



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY/GEOGRAPHY
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



PHYSICAL SCIENCE BUILDING
75TH ANNIVERSARY

2012-2013



September 21, 2012 marked the 75th anniversary of the laying of the Physical Science Building cornerstone. University Archives.



Physical Science Building cornerstone ceremony with Annie Weller, 1937. University Archives

Message from the Chair



Mike Cornebise, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geography, and Chair

Dear Alumni, I'd like to take this opportunity to pass along my greetings and to give you a taste of what's been happening in the Geology/Geography Department over the past year. From a personnel standpoint, there are no major changes to report: we have no retirements or new tenure-track hires to announce. We do, however, have a new face in the department for this academic year. I'm pleased to introduce Dr. Elisabet Head (Ph.D. in Geology-Michigan Tech University, 2012), who will serve as a one-year sabbatical replacement for Dr. Craig Chesner. Craig will use the sabbatical to concentrate on research related to the Lake Toba region in Sumatra, Indonesia. Welcome, Elisabet! Among other changes at EIU, we have a new Dean of the College of Sciences, Dr. Harold Ornes. Dean Ornes comes to us from Winona State University in Minnesota. Welcome Dean Ornes! The G/G faculty continue to remain active on many different fronts. You can read about

their individual achievements in this newsletter.

Beginning in spring semester of last year, we kicked off a new multi-disciplinary Professional Science Master's program in Geographic Information Sciences. As the name suggests, the goal of the program is to allow students to enhance skills in the geographic techniques areas and to foster professional development. Geology/Geography participates in the program along with Biological Sciences, Economics, Political Science and the Colleges of Business and Technology. EIU was also granted approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to launch a new Geographic Information Sciences Center. The main goal of the center is to foster the growth of GIS on campus among students and faculty and to serve the broader community. G/G will play a prominent role in the development and growth of the GISci Center.

Our Colloquium Speaker Series continues to draw alumni who present aspects of their work experience and research to the faculty, students and members of the community. In April 2011, Bill McNulty (Geology, 1996), the Map Director at

National Geographic Magazine, returned to EIU and presented a well-attended lecture on the art and science of producing map supplements for National Geographic. This coming year, we look forward to presentations from Colonel Robert Sinkler (Geology, 1983) and Tim Manning (Geology, 1993). If you would like to return to your Alma Mater and present on some aspect of your professional experience or research, we would love to hear from you! The Colloquium Series also features presentations from faculty and members of the community. For example, in January 2012, Dr. Kathy Bower presented on observations gleaned from her sabbatical in Costa Rica related to the country's water resources.

I'd like to once again extend an invitation to attend our homecoming festivities this year. Our department will help coordinate the College of Sciences tent at Tent City (this takes place before the football game), so please stop by for a hot dog and a chance to catch up with several of our faculty (and say hello to Bill McNulty who will be on hand). Please also let us know what's new in your lives! We would love to hear from you and find out what you've been doing since graduation from EIU. Feel free to contact me by phone (217-581-2626) or by e-mail: mwcornebise@eiu.edu.

Best wishes!
Mike Cornebise

Message from the Dean



Harold Ornes, Ph.D., Dean, College of Sciences

communicate our efforts and activities to you, our partners in the Geography-Geology community flowing from EIU.

Best regards,
Harold Ornes

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to the Geography-Geology community. Although a Botanist by training, I have been a department chair of Biology and Geology (University of South Carolina Aiken Campus) and a Dean in Utah, Minnesota with thriving Geology units, and now here at EIU with the dynamic Geography-Geology Department.

On behalf of the Dean's Office (Godson Obia, Amy Lynch, Sherri Arnholt, and Patty Watson) I encourage you to participate, volunteer, comment, suggest, and support the Department's efforts to provide the very best educational opportunities at EIU and, in turn, com-

Bill McNulty: Distinguished Alumni

We are happy to notify you that Bill McNulty, a graduate of our department in 1996, will be honored by the university by joining the ranks of EIU's Distinguished Alumni. This is one of the highest honors bestowed by the EIU Alumni Association. Bill will be recognized during Homecoming this year, being presented with the award at an alumni dinner on Homecoming Day at 6 pm in the Grand Ballroom. Any and all alumni are welcome to visit with Bill prior to the award dinner, as he will be found in the College of Sciences tent in Tent City before the homecoming football game.

Bill has spent most of his career dedicated to producing maps and graphics that provide the average reader a visual statement that is easy to read, supply the necessary data in context and are done in a pleasing, artful format. The period from 1999 to 2000 found Bill serving as a Cartographer/Artist for the Washington Post, where he designed and produced maps to illustrate and explain news events, while introducing unique, contemporary concepts, methodologies and resources to enhance informational graphics and maps. From 2000 to 2004 he was the Graphics Editor/Cartographer for the New York Times. While there he specialized in reporting and explaining current news events through innovative designs of maps and information graphics. In 2005, Bill was offered a position as Director of Maps for the National Geographic Magazine at the National Geographic Society. Bill viewed the broad focus of the National Geographic Magazine and the challenge to improve the creation, production and delivery of maps to a global audience as the ultimate opportunity to offer contemporary ideas to a century old media icon. The trick was to do this while appealing to the readership comprised of people with differing spatial cognition skills; the magazine is published world-wide in 36 languages. In his first year at NGS he reorganized departmental structure to elevate cartographers to the Editor level and introduced advanced cartographic theories and methods, as well as integrating new technologies like GIS and contemporary cartographic software, improving workflow, as well as the quality and quantity of maps produced for hard copy and web delivery.

Bill is a leader in the development and delivery of interactive mapping for computers and smart devices. Interactive maps are designed to allow web-based spatial information query and creation of maps by internet users, where, with a few clicks of a mouse, they can create a variety of maps from one base map, each showing spatial relationships between different variables. Bill also provided vision and oversight for an assortment of map apps for smartphone access, because in the modern world people need immediate spatial information from these most mobile and ubiquitous of devices. While performing his duties as Director of Maps at the National Geographic, he individually and as a team member, has

managed to win dozens of awards for map design. In 2011 they won the two top awards, Best in Show “Gulf Oil Spill” and Best Map “World of Rivers” at the international Society for News Design (SDN) Malafiej Infographics Competition; both maps were map supplements in the National Geographic Magazine. Bill was primary author on the map “Africa’s Great Lakes” which received honorable mention in the Reference Category at the Cartography and Geographic Information Society’s (CaGIS) 2011 Map Design Competition. He also won awards from the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) in 1999, 2002 and 2004. In 2009, Bill’s work was included in a New York Times portfolio that received the National Design Award for Communications Design at the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, given to an individual or firm for exceptional and exemplary work in graphic or multimedia design. Interestingly, Bill has also produced maps such as the “Protected Waterways of the U.S.,” which are defined as “Map Art” and are sold at the National Geographic Art Store.

Most recently Bill was awarded a prestigious competitive fellowship at Stanford University. He was one of 13 journalists selected from a pool of 134 applicants to receive a 2012-2013 John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship. Mr. Knight created the endowment to encourage “innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership in journalism by supporting experienced, committed journalists with ideas for improving their craft and the news industry.” Bill plans to develop online tutorials and short courses to introduce and promote interactive mapping excellence to journalists.



Bill McNulty and Gail (right front) on the 1996 GUT Spring Break raft trip on the New River, WV

Anne Rozek: My Life on Jeopardy!

One of our geography majors and a campus Presidential Scholar, Anne Rozek, did something very few folks will ever do in their lifetimes – she appeared and did very well on Jeopardy!’s annual national College Championship. Anne is a junior from Cary, IL and was inspired to try out for the competition by a family friend who was a past winner in a Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions. Anne started the process to be included on the show in March, 2011 with an online test, was one of 300 invitees to an audition in May, 2011 and finally – in December, 2011 – Anne learned she was one of 15 students who had made the final cut and would appear on the show. Anne immediately began preparations in earnest for learning as much as she could in the short time before taping, spending one to two hours a day studying books with a wide range of facts like the World Almanac as well as books on subjects with which she was less familiar, such as art history and literature. She was accompanied to Los Angeles by her father, Dan, and spent several long and tiring days not only playing the game, but signing paperwork, getting hair and makeup done and filming an interview and promotional spots. Anne’s episodes aired nationally on February 2, 2012, when we all learned that she made EIU and our department very proud by coming in third and earning herself over ten thousand dollars in the process – congratulations, Anne!



Anne Rozek, 19 of Cary, Illinois, with “Jeopardy!” host, Alex Trebek.
Photo courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.

Student Activities

Sigma Gamma Epsilon News -

Gamma Chi has been really busy recruiting new members, adding to our activities and generally trying to be an effective and enjoyable organization. This past year we created an in-service day of spending several hours cleaning up trash on campus, we held an apple sale to do some fundraising for our chapter and we helped with setting up and breaking down the receptions for our department's colloquium series. With all of these activities, our chapter won the Quality Chapter Award from the national office for the SECOND time in a row, and we have won it both times that it has been awarded! Gamma Chi is the only chapter in the entire United States to be able to make that claim. This coming year, the chapter's members have already recruited three more members, are co-sponsoring a cleanup of Lake Charleston, organizing a trip to Mammoth Cave as well as a zip-lining outing in southern IL and trying to put together a group research project on campus waste production.



Volunteers relaxing and enjoying some conversation and food after cleaning up Lake Charleston recently. The event was co-sponsored by Sigma Gamma Epsilon and Gamma Theta Epsilon and enlisted the help of almost 25 students from across campus.

Gamma Theta Upsilon News-

Gamma Theta Upsilon has been busy. Last academic year, the organization welcomed a bumper crop of 23 new members to our ranks. Grace Markwell Meier Research Award recipients for the year were Grant Woods and Sarah Englert. Both plan to present their research this year at local conferences. GTU sponsored a trip to Chicago for students to attend the Westlakes Regional Conference at DePaul, hosted by Chris Laingen. Last Supper events were well attended, Cody's in December and Morton Park in April. The April event coincided with a talk by distinguished alumnus Bill McNulty, providing a chance for past and present students to socialize and get to know one another. Looking ahead, GTU plans for community service opportunities this Fall and a Spring Break trip for Spring 2013.

Recent Graduates

We in the department extend hearty congratulations to this past academic year's graduates (F'11/S'12/Su'12) and welcome them to our wonderful alumni family! The graduates are:

Fall 2011:

Brooke Bettorf
William Hurley
Zachary Keepes
Lane Kirby
David Kolpacki
Andrew Kunz
Christopher McLaughlin
Jennifer Reynolds
Christopher Walls
Weldon Williams

Spring 2012:

Jeremy Ball
Brian Buchanan
Teagan Calahan
James Callahan
Dane Christensen
John DeMatteo
Corey Hannig
Jared Herrmann
Brian Howard

Andrew Huber
Michael Kowalko
Kelsey Kucer
Stephanie Leftwich
Jamison Lowe
Patrick Marsh
Joann Metzger
Trisha Rentschler
John Seymour
Christopher Smith
Joshua Smith
Chase Tegeler
Melissa Watson
Emma Williams

Summer 2012:

Olivia Barbee
Karen Bridges
Matthew Jennings
Robert Kennedy

Student Awards and Accomplishments

At the annual G/G Department Awards Picnic in April, 18 students received awards for their work in the classroom and involvement in the department. Here is a list of our accomplished award winners!

Geography Alumni Award:	Eric Torgerson
Geology Alumni Award:	Ryne Robertson
Dewey H. Amos Geology Earth Science Award:	Kristina Pourtabib
Robert Buzzard Memorial Scholarship:	Caitlin Napoleoni
Jon and Diana Giffin Geology Scholarship:	William Laveau
Vince and Pam Gutowski Scholarship in Geography:	Anne Rozek
Ruby M. Harris Scholarship:	Derek Delucia
Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship:	Elijah Slifer
Grace Markwell Meier Scholarship:	Lauren Jerkovitz
Grace Markwell Meier Scholarship:	Sarah Englert
Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award:	Olivia Barbee
Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award:	Teagan Calahan
Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award:	Joshua Smith
Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award:	Grant Woods
Annie Weller Memorial Scholarship:	Chase Tegeler
Richard Wise/Les Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship:	Jamison Lowe
John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award:	Emily Van Ostran
Troyt York Memorial Scholarship:	Noah Spence

Other Student Awards, Scholarships, & Accomplishments

Olivia Barbee won two field camp scholarships – a Geological Society of America(GSA)/Exxon Mobil Field Camp Scholars Award and a National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)/Associate of Women Geoscientists (AWG) Field Camp Crawford Scholarship. She is one of only two women nationally to win the latter award. Olivia also was granted a Council on Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (URSCA) award for summer 2012 for her project entitled, “Constraining Vent Sources at the Toba Caldera, Sumatra, Indonesia.” Her mentor was **Dr. Craig Chesner**.

Teagan Calahan was awarded the Illinois Geographical Society’s Outstanding Senior Award for students in 4-year universities/colleges.

Kristina Pourtabib won the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) Scholarship. She also won the Earth Science Poster Competition at the Illinois State Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting for her project entitled, “Determining the Sediment Source Area Through Petrographic Analysis of the Hermosa Formation, Silverton, Southwestern, CO.” Her mentor was **Dr. Diane**

Burns.

Grant Woods was awarded an Illinois State Academy of Sciences Student Research Award.

Trish Rentschler won the student poster competition at the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) Statewide Meeting.

Andy Kunz was nominated by his field camp supervisor for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)/United States Geological Survey (USGS) Internship Program as a result of his 2011 summer field camp experience. Andy received this paid internship, one of only a handful of graduating seniors so honored, and is now in Reston, VA for a year working side-by-side with USGS geologists.

Graduate School Acceptance

Olivia Barbee was accepted into three graduate programs in Geology with full stipend/assistantship. She decided to attend Northern Arizona University. **Joshua Smith** was also accepted into three graduate programs in Geology with full stipend/assistantship. He chose to attend University of Nevada-Reno. **Brian Howard** and **Justin Pinnell** were accepted into the Professional Science Master's program at Eastern Illinois University. They were awarded a Graduate Assistantship with Facilities, Planning and Management. **Karen Bridges**, **Adam Schimmelpfennig** and **Jason Koonce** were also accepted into the Professional Science Master's program at Eastern Illinois University.

Help Support the Department

Would you like to help the Department in its mission of helping students learn about, and prepare for, a career in geology, geography, and the earth sciences?

A variety of opportunities exist. These range from simple donations to providing advice, datasets, or job opportunities for students. We are particularly seeking to increase the funds available for student support. Gifts to the Geology/Geography Gift Account allow us to:

- Purchase equipment for faculty/student research;
- Develop an undergraduate research fund;
- Support undergraduates presenting research at scientific conferences;
- Support innovative, inquiry-based laboratory exercises for class.

If you would like to make a contribution, several options are available. The simplest way is to send a check to the Department of Geology/Geography. Online donations with a credit card can be done via the University web pages at

www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php.

Please remember to direct the gift to the Department of Geology/Geography. Other options for contributions are listed at the Office of Development's page, www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php. These gifts are usually tax deductible.

If you wish to support a particular scholarship or area in our department, that is also possible. In general, unless specified otherwise, we allocate most of our gifts towards student support and we have several pre-existing funds.

Existing scholarships and funds

- General gift account – unrestricted use towards student support or equipment purchases
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- Geography of Ecuador and Latin America Enhancement Fund -geography majors.
- Geology Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geology
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – outstanding junior in Geology or Earth Science
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – at least sophomore Geology major with plans to continue in geology
- Ruby M. Harris Award – senior in Geology, Geography, or Earth Science
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship – junior in Geography or Earth Science
- Grace Markwell Meier Award – outstanding member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)
- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography, or Earth Sciences
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either mathematics (even years) or Geography (odd years)
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – given to students majoring in Geography who show outstanding scholarship and dedication to the field of Geography.
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in observing daily climate data for National Weather Service.
- Geology in the Schools Outreach Program - funds for this program go towards supplies and models used in the classroom demonstrations as well as support for the students who are doing the presentations.
- Other – such as establishment of your own scholarship or memorial fund.

We would especially like to encourage alumni to check for the possibility of matching funds from their employer, as any donation will be multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1 match. That means in order to meet the minimum amount needed to establish a scholarship, \$10,000, you

might only need to contribute \$3,333 if there is a 3:1 match.

Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are also appreciated but must be prearranged with the department beforehand to ensure optimal use (and for conformance to University regulations). If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to email or call me.

Michael Cornebise, Chair

Email: mwcornebise@eiu.edu

Phone: (217) 581-2626

The Faculty

Brett Anderson

Hello all. I joined the department as an ACF in 2005. The past few years I have been primarily teaching weather and climate as well as large sections of world regional geography. With the completion of my dissertation in the fall of 2011, I have been able to spend more time on the weekends enjoying the outdoors around Charleston.

Kathy Bower

This is the 14th year I have been teaching at EIU. Each year I learn more about my field, delight in the progress of my students, and find myself amazed at how much better bits and pieces of knowledge fit together. Our students are eager to learn and the best people to work with. General Education students enjoy and learn from the course field trips. The students who work in the Geology in the Schools program are enthusiastic. The majors push themselves to learn advanced material. The faculty in the department have amazing areas of knowledge. And, as always, I am impressed with how well EIU administrators deal with us. Times are financially tough for a state university in Illinois. But at least we have a textbook for every student in every class. In parts of other states, K-12, there are not enough seats or textbooks to go around. I continue to enjoy working here at EIU, adding to the skills of my students.

Diane Burns

I hope this newsletter finds all of our alumni family and friends healthy and happy. This year has been full – but yet it seems like it flew by so fast. I enjoyed teaching “Geology of National Parks” for the first time, and it seems to have done its purpose – attracting new students into the department. They were definitely a different group of folks than the ones I see in the other intro Earth Science class.

In other news, I have continued the research project with Dave Viertel on the Little

Wabash – this project, funded by the COS, has really taken off! We are getting great data, we are opening up new avenues of exploration for both us faculty and for new students, and we are looking to have several aspects of this project published in journals soon. We have involved five students in this project over the past year and a half and hope to intrigue more to join in the future. Jim Riley and I requested to purchase a research-quality flume from the College of Sciences, and we are ecstatic that our request was granted. We now have in our department a flume that can be used in our respective classrooms for a demonstration model as well as used for individual and collaborative research projects. The flume is a wonderful addition to our department – thank you!, College of Science!

I have recently undertaken a collaboration with Barry Kronenfeld on the “poison fields” of VA, and I continue to work with geology students on projects more closely related to my research program. One, Kristina Pourtabib, has had her abstract accepted for the Geological Society of America (GSA) national convention in November of this year. I will also be taking a few other seniors to the GSA in hopes of “shopping” them around to the various graduate schools and employers. If you will be going to GSA, let me know, and we can visit. WE ARE – EIU! Come join us at Homecoming if you can!

Best, Diane

Craig Chesner

Greetings alumni. I hope you are all doing well. My major news since the last newsletter is a successful seismic reflection profiling study of Lake Toba this past summer. Over 900 km of seismic profiles collected onboard the RV-Bintang, indicated a dynamic post-caldera lake bottom. The data was well worth the efforts of bringing the “tow-fish” halfway across the world and navigating the Indonesian bureaucracy. Our alumni (Mike Dolan and Del Bohnenstiehl) and adjunct (Sid Halsor) figured prominently in the success of the mission. This academic year I am on sabbatical with a wealth of new data and samples to process and study, and the prospect of further field work at Toba conducted from the Earth Observatory of Singapore. As always, I enjoy hearing from you, so keep me posted!

Mike Cornebise

Greetings! I have been at EIU since 2000 and am beginning my third year as Chair of the Geology/Geography Department. Since the last update, I have become the Past-President of the Illinois Geographical Society, and I continue to serve on the steering committee of the Illinois Geographical Alliance. Along with a colleague at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, I have begun a project to investigate the evolution of the “Pennsylvania Town” by updating a 1977 study by noted historical geographer, Wilbur Zelinsky. A family highlight this year was a trip to Estes Park, Colorado where we had the chance to meet up with Professor Emeritus

Gary Wallace and his family!

Cameron Craig

Salutations! It has been a very exciting year in the department and most grateful to be teaching alongside many fine colleagues. I continue to work with my broadcast meteorology students in the department and at WEIU-TV (PBS) preparing them for the professional world. This year, I have volunteered as broadcast meteorologist in WEIU's EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch," on two days to fully understand the roll my students must fill. Let me say that I now completely understand what my students have been telling me all these years! The first few times, I wished that a defibrillator and paramedic were standing by! My students greatly appreciate the additional educational direction I can give them from my broadcasts. I also continue to co-produce the weather segment on WEIU's "Four Rivers Ag Report" and provide insight to meteorological occurrences on "NewsWatch in Focus" with a former geography alumni, Kate Pleasant, who is Tony Pleasant's wife (alumni from our department) and WEIU Producer. My students and I continue to observe daily weather data for National Weather Service to continue the long tradition set by Dalias Price. As always, I continue to enjoy teaching Weather & Climate, Spaceship Earth, Broadcast Meteorology Practicum, Climate & History, and Global Threats.

Jim Davis

Hello alumni! The past year has been a busy, but productive year for me. I have continued to teach a variety of human geography and regional courses including courses on Africa, Europe, and Sports Geography. I also have continued to focus my research on sports geography. Dr. Chris Laingen and I are currently working on a project that examines regional patterns of college baseball success. We hope to publish our findings in the next year. I also continue to split time between the Geography program and Athletics department. My role as Faculty Athletics Representative has been busy with multiple search committees for new head coaches and trips to Nashville for OVC meetings. I hope you all are doing well and look forward to seeing you at Homecoming!

Elisabet Head

Hello all! I am new to EIU, serving as Craig Chesner's sabbatical replacement for the academic year. I will be teaching Mineralogy-Petrology, Oceanography, and Earth Science courses in the Geology/Geography department. After receiving my undergraduate degree in Geology from St. Louis University, I worked for the St. Louis Science Center as an educator for five years. I then traveled north to complete my M.S. and Ph.D. at Michigan Technological University (Houghton, MI). I specialize in volcanology and use remote sensing and petrologic data to advance our understanding of the role volcanic gases play in eruptions. I am honored and excited to be teaching in such a dynamic department, and I am

looking forward to a great year.

Katherine Lewandowski (Johnson)

The big news from Dr. Johnson is that she got married this past summer and is now Dr. Lewandowski. She is still actively conducting research in Cenozoic micropaleontology, paleoclimatology and paleoceanography. She also remains dedicated to science education, particularly with respect to integrating scientific research with secondary science curriculum. She continues to work with students on a project looking at Pleistocene sediments from off the coast of Tasmania.

Belayet Khan

Not a much has changed since the last Newsletter. The fall 2012 semester has begun, and I am teaching the regular courses. In addition, I am also teaching courses for off-campus students. I greatly enjoy teaching, and it is always a pleasure to interact with students in and outside of the classroom. My current research concentrates on climate variability and weather anomalies with special emphasis to South Asia, and I am planning to present my research findings at the next annual meeting of the Association of the American Geographers (AAG). My service involvement continues, and this year I am serving on a number of committees in the department, college, and the university. I have given several invited guest lectures on campus in the past year and plan for some more in the current year as well. I continue to serve as the co-advisor of the GTU honor society and looking forward to another great year. Currently I am in the process of organizing the National Geography Awareness Week for November 2012 and plan to invite outside speakers in the department.

Our family enjoys travelling, and we have visited several countries in recent years including Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, India, Bangladesh, and Australia. During past summer we visited Ireland and also had a short trip to historical Belfast, United Kingdom. By the grace of the God, our children are doing well, and they remain busy with their academic and professional activities. Our older daughter is employed as a full-time financial advisor in Indiana. The younger daughter is in her fourth year as a medical student. Our eighteen years old son is now a sophomore at Northwestern University. While each of us is in pursuit of our own work, my wife puts her efforts to take care of the family, and we would certainly be lost without her support.

Barry Kronenfeld

In my first year at Eastern, I've met a lot of wonderful students and faculty. I taught courses in GIS, Cartography, Weather & Climate and Human Impacts on the Environment and was rewarded to see several students move beyond the department to find jobs and internships in state agencies in Champaign. Next

semester I look forward to offering a graduate course in GIS modeling for the new PSM program. In terms of research, this year saw some long-term projects bear fruit and others begin to mature. In the area of mapping uncertainty, an article on modeling fuzzy regions was published in the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*. I'm also working with Diane Burns on a project to examine the influence of native Americans on the landscape of Virginia prior to European settlement, which I'm hoping to expand to Illinois. Finally, special thanks go out to Coy Potts, who spent many hours compiling records of the Asian honeybee for a project to map the distribution of genetic variants of that species. Overall, it's been a busy year!

Chris Laingen

Greetings! Fall 2012 marks the beginning of my fourth year at EIU. The past year has been extremely productive and enjoyable, with numerous conference presentations and invited lectures, three publications, and having taught over 200 students in seven different courses. I've continued my research that deals with delineating the current extent of the Corn Belt, and plan to begin (next semester) working on a book with a colleague of mine from Northwestern related to how agriculture has changed over the past quarter-century. I've also enjoyed teaching (and prepping for) my first online course – *The Geography of Illinois* – which was taught successfully this past summer. It's a course I plan on continuing to develop as I learn more about Illinois (the longer I live/travel here), and I hope to be able to offer it online each summer.



Chris, Kenny and Samantha Laingen.

Personally, it's been a year of great changes. In December my wife and I welcomed our first child, Kenny, into our lives; he was born on December 12, 2011 in Urbana, IL. Being a father has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I wouldn't trade a second of it to be doing anything else...work can always wait! He's now eight months old, and has already been to

eight different states and taken his first commercial flight – something I didn't do until I was 19 years old.

Here's to another memorable and productive year!

Godson Obia

My name is Godson Obia. I am a sixteen-year veteran of the Department, having joined the faculty in 1994 after a seven-year stint at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. In October 2000, I went off the beaten path by accepting to serve as Associate Dean of the College of Sciences at Eastern Illinois University. I still remain in that position. I have found my job to be as rewarding as it is challenging. After ten years as an academic administrator, I remain committed to the lofty goals of the Department and support new strategic initiatives in GISci to make the department more competitive. I stay in touch with the faculty and faculty leadership and offer advice and encouragement, when needed, to support departmental efforts to recruit and retain talented students and faculty. I have an active research and publication agenda and belong to several professional associations to enrich my scholarly and leadership experiences. Although these activities must play a diminished role in the life of a dean, they are important to me if I must lead by example.

James Riley

Rollin', rollin', rollin' on the river . . . My second year at EIU rolled along quickly and memorably. I taught five different courses and have come to particularly enjoy the integrative activities that expose students to field research in classes such as Geomorphology and Field Methods. I have continued in my role as the Earth Science Division Chair of the Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS), and I am EIU's representative to the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science. I also recently became co-advisor to Phi Alpha Eta, an honor society on campus. In the spring, I presented some results from my dissertation research in papers at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New York City and at the Annual Meeting of ISAS in that other great metropolis of Galesburg, IL. I also enjoyed working with a student on a project that attempts to identify spatial patterns of river junction configurations throughout a drainage basin. My summer was rather uneventful and consisted mostly of continued dissertation writing. What fun! This semester is off to a good start and I am looking forward to another eventful year.

Betty E. Smith

Betty Elaine Smith is a professor of geography in the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University. She holds a Ph.D. in geography from University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, an M.A. in Geography and Environmental Planning from California State University Chico and a B.A. in

Geography from University of California Davis. She teaches large sections of Cultural Geography where she enjoys the enthusiasm of lively and diverse students. She also teaches Senior Seminar Spaceship Earth: The Present State in which environmental issues are discussed and debated. She enjoys teaching Urban Geography, Land Use Planning, Geography and Culture of Middle America and Geography and Culture of South America. Since coming to EIU in 1995 she has authored over 20 scholarly articles and presented papers at many national and international conferences. She has led nine summer study abroad trips to the Amazon rainforest and Galapagos Islands of Ecuador. Betty is the Principal Member of the Education Committee of the United States Geography Commission of the Panamerican Institute for Geography and History. She participated in the U.S. National Section meeting that occurred at the Organization of American States office in Washington D.C. on March 21, 2012. In attendance were 19 U.S. representatives from the four commissions on Geography, History, Cartography and Geophysics. On the following day, March 22, the U.S. National Section hosted a Symposium of the Americas with a focus on climate change.

She enjoys including students in her research in Ecuador and most recently in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California. During her fall 2011 research sabbatical, "Geographic and Historic Study of Ponderosa Way Firebreak and Transportation Route," Betty conducted field work primarily in Shasta, Tehama and Butte Counties in northern California and in the vicinity of the Kern River headwaters and Sequoia National Park near the southern terminus of Ponderosa Way. She interviewed various forestry professionals in the region. Photos were taken to capture the geographic landscapes along Ponderosa Way as they appear today. GPS data was collected at river, creek and bridge locations over approximately 100 miles of Ponderosa Way. The data will be used for future faculty-student projects. Of interest will be future field work and analysis of the impacts of the August 2012 Ponderosa Fire in Shasta and Tehama Counties that caused serious damage to timber and wildlife and destroyed 52 homes in the vicinity of Betty's project site.

Dave Viertel

It is hard to believe this is already my sixth year at EIU. I continue to teach remote sensing and cartography classes for majors, minors, and many others. With the start of the Professional Science Masters this Fall, enrollments in GIScience courses have increased dramatically. I completed a three-year elected stint on Faculty Senate last Spring, and look forward to new service opportunities. In research, I continue to work with Diane Burns on our joint "Little Wabash" project, and several new undergrads have joined the research team this year. We're hoping to once again present results this coming Spring at regional conferences across Illinois. I'm also investigating Amish land use patterns in cooperation with Mike Cornebise. When not teaching class, filling out internship paperwork, or involved in a GTU-related activity, you can find me at home with my very-active

toddler. Charleston and the Geography/Geology department long ago became home for me. I look forward to many happy, productive years to come!

Nathan Webb

Hello All! Last year, I joined the department as an ACF to teach a few sections of Introduction to Earth Science. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. First and foremost, I am an Illinois native, having grown up in rural west-central Illinois. I am a 2007 graduate of Western Illinois University with a BS in Geology and a minor in GIS. In 2009 I graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with an M.S. in Geology, with a focus on glacial geology and geomorphology. Since 2007, I have worked at the Illinois State Geological Survey, initially as a research assistant during my Masters studies and then as a geologist working on the characterization of mature oil fields in the Illinois Basin. I still work full time for the Survey and am currently working on some oil fields not far from the Charleston area that are potential candidates for the use of anthropogenic CO2 for enhanced oil recovery.

I love geology and being able to teach it has proven to be a rewarding challenge. When I'm not at work, I like to take trips that have a geologic aspect (...at least, as much as my wife will allow!). This year I've already visited The Grand Canyon, Zion NP, Arches NP, The Black Hills, Yellowstone NP, and many of the ranges that make up the Rocky Mountains. The trips were amazing, and I got some great pictures of geologic features to add to my lectures!



Nick Patrick, Senior Geography Major and Broadcast Meteorology Minor, delivers his broadcast on WEIU's "NewsWatch."

What's Happening With You?

From time to time we hear from our alumni and would love to share this information with all of you. For example:

Craig Gripp ('11) is now employed by Doe Run Mining Company and is really enjoying his experiences. He feels he is finally putting all of his education to use and is a *real* geologist.

Chase Hamer ('08) is working at Haile, a gold mine, and will be attending the Geological Society of America to give a talk in Charlotte, NC this coming November.

Adam Hardesty ('10) is employed as a geophysicist at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center working on hydrological and geophysical projects and loving every minute of it. He is also now engaged to be married to the lovely Kristin Saddoris.

This was received recently from **Brandon Hargrave** ('02) – “For the previous ten and a half years I have been working as the staff geologist at CSD Environmental Services, Inc., a private environmental engineering firm in Springfield, Illinois. I have recently been hired on with the state of Illinois. As of June 1st, I will be working in Springfield for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in the Bureau of Land. My new job title will be "Environmental Protection Geologist." I was chosen for this position from a pool of 45 qualified candidates. Needless to say, I'm incredibly excited to get started at my new position.

I just thought you might like to hear from a former Panther, especially one with good news. I hope this letter finds you all doing well.”

Let us know what is happening with you! If you send us these news bits by August, 2013, we will put them in our next newsletter. You can either send them via postal mail to the department or via email to dmburns@eiu.edu.

Broadcast Meteorology Alumni in Your Area

Caitlin Napoleoni ('12), KJTV Lubbock, Texas
Darren Leeds ('11), KEVN, Rapid City, South Dakota
Mike Gismondi ('11), WCJB, Gainesville, Florida
Cameron Hopman ('11), WLFI, Lafayette, Indiana
Kevin Jeanes ('10), WBBT, Richmond, Virginia
Brittney Sager ('09), WITI, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
J.C. Fultz ('08), WAND, Decatur, Illinois



**Annie Weller, Geography,
Head of the Geography Department, 1903-1940.**



**Dalias A. Price, Geography,
Professor Emeritus and Chair.
Received the Thomas Jefferson
Award from National Weather
Service for his continuous
observations for more than 40
years.**



Front row: Dave Viertel, Katie Johnson, Cameron Craig, Diane Burns, Brett Anderson, Jim Davis. Back row: Barry Kronenfeld, Michael Cornebise, Susan Kile, Chris Laingen, Jim Riley, Belayet Khan, Steve Dinaso, Godson Obia.

Department of Geology/Geography

Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: (217) 581-2626

E-mail: geoscience@eiu.edu

Web: www.eiu.edu/~geoscience

