or so. Following this we drove along the High Lava Plains of Oregon to Bend, where we joined a large group of collaborators for a field and classroom workshop. This workshop was linked to our multi-institution, multi-disciplinary NSF funded project in central-eastern Oregon. All went very well and I ended up back in Ohio earlier than usual near the end of July.

On the teaching front, I continue to offer undergraduate Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology, graduate Igneous Petrology, and an Honors section of our GLG 115 lab course. This, together with the summer field course keeps me rather busy on top of Chair administrative duties.

On the research and graduate advising front, I am very pleased to report that Ninad Bondre successfully defended his Ph.D. and formally graduated in December 2006. Ninad is now completing a 6-month postdoctoral appointment and soon will depart for London where he has accepted a position as associate editor for Nature Geoscience. Ninad and I are busy finalizing two additional publications from his dissertation work. Another one of my advisees, CB Minturn defended his thesis this year and I am very pleased that a long-awaited paper on the Steens Basalt of eastern Oregon (Matt Brueseke and other coauthors) was recently published in the *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*. Both of my new 1st year M.S. students, Emily Short and Tom Hinterberger, successfully proposed their thesis topics and will be busy working in the field and lab, respectively, this summer. Two new students, one Ph.D. and one M.S., will join my research group in August, so stay tuned for new information next year. And finally, a number of papers are currently in press ranging from granitoid studies in Alaska (recent postdoc Darin Snyder, now at Idaho National Laboratories), to magma evolution in northern Nevada (recent Ph.D. Matt Brueseke), to tephrostratigraphic studies in Ethiopia and the Yukon.

At this writing, I am again t-minus 2 days from departing for Dubois, Wyoming. After the five-week field course ends in early July, Emily Short and undergraduate major Jamie Jastrab will be accompanying me out to central and eastern Oregon for fieldwork. Later in July, recent Ph.D. graduate Matt Brueseke (now an assistant professor at Kansas State University) will join us, and Matt and I intend to explore some new potential collaborative research areas in the region north of Jordan Valley, Oregon. Following this adventure Judi plans to fly out to Boise and we will take a vacation week as we make our way back to Ohio. As always I am looking forward to the summer activities! Have a great year and stay tuned for next year's update.

2006 - 2007 MUGS OFFICERS

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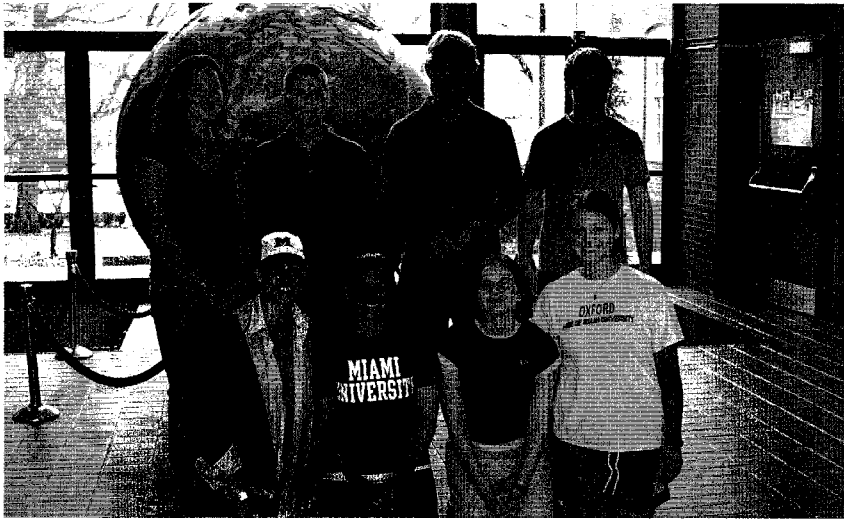
Vice President
Jared Gooley

Treasurer
Jared Gooley

Organization Advisor
Dr. Brian Currie

MUGS Lunch on the Lawn





*Undergrad students from left to right (front row): Carly Denlinger, Lauren Allen
Emily Davis and Jamie Jastrab; (middle row): Brittany Brewer,
Nick Cunningham, Spencer Rose and Greg Denman*



*Graduate students, left to right (front row): Sam Mutiti, Shanshan Ji, Qing Meng,
Huimin Yu, Emily Short, Emily Winer and Josh Dark, (2nd row): Yan Liu, Zu Watanabe,
Yun Luo, Alicja Wojnar and Joel Prellwitz, (3rd row): Bill Wilcox, Justin Pierson, Craig Tully,
Tom Hinterberger, Steve Pasquale and Olaf Borkiewicz*

Jonathan Levy – email: levyj@muohio.edu

As I write this, I'm getting ready to head off to Africa for the third year in a row. I'm leaving in two days and things are pretty frantic, but I'm also quite excited. This time, I'm running a workshop along with Mark Boardman. We're taking 17 students to Kenya to explore various issues related to water resources and environmental sustainability. The first half of the course focuses on the Kasigau/Taita region of southern Kenya where we'll be conducting a water-quality survey. We know from our work in 2005 that the village water supplies were generally contaminated with fecal bacteria. As a class this year, we'll be investigating the source of the water and the contamination. The plan is that from each village we will work our way up Mt. Kasigau to the source springs, sampling water all along the way. After six days in Kasigau, we'll head north visiting lakes, national parks and other sites to examine a host of water-resource issues. We'll also be meeting up with many professors from the University of Nairobi to hear about their research in this area.

My Ph.D. student, Sam Mutiti, is back in Kenya again already collecting some more field data. This summer he hopes to test a method he has developed using remote sensing to locate potential spots for developing supplies of shallow groundwater. We're bringing over surface electrical resistivity equipment to determine depth to groundwater in the areas he has identified. This way we can verify the applicability of his method.

Sam and my Masters student, Alicja Wojnar, are both continuing investigations of induced infiltration and groundwater/surface-water interactions along the Great Miami River. We continue to investigate the temporal and spatial variability of the riverbed hydraulic conductivity, one of the key factors controlling the amount, speed and quality of the river water as it is sucked toward the production wells. Sam is focusing on modeling temperature as a natural tracer to infer riverbed conductivity. Alicja is using direct field methods and comparing those with geophysical methods applied by the US Geological Survey out of Columbus. Other students who have been key to the investigation include IES students Britt Windeler and Luke Schanken and Geology undergraduates Lauren Allen, Brittany Brewer, and Ryan McPeek.

Next year I'm looking forward to teaching Hydrogeology, Water and Society and Environmental Geology while continuing efforts to write manuscripts and fund research for the work along the Great Miami and in Africa.

John Rakovan – e-mail: rakovajf@muohio.edu

2006 seems to have passed more quickly than most years. This in part may have been related to our move to a new house on the south side of Oxford. We are only 3 miles from campus but for someone who has lived in Boston, New York and Chicago in the last 20 years it feels like we are deep in the countryside.

In the Summer of 2006 Monica and I returned to Japan; first to attend the 19th International Mineralogical Association meeting in Kobe, then to Kyoto to meet with colleagues and friends (*nomi tomodachi*) at Kyoto University, and finally to backpack in the northern Japan Alps with friends Kaz and Yukari Ito.

Two new students started their graduate work with me this year. Greg Schmidt, who worked with Bob Downs at the University of Arizona during his undergraduate, is working towards an M.S. degree with detailed measurements of electron density distributions and metal-metal bonding in oxide and sulfide minerals. Tomasz Marchlewski, a graduate from AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland, is pursuing a PhD. His dissertation work involves the study of simultaneous uptake of Pb and as in the mineral apatite for assessment of this system in remediation of contaminated soils and sediments. The Geology Department was awarded a grant this last year, from the Provost, to develop joint graduate degree programs between Miami and AGH University in Poland and China University of Geosciences at Beijing, China. Tomek is the third student in our department from AGH and a 4th will be starting in August 2007. PhD students Olaf Borkiewicz and Yun Luo continue to advance nicely in their research and both presented results at several national meetings this year.

One big change in 2006 has been the absence of my close friend and colleague, John Hughes. John and I continue to collaborate on numerous projects, but I miss our daily interactions and conversations about mineralogy.

A final and exciting bit of news is that Hailiang Dong, Richard Edelmann (Electron Microscopy Facility) Shouzhong Zou (Chemistry), Gil Pacey (Chemistry) and I were awarded an NSF grant (\$850,000 with matching funds) for the acquisition of a new transmission electron microscope. The Geology department has been very active and fortunate in attaining cutting-edge instrumentation over the last decade with the addition of powder and single crystal X-ray diffractometers, a thermal ionization mass spectrometer, scanning electron microscope and now a TEM. These tools afford new and advanced research opportunities to our students and faculty. It is definitely a nice time to be doing science at Miami.



Left to right: Kas and Yukari Ito, Monica and John Rakovan on top of Tateyama, Japan Alps.

**BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S AND PH.D. DEGREES AWARDED
AUGUST 2006 - MAY 2007**

BACHELOR OF ARTS RECIPIENTS:

**Ryan McCall
Stephanie Eakes
Brittany Brewer
Carly Denlinger
Erin (Shea) Farrell**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE RECIPIENTS:

**Clinton Harris
Lauren Allen**

MASTER OF ARTS RECIPIENT:

**Angela Cowan
Naveen Sundar
Charles B. Minturn, III**

MASTER OF SCIENCE RECIPIENTS:

Beth (Miller) Mitchell – “Characterization of the Physical, Chemical and Biological Factors that Control the Fate and Transport of Bacteria through Glacial-Outwash Sediments”. (Advisor: Jonathan Levy).

William Wilcox – “Sequence Stratigraphy of the Curtis, Summerville and Stump Formations, Utah and Northwest Colorado”. (Advisor: Brian Currie).

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY RECIPIENT:

Ninad Bondre – “Field and Geochemical Investigation of Basaltic Magmatism in the Western United States and Western India”. (Advisor: William K. Hart).

Gengxin Zhang – “Geomicrobial Processes and Diversity in Ultra-High Pressure Metamorphic Rocks and Deep Fluids from Chinese Continental Scientific Deep Drilling”. (Advisor: Hailiang Dong).

Limper Lecture Series - Each fall the Department sponsors a Saturday morning lecture series for the general public on a theme related to the earth sciences. These talks have proven interesting and lively, and have served as a vehicle for introducing geology to the public and for drawing alumni back to the Kendall Hauer at (513) 529-3220. We hope that you will join us for a cup of coffee or tea, a donut and a stimulating discussion on some point of geological interest.

SPECIAL NEWS AND RECOGNITION

One of the real pleasures each year for the editor is the announcement of special news and recognition of alumni, faculty and students who have received special recognition or awards during the past year. Please let us know if you receive such recognition so that we can pass on the good news.

Robert H. Storch Scholarship – This scholarship, made possible by the late Robert H. Storch, is available to upper-class geology majors who are enrolled full time at Miami University's Oxford campus and who demonstrate financial need. This scholarship is renewable contingent upon the student maintaining a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and is enrolled in one business class (any level) per year. This scholarship must be applied to tuition and fees.

To apply for this scholarship opportunity, students must complete a 2007-08 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and submit a Storch Scholarship Application, to Cathy Edwards, Administrative Assistant in the Geology Department, 114 Shideler Hall, by May 1 of each year.

NSF Grant Awarded – We are proud to announce that Drs. Dong and Rakovan recently received a \$600,000 (plus \$250,000 matching from Miami) grant for the acquisition of a high resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) for the Miami University Electron Microscopy Facility (EMF). The EMF is a university wide facility that is utilized extensively in teaching and research. A large number of researchers in many disciplines focus their studies on earth materials, ceramics, semiconductors, catalysts, and biological materials, and therefore TEM is an essential tool to high productivity. This new instrument will become the primary TEM for the characterization of earth materials and chemical/biological compounds.

In the past 5 years, the EMF has supported funded research from 56 laboratories in 8 departments of Miami University and other regional institutions, resulting in more than 126 publications. A large percent of this usage is with our severely outdated TEM. The new instrument will provide essential capabilities and will be the primary focus of multiple research programs within the campus. The improved resolution and contrast, and the new energy filtering, analytical capabilities and electron diffraction will significantly increase the types of samples that can be analyzed and the types of information obtainable.

An enhanced EMF also provides many educational opportunities. The new instrument will be used to train students at all levels. About 30 students and post-docs use TEM. Most faculty have undergraduate students working in their labs and this instrument will be incorporated into the existing courses and will used to develop new ones. The broader impact will be maximized by using Internet Tele-microscopy. Existing collaborations with other universities and industries will be strengthened and new ones will be established.

Jason Rech – e-mail: rechja@muohio.edu

This year has been filled with excitement, mostly due to the birth of our second child Eli at home in October. Naturally, life since then has been fun, hectic, and a bit exhausting with Alysia and I both teaching, but of course well worth it. Eli is now 7 months old and is a quite happy child at a very fun age. Although Eli has enjoyed being in the department much of the fall and spring semesters, helping with office and lab work, I believe he is looking forward to spending as much time outside as possible during the summer. Alysia is busy with City Council and teaching the senior seminar at Western Campus over the summer, and Eva (now 7) will go to summer camp and in July will go to Austin to visit her grandparents for about 3 weeks.

The year has been fun and productive. Our work on climate change and hydrology in Jordan is going nicely. We are busy processing radiocarbon samples from a couple of different field areas and preparing manuscripts from our work. Consequently we will not go back to Jordan or Israel this summer. We are also working in the lab this summer on radiocarbon dating mortars and plasters from a couple of different archaeological sites in Israel and Jordan, and experimenting with different procedures to get the most accurate age possible on samples.

We also found out this year that we had a new project funded by NSF on radiocarbon dating terrestrial snail shells. In the past it has always been difficult to interpret ^{14}C ages of snail shells because many gastropods ingest limestone to aid in shell formation. When this occurs, the snail also intakes old carbon from the limestone, causing radiocarbon ages of shell material to be too old. Some modern snails have been found to have up to 30% of their shell carbon come from limestone. Over the last few years I have been working with Jeff Pigati (USGS Arizona) on dating terrestrial snail shells. Jeff has identified several taxa of small snails that seem to not ingest limestone, and thus always yield reliable ^{14}C ages. Jeff and I teamed up with biologist and terrestrial gastropod expert Jeff Nekola (University of New Mexico) to determine what other taxa of gastropods are also capable of yielding reliable ^{14}C ages and identify if their shells remain a closed system to carbon after burial. We have now processed over 200 modern gastropod shells to identify which taxa ingest limestone and which do not, and we are starting to collect fossil gastropods from deposits of known age to determine if their shells exchange carbon with soils and organic acids over time. This will entail fossil collection from "the bluffs" at Peffer Park in Oxford, as well at the famous "Two Creeks" fossil bed on Lake Michigan in Wisconsin.

In July we will also be continuing our field work in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile. Brian Currie and I are taking two undergraduate and one graduate student down with us. During the first week I will help MS student Craig Tully get started on mapping wetland deposits in Rio San Salvador (22°S). Craig is trying to reconstruct a history of mega-droughts in northern Chile over the last 10,000 years or so. Then we will drive up north to Arica (19°S) to continue our research on Miocene climate change in the Atacama and its relation to the formation of the Andes Mountains.

Elisabeth Widom – e-mail: widome@muohio.edu

Somehow another year went by in the blink of an eye! Exactly one year ago, I was heading off to the Azores for a volcanology workshop and field season. The workshop was a small international gathering on the island of Pico, one of the most volcanically active of the Azores Islands – so of course, I traveled with a couple of colleagues to the islands of Flores and Corvo (the two islands off by themselves to the west of the mid-Atlantic ridge), which I had been yearning to visit for 20 years, ever since I first started working in the Azores! These islands were absolutely beautiful – tiny little islands with hardly any people, but plenty of cows (i.e. delicious cheese!), and as always, abundant, scrumptious seafood. The only questionable part of the trip was the hair-raising boat ride between the two islands, without a doubt a near-death experience!!! However, having survived it, I have to say that I look back very fondly on it now!

The Azores trip was followed by another trip to Idaho Falls, where I served on a review panel for a mass spectrometry group at the Idaho National Lab. This was a fascinating lab, where they are exploring all kinds of exciting new mass spectrometry techniques. Needless to say, it was a great learning experience. And I am extremely pleased to say that they subsequently hired my first PhD student, Darin Snyder! I'm a little envious, actually, because Idaho Falls is a beautiful place to live!

The past Spring and Fall semesters were largely consumed with the usual classroom teaching activities, although I did manage to find time to take a field excursion to Mexico over the winter break. My MS student Brian Cosky is starting a new project to study Popocatepetl volcano and some nearby young cinder cones, in collaboration with a colleague in Mexico City. Which reminds me why the past year felt so incredibly busy...in addition to all of my own teaching, I decided that I needed to learn Spanish in preparation for fieldwork in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries, so I took Spanish 111 and 201. This was quite an experience, becoming a student and having to do homework and take exams again after 20 years off! I have to say that I do have a little more sympathy for my students now!

The past year was also quite a successful year on the grant front. I received two new grants from the National Science Foundation, one of which was for the acquisition of a microwave digestion system for rapid and (hopefully) safe dissolution of rock samples. Basically, it's a \$500,000 microwave oven for cooking rocks! I know...what you are really dying to ask is how long it takes to heat a hot dog in this oven (we haven't done that experiment yet, but I'll keep you posted)!

The summer already looks to be quite busy. The trip to Mexico in December was so much fun that we are going back again – next week! This time, Mike Brudzinski and I will be leading a field workshop, taking a group of students for a combination geophysics and volcanology field workshop (assuming we actually get it all organized in the next week!). After that, I will be attending a mass spectrometry workshop in Denver, part of an initiative to “reinvigorate” and train students in thermal ionization mass spectrometry. And finally, last but not least, if all goes well I will be buying a new house this summer! But that will be news for next year....

William Thomas (University of Kentucky) – “Tectonic inheritance at a continental margin and a spin-off”.

Ken Bradbury (Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey) – “Hydrogeology, Water Supply, and Public Policy in Southeast Wisconsin: Resource Conflicts in a Land of Plenty”.

Anna Courtier (University of Minnesota) – “Seismic Evidence of Mantle Water in Regions of Active and Ancient Subduction”.

Stan Dunagan (University of Tennessee - Martin) – “Deciphering Late Jurassic paleohydrology and paleoclimate using the Morrison Formation (Colorado)”.

Christa Placzek (Purdue University) – “Stratigraphy, geochronology, and geochemistry of paleolakes on the southern Bolivian Altiplano”.

Brad Ritts (Indiana University) – “Structural, Paleogeographic and Paleoelevation History of the Northern Tibetan Plateau”.

In addition, graduate students proposed or defended their theses and dissertations. We again thank all alumni whose financial support has helped cover some of the costs incurred in maintaining this seminar series.

SPECIAL INVITATIONS

As in past years, we would very much like to invite you to visit the Department to meet our new faculty and see the changes in equipment and space use that have occurred since you graduated. You are always welcome in the department. Three special alumni events that occur each year and are open to all alumni are:

Alumni Reception at GSA - The Geological Society of America meetings are always a good place to re-establish ties with Miami friends. This year the meeting will be held October 28 – 31 in Denver, Colorado. As in past years, we will participate in the group alumni reception and look forward to seeing all the alumni who can make it to GSA. The reception will be held on Monday, October 29 from 7:00 – 9:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Denver. We hope to see many of you there!

Baldwin Frontiers in Geology Distinguished Lectureship – This is an endowed account set-up to honor A. Dwight Baldwin, Jr. to bring to campus scholars with national or international reputations to interact with faculty and students. The fifth lecture took place during the spring semester 2006 with Jeff Post from the National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Post spoke on “The Hope Diamond and Other Smithsonian Gems: Science and Lore”. The next lecture will take place in the fall of 2007. Please watch our website for announcement of the lecture. Anyone wishing to contribute to this endowment can do so by sending contributions to the Geology Department.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

We still maintain a bulletin board for posting all position openings. The postings include the names and address of companies and agencies looking for geologists. Information about the postings can be obtained by calling Cathy Edwards or Jeanne Johnston at (513)-529-3216.

We have found that the most current job leads come from former students. Thus we would be **very appreciative** if you would continue to provide us information about openings for qualified geologists in your organizations. Again, this information can be passed on to Cathy Edwards at the number above. Thanks for your help!

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department also continues to maintain a listing of organizations having internship openings and encourages undergraduate students to apply for these summer positions. This program began nine years ago with 3 students who spent their summer with Amoco in Houston, Texas. We would be interested in any internship opportunities for undergraduate geology majors that might exist in your organization. Even if such a program does not exist now in your firm, imagine the extra work that could be accomplished, at little cost, if you were to hire a highly energetic and intelligent student for the summer. Give it some thought, and call either Cathy Edwards or Bill Hart (513-529-3216) if you decide you could use some help.

THE 2006-2007 GEOLOGY SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

Karen Harpp (Colgate University) – “Tales from the Galapagos Islands: The Origin of the Northern Galapagos Province plus the 2005 Sierra Negra Eruption”.

Jean Hamilton (Marathon Oil Company) – “Petronius Field – Deepwater Gulf of Mexico: Discovery to Production”.

Haydn Murray (Indiana University, Emeriti) – “Kaolin: Occurrences, Genesis and Utilization”.

Matthew Hammer (Sandborn, Head & Associates and MU Geology Alumnus) – “The Geologist in Environmental Consulting”.

Yue Meng (Carnegie Institute and Argonne National Lab) – “High-pressure mineral physics research using synchrotron x-ray radiation probes”.

Paul Kapp (University of Arizona) – “The Tibetan Grand Slam”.

Phil Bennett (University of Texas @ Austin) – “The Microbial Geochemistry of Cave Formation by Sulfuric Acid Speleogenesis”.

Jason Rech (Miami University) – “Andean uplift and desiccation of the west coast of South America: chicken or the egg?”

FACULTY AND STAFF



Faculty/staff pictured left to right (front row): Dave Kuentz, Mike Brudzinski, Brian Currie and Bill Hart; (2nd row): John Pope, David Scotford, Janelle Sikorski, Jeanne Johnston, Liz Widom, Cathy Edwards and Wayne Martin; (3rd row): Robert Elkin, John Rakovan, Jonathan Levy, Jason Rech and Yildirim Dilek

EMERITI UPDATE

A. Dwight Baldwin, Jr.

Except for our quarterly trips to Columbus, Ohio to spend time with our family (3 grand daughters), our lives over the past year have been spent close to home. Each time I am in Columbus, however, I do try and spend some time with Perry Stewart who is in a retirement community there. He turned 91 earlier this spring and looks great! It is always good to see him and to catch up on the “comings and goings” of his family and the news of the department and former students!

Despite the fact that we did not get any long-distance traveling in this year, I can say that my work with the Durham Conservation Commission (DCC) has been very satisfying. We have written 3 funding proposals and learned this spring that one is to be funded for \$40,000. The money will be used to construct a trail on land owned by the Town on the tidal Oyster River. In addition, the DCC finalized the protection of over 200 acres of open land in Durham through the purchase of conservation easements. It was a real pleasure to see the long and sometimes-convoluted negotiations with 5 different landowners finally come to fruition.

Barbara and I continued to do the bi-weekly water-quality monitoring of Chocorua Lake. We now have a 36-year record of water-quality parameters on which to draw conclusions about changes in the watershed that threaten the lake's water quality. It is a most satisfying endeavor, indeed, as it is good to know that we are helping to preserve the lake for following generations!

So life continues on at its busy pace for which we are very thankful!

Wayne Martin

Helen and I have not traveled except locally for more than a year. Helen has been having a battle with cancer and we have now been informed that there are no obvious cancer cells existing in the affected area.

I have been developing a special departmental collection of oncolites and stromatolites that have been referred to as algal ball limestones. These facies occur in the Wind River and Indian Meadows Formations, Tertiary basin fill deposits, which crops out near Dubois, Wyoming.

As in the previous three summers, I assisted Kendall Hauer in conducting field trips to rock outcrops in nearby Indiana. The title of the guide used on these trips is: “A brief description of the Cincinnati Series (Upper Ordovician) of Ohio, Indiana and northern Kentucky.” To order the guide, phone Kendall at 513-529-3220 or via e-mail at hauerkl@muohio.edu.

Again this year, the booklet prepared in 2001, entitled: “The Geology Field Station at Timberline Ranch, 1940 – 2001” is available from the department. Please contact Cathy Edwards at 513-529-3216 or via e-mail at edwardca@muohio.edu to obtain the publication.

Robert McWilliams – mcwillrg@muohio.edu

Once again, I taught 85 teachers enrolled in *Environmental Science for Elementary School Teachers* at Timberline Ranch. This program was supported by a \$218,761 Improving Teacher Quality Grant from the Ohio Board of Regents. So far, I have received a total of \$1,928,944 in Improving Teacher Quality and Eisenhower Grants to train Ohio teachers in field geology and environmental science.

The summer of 2007 was my 38th year at Timberline and the twenty-second consecutive year for teacher workshops taught at the field station. To date, 1,178 teachers mostly from Ohio but also from all over the United States have completed courses as the field station.

Mary and I celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary on a walking tour of the Veneto region of Italy.

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