



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Geology & Geography



2018-2019

Annual Newsletter

Greetings from the Chair

Happy Fall, our wonderful alumni!! Many changes have happened since our last newsletter, and most are delightful and welcomed. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Dr. John Stimac, as he decided it was time to retire and move to the East Coast to pursue his future there. I am sure many of you fondly remember him from your days here at Eastern and wish him the best in his endeavors. Fortunately, we were granted permission to hire a new faculty member and welcomed Jake Crandall to our ranks this Fall. Jake hails from Southern IL University, Carbondale, where he is finishing up his dissertation and working on really exciting research involving ore deposits on Mars. Jake will be taking on Mineralogy, Petrology as well as Structural Geology – he brings added strength



to an already quality department and program. We have written and have in various stages of completion 23 different Articulation Agreements with state community colleges, which should be a significant manner in which to continue increasing our number of majors. With a generous budget from the Provost, we were able to upgrade several technological devices in our department – we have 13 brand new computers in the GIS lab, along with a new “wall of whiteboard” and software system that allows interactive work with projected images and maps. We acquired – through a Federal surplus system – a \$30k base station and set of rovers, as well as purchased a new GPS backpack unit and a couple of flow meters. Jim Riley has obtained his drone license, so we now are legally able to fly our two drones to comply with Federal regulations. We repurposed some of our older computers and the old Map Room to convert it to a dedicated student workspace. Now our majors have a quiet, spacious area in which to study, collaborate and call their own.

On a more personal note – thank you in the most sincere manner and from the bottom of our collective hearts to all of our wonderful alumni who support us financially and figuratively. We have alumni who are very generous and give of themselves in a variety of ways to help the current students. These wonderful alumni do this by giving colloquium presentations, posting job openings on our Facebook page (please join! Contact me if interested), donating to our various scholarships or Gift Account and more. Your interactions with and support of the students inspires them to do their best, and it shows. Thank you.

May you have a most wonderful year!
Diane

A Message from our Dean

Greetings Geology and Geography Alumni!



My name is Anita Shelton, and I presently serve as Interim Dean of the newly formed College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). Geology & Geography, along with most of the former College of Sciences units, is now part of the eighteen- department CLAS. Many of you may recall that until the early 1990s, most of these departments were united in the College of Arts and Sciences, so we like to think we have returned to our roots! This is an exciting year at EIU, and we're happy to report that admission numbers have increased for freshmen, graduate students and international students. This has brought a new energy to campus, including to Geology & Geography, which you will discover as you read about the updates from the faculty and students in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Geology & Geography Department!

Best wishes,

Anita

Spotlight On – John Popp

Dear Fellow Geology Alumni,

Most of you don't know me, but I graduated from Eastern with a B.S. in Geology in 1972, an early period in the geology program at EIU. The faculty were excellent - Drs. Dewey Amos, John Ford, Jim Palmer and Ron Wallace. There was much excitement in the department, plans were underway to expand the Science building, and it was a time of uncertainty as the Vietnam War wound down. No geology jobs were available for me so I completed an M.S. Geology at SIU-Carbondale.



I retired at the end of 2016 and enjoyed a career focused on mining geology, for which I thank both EIU and SIU. Though not living in Illinois for over 30 years, I became aware of the economic educational crisis affecting a number of State universities including EIU. As State funding dropped programs suffered. My last visit in 2016 with Drs. Burns, Baharlou and Cornebis made it clear that funding was an issue.

The point of this letter is to ask for your financial support for the Department. While we see gentle reminders in the annual newsletter to contribute, I ask you to consider the value of the education you received from Eastern and to make an annual contribution directly to the Department. Consult the Department newsletter for a complete listing of memorial funds and scholarships available and chose one that appeals to you. Check also with your employers to see if they will match your gift. If you already are a regular contributor, thanks in advance. And if you have the opportunity, visit the Department as the faculty and students are very welcoming.

Thanks for your consideration and contributions. Feel free to reach out to me if you have comments (I am on LinkedIn and Facebook), or email me at the address above. Dr. Burns asked me to include photos of myself from the day (1970s) to compare with today, so enjoy a blast from the past as well.

With warm regards,

John T. Popp (Geology, 1972)

Department Alumni

I wanted to let the department and alumni know where I am and what I'm doing for the fall newsletter! I moved back home to Louisville, Kentucky after graduation and traveled for a bit. After finally settling down back home I started the job hunt, while it was frustrating at first, I finally landed a field geologist position with Terracon, and environmental consulting company here in Louisville. While here my time is being split between the environmental geologists as well as the geotechnical engineers, where I'll be doing anything from environmental site assessments to possibly working on a lock and dam building site. Needless to say, I'll be getting a lot of good experience from this job! I am also planning on taking the test to get my "geologist in training" certificate in March (I highly recommend students doing this before they get hired or even right after graduation because it looks good to employers). Other than that not much has changed, I hope to come back to EIU during homecoming and see everyone.

Have a great rest of your day,

Jessica Wireman (Geology, 2018)
Field Geologist, Terracon

I've just began my second year of grad school at Cal State East Bay. I'm in the Environmental Geosciences program. This past summer, I secured a year-long internship with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory doing research. The first few months I worked on a research project studying the relationship between gas fluxes, microbial respiration, and their effects on the atmosphere. I was exposed to new tools and software doing this research as well as earning co-authorship on my mentors article. I'm currently in the beginning phases of two new projects. I have not yet decided which one I will use for my thesis. The first project is based on the Pygmy Forest Ecological Staircase in Mendocino, CA. I'll be studying phosphorus

speciation and learning about the nature of phosphorus in phosphorus rich/limited soils. As for the second project, I will be analyzing sediments from two meandering streams, one being unexpectedly altered by a beaver dam. -- I'm grateful for the experiences and support from EIU that have helped me through on my journey.

It's been a long time since my days at EIU, but I am still pushing along finding my way. As always, I truly appreciate your support!

Best,
Nydra Harvey (Geology, 2015)

I changed jobs this year from a small 4-person environmental consulting firm, which I started with out of college and moved to a large international company called Intertek-PSI. I work in the environmental department doing Phase I ESAs, Phase II ESAs, Geotechnical lab work, LUST and SRP work for the IEPA. I also help out with mold and Asbestos sampling. I am a licensed asbestos building inspector. I love my new company it's a great work environment. There are offices all across the United States.

Other big news is that Phil and I will be expecting our first Child in the beginning of October. We don't know if it's a boy or girl yet, but will find out when the baby is born. Thanks!

Kara (Kooken) Sachs (Geology, 2010)



A group of Geography majors, 2017
Back row: Abby Knight, Kiyra DeVoss, Madeline Reiher
Front row: Ryan Bonarek, Ryan Frazier, Jesse Guinn

Recent Graduates

Summer 2017

Brian Hartman (GEG)
Alex Harper (GEL)
Ryan Kermicle (GEL)
Patrick Manselle (GEL)
Shawntay Schmitz (GEL)
Kailash Subramanian (GEL)
Abbey Warner (GEL)
Jasmine Winters (GEL)
Andrea Miller (GEL)

Spring 2018

Trevor Krintz (GEG)
Daniel Curtis (GEL)
Jessica Wireman (GEL)
Annie Cerminara (PSM)
Scott Hall (PSM)
Matthew Wellbrook (PSM)

Fall 2017

Ryan Frazier (GEG)
Neil Rhoades (GEL)
Shane Shumaker (GEG)

Summer 2018

Jared Beavers (GEL)
John Grubaugh (GEL)

Student Award Winners, Spring 2018

Geology Awards

- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship: **Geno Persico**
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship: **Shirley Mensah**
- Errett & Mazie Warner Presidential Award: **Jared Beavers & Shay Oldham**
- Geology Alumni Award: **Abby Knight**
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship: **Geno Persico**

Geography Awards

- Errett & Mazie Warner Presidential Award: **Trevor Knight & Johnathan Jones**
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship: **Alyssa Moore**
- Grace Markwell Meier Award: **Jacob Watson**
- Ruby M. Harris Award: **Geno Persico**
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship: **Madeline Reiher**
- Annie L. Weller Scholarship: **Farouk Olaitan**
- Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship in Geography: **Cole Biethman**
- Wise & Stoner Undergrad Scholarship in Geography: **Heaven Richey**
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship: **Abby Knight**
- Geography Alumni Award: **Stella Cliffe**

Student Organizations

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)

Gamma Theta Upsilon experienced another fantastic year. Under the leadership of Abby Knight, we continued to meet and engage in outreach, service, and warm camaraderie. Whether we were busy helping to clean up Geology's adopt-a-highway section, honoring our graduates with the traditional "Last Supper," initiating new members, or just enjoying dinner at Mi Casa, a good time was had by all.

We had the distinct privilege last Fall of having GTU's emeritus president Dr. Don Zeigler join us for Last Supper at Hunan in Mattoon. Dr. Zeigler was in town researching the history of the national organization. Dr. Robert G. Buzzard, GTU's founder and leader from 1928, was president of Eastern Illinois University from 1933 to 1956. As a result, the Booth library has a veritable treasure trove of early GTU records in its archive. We thank Dr. Zeigler for his visit and his reminder of Rho Chapter's special relationship with the organization.



The coming year promises great things as Maddie Reiher takes over leadership of the organization this Fall. More trips and service activities are on the agenda. We would love to hear from any or all GTU members and find out what you have been up to!

Geology Club & Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)

Geology Student Organizations – Geology Club; Gamma Chi, student chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon; student chapter of American Institute of Professional Geologists

We had another wonderful year with our combined geology organizations! The students decided this time that they would rather spend their yearly "allowance" that they earn through mineral/rock sales and help subsidize Columbia jackets that had "Eastern Illinois University, Geology" embroidered on the top right side. They turned out really well and were such a hit! We also had a few highway cleanup sessions to maintain our adopted stretch of Lincoln Ave/Hwy 16, made and sent

about 75 paracord bracelets to Operation Gratitude (a group that makes care packages for our military personnel) and hosted the Geology table at Celebration to sell their wares. The Gamma Chi chapter earned the Outstanding Chapter and Service Awards for yet another year, keeping this chapter at the forefront of ALL national chapters. We are the only ones who have won the Outstanding Chapter Award *every* year that it has been offered.



Fall 2018 “Adopt a Highway” cleanup. Left-Right: Jake Crandall, Alex Kerley, Jake Watson, Dave Viertel, Tanner Jones, Geno Persico, Kai Subramanian, Shay Oldham, and Saegan Phillips.

Lake Ahmoweenah

A lake located on the site of what is now the Physical Science building, McAfee Gym and to the south, it was originally a clay pit for a brickyard which was located where the Physical Science Building now stands. According to tradition, it was named in 1899 by a Normal School Board member for a queen of one of the



Philippine Islands. The lake flourished as a beauty spot of the campus until the City of Charleston began to charge the school for water in 1913. The lake had an inadequate natural supply, and when water was free the school had kept up the lake level by adding city water when necessary. With water now being charged to the school, this practice ceased, and Lake Ahmoweenah reverted to its original condition – after every “dry spell,” it became a slime- and algae-covered haven for frogs, which were threatened with total extinction by the end of each summer. Although it was now of no scenic value, the dehydrated lake was useful as an outdoor laboratory for the biological science classes. In December, 1915, before the water dispute was finally settled in the city’s favor, the school paper called for water to be added to the lake in order to provide good skating. Five years later, the school paper was still concerned with the problem of the lake. It was estimated that it would take 1.5 million gallons of water to raise the level two feet. The city water system would be unable to supply this amount of water, even if the school was willing to pay for it.



– adapted from an article by Norma Winkleblack

The Faculty

Diane Burns

Life is good this year. Last year had many events, both sad and wonderful; this year is turning out to be much more mellow. I am very thankful for that; sometimes, placid is beautiful. Dave's and my research on the Little Wabash is drawing to a close – we're running out of counties! – and we're hoping to have a culminating publication coming out of the findings. Teaching is still so invigorating – I am so happy I chose this path – but I miss the Intro class now that I'm Chair. I may take teaching Intro over occasionally, if for no other reason that those fresh minds just really engage me and have all of my pistons firing to stoke them on Geology. Mr. Jasper (my dog) continues to entertain – this year, he linked what moles look like and what they smell like underground. I had a terrible mole issue last summer with them digging huge numbers of tunnels all over my backyard. I was investigating all manners of “mole-be-gone” but not overly happy with the indications of success. Early this spring, Jasper saw a mole above ground (not rabid, just out), and he made the connection between “this will run if chased!” with what it smelled like rooting through the subsurface. I was witness to two separate times when he smelled a mole digging in the substrate, Jasper identifying it as a chaseable animal and him digging the dangd thing up. He played (his words) with it (read: terrorized it) for a few minutes before it finally escaped under the fence. Twice he did this in short order. Have I had a mole issue since? Absolutely not....ah, natural resolutions are always best. Be well, all!

Mike Cornebise

Greetings, Alumni! It's been an exciting year at EIU as we've embarked on campus reorganization at many levels. The changes emerged from the vitalization initiative designed to keep EIU vibrant and moving forward. Most of the departments associated with the former College of Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities have joined forces to form the new College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). I presently serve as Interim Associate Dean of the CLAS and we've had a busy year thus far as we transition into an 18-department college. You are welcome to stop by and visit the new CLAS office in the Doudna Fine Arts Center! I continue to teach in the department and am offering a section of World Regional Geography this fall semester. On the home front, our two teenage kids keep me and Roxanne hopping.



Cameron Craig

Salutations! All is well and in great spirits for another year to serve my university, department, and students! I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Broadcast Meteorology, and Climatology. I have been given another task of helping fellow geologists teach Earth Science this year and I am very happy to be helpful. I also continue to work closely with my broadcast meteorology students at WEIU's EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch." In between my teaching duties, I am also a graduate student in Orchestral Conducting studying under Maestro David Commanday here at Eastern and enjoy working with fellow musicians in making beautiful music!

Jake Crandall

Hello alumni! As I begin my first year in the Geology/Geography Department, I've had plenty to keep me busy. I've managed to settle in to my new home in Charleston, get three courses squared away, and even fit a little research in. My research group and I were recently awarded a NASA grant to study Mars analogs here on Earth with an eye toward rover investigations both past and present, and I look forward to heading out to Utah for fieldwork this summer. With help from the department, I've begun to put together a mineral display that now contains over 35 different minerals, and even hosts three meteorites! Once completed, the display should be a welcome addition to the 2nd floor hallway.

Jay Gatrell

Jay D. Gatrell, Ph.D. is a geographer with diverse interests in applied human geography and GIScience. An author of more than 40 peer reviewed articles and several edited collections, his work has been published in journals such as *Political Geography*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, *The Professional Geographer*, *GeoForum*, *Region, Ecology & Society*, *GeoCarto*, *Applied Geography*, *Journal of Geography*, *Southeastern Geographer*, *Social Science Journal*, *GIScience & Remote Sensing*, and *Policy Studies*. Additionally, his research and grant work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agricultural, U.S. Department of Education, Henry Luce Foundation, and multiple state agencies as well as national organizations.

Prior to being appointed EIU's Provost, Jay was a professor and administrator at Indiana State University (2000-2014) including serving as dean of the graduate school & chief research officer (2008-2014) and Vice Provost and acting VPAA at Bellarmine University (2014-2017). In 2012, he was selected as an American Council on Education Fellow for 2012-2013. Dr. Gatrell also served on the faculty at Wright State University (1999-2000).

At EIU, he has taught advanced applied GIScience coursework and looks forward to co-teaching spatial statistics in spring 2019. Additionally, Jay enjoys working with undergraduate and graduate students on applied and community-based research projects. If you have an idea or would like to explore research opportunities, please feel free to reach out via email [jgatrell@eiu.edu].

Gatrell is active in the discipline serving on the editorial board of *The Professional Geographer* and later the book review editor (2005-2010). In 2007, he was named co-editor of a Springer collection on *Geotechnologies & the Environment*. Subsequently, he was appointed editor of *Applied Geography* (2008-2015). Over the years, Jay has served on numerous editorial boards including *Applied Geography*, *The Industrial Geographer*, Elsevier's *Procedia* and *Regional Science Policy & Practice*.

Jay earned his B.S. in political science, magna cum laude, at Eastern Michigan University, M.A. in geography from the University of Toledo, and completed his Ph.D. at West Virginia University.

Belayet Khan (emeritus)

Almost three years into retirement, I am pleased to reflect on my delightful experience as a faculty member in the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Over the course of 32 years, I had the wondrous opportunity to interact with colleagues and students who made for a truly special career. Throughout the years, my fellow faculty members provided immense encouragement and support. I learned so much from others in the University, beginning when I was a newcomer and extending throughout my tenure. My involvements on various committees allowed me to strive for a positive impact on campus, and this meant a lot to me as someone deeply invested in EIU. Collaboration was key to our success on many fronts over the course of three decades. The chairs of the department were great friends and leaders from whom I felt endless support and comfort. These factors made for a joyous work environment that I will always cherish. Eastern is a great place!

Certainly, the highlight of my time at Eastern was the privilege of teaching our incredible students. I sincerely looked forward to teaching every one of my classes. Each semester, I was thrilled to teach students who greeted me with genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for the material. I found myself thriving off of their engagement, and this made me feel a strong sense of purpose in my role as a teacher. For years, I looked forward to weekends for a reason different than most: I was excited to teach off-campus classes through the School of Continuing Education. Teaching was always a passion of mine, but it was over the years at Eastern that it became my calling. I am so honored now to be able to consider it my life's work.

Beyond the classroom, I am eternally grateful to God for the blessed life I have had in Charleston with my wife and three children. It was undoubtedly a challenge for us

as immigrants from across the world to settle in a new place. Our daughter who was one year old when we came to Charleston was married in September 2017. It is amazing to think that Charleston is now a beloved home to all five of us.

By the grace of the God, our three children are doing well and remain busy with their academic and professional responsibilities. Our older daughter serves as a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments with her office in Indiana. The younger daughter has joined the Emory University School of Medicine as a faculty member. She graduated from the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College in Chicago. She is an Emergency Medicine doctor. After graduating from Northwestern University, our son is currently a 4th year medical student at Rush Medical College in Chicago. I must say, the Charleston schools provided excellent education for our kids, and we found a strong sense of community here that we know is unique to our charming small town. As we each pursue our respective endeavors, my wife devotes her efforts to caring for our family, and we would certainly be lost without her support.

With our lifelong love for traveling, my wife and I have already made some trips since my retirement. In early 2016, we ventured east to visit Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Bangladesh. Later in the same year, after a few months back in Charleston with occasional domestic travel in the United States, we have departed again for Europe and North Africa, specifically Sweden, Finland, Spain, and Morocco. In 2017, we have travelled to our native country with the family and visited Saudi Arabia as well. This year we visited Bangladesh again and went to Sweden to attend a wedding. We also went to Tunisia and Czech Republic to visit historical places. Although we are always seeking new adventures, we love coming home to Charleston, and our children know that home is the best place for all of us to converge whenever possible.

The gratifications of my career at EIU will forever stay with me, and I can already say that I miss teaching. In addition to remaining in town and staying in touch with friends at the University, I hope to return periodically for teaching roles. Having spent such an extended period of time at the institution, I have been present for Eastern's successes and its struggles. My commitment to the University has led me to view these as my own successes and struggles. I can say without hesitation that despite occasional hardships, the community at large has always remained positive and found proper solutions. This is a source of inspiration for me, and I am confident that EIU will continue to prosper moving forward. As a graduate student in the early 1980s, I always hoped to find an academic position at an institution where I felt a sense of belonging. I imagined myself sharing my love for geography and earth science with new students each semester. I must say, I had no premonition of the tremendous passion and fulfillment I would find at Eastern. It is safe to say that by God's grace, my dream has come to fruition, and I remain optimistic that the future will continue to provide treasured adventures.

Barry Kronenfeld

Hello! It's been a great year, both for myself and for the PSM program where I've been spending most of my time. For myself, I've been edging further into cartographic research, building cartograms and working with the USGS to manage and simplify hydrographic data. I travelled to beautiful Madison, WI and Rolla, MO for conferences, and I have to say - cartography conferences are the best! The maps are spectacular, the people are friendly and everything is well-organized and laid out... like a good map!

We've also got a lot of great things happening in the PSM. I'm proud to report we had four students graduate with a PSM degree in spring/summer 2018: Ademola Adeyemo, Annie Cerminara, Scott Hall and Matthew Wellbrook. All of these students did great work while they were here, and it's really exciting to see some of their work showing up around and about Charleston. For those of you in the area, check out the new maps of the Lake Charleston Trails, created by our very own Annie Cerminara. And if you're on campus you might want to take a look at the EIU Tree Map, created by Scott Hall (<http://arcg.is/1WfW8m>). Scott updated, GPS'd and organized data collected a number of years back by Dr. Vince Gutowski and a handful of Geology & Geography students at EIU.

We're also happy to welcome five new students to the PSM program: Damilare Balogun started in spring 2018, and Agenda Nawa, Shay Oldham, Kai Subramanian and Raju Thupran have all just started the PSM this fall. They're an excellent group with diverse backgrounds and lots of ideas.

To all alumni, we'd really love to hear how you're doing and we are working on ways to connect alumni with each other as well as with current students. We're getting ready to send out a short alumni survey in October. Please take a few moments to respond!

Christopher Laingen

Fall semester marks the start of my tenth year at EIU. Time has gone by quickly. I'm back to work full-time after having completed a sabbatical during the Spring 2018 semester in which I worked on a book project with Dr. John Hudson from Northwestern University. The book, *The Geography of Illinois: Historic, Physical, and Regional*, is currently in review at the University of Illinois Press and we should be hearing back from them very soon, hopefully with good news. I was also able to work on a journal publication and two book chapters, all of which have also been recently published or soon will be. I'm already looking forward to sabbatical #2. I was able to go on two memorable hikes this year. The first was a trip my wife and I took to the Grand Canyon in mid-March. It was a three-day (30 mile) hike along the Boucher, Tonto, and Bright Angel trails. The second was a hike of Section G on the Pacific Crest Trail: 9 days, 132 miles, 27,815 ft. of uphill, and 24,199 ft. of downhill.

The trip ended with an ascent up the west side of Mt. Whitney and long descent down the east slope to where our trip ended in Lone Pine, California.



The Grand Canyon from Yuma Point.



Sunrise on the summit of Mt. Whitney.

Katie Lewandowski

Greetings Alumni! I can't believe this is my 10th year at Eastern. The time has flown by in many respects. What has happened in the last year? Well, I continue to teach gen ed classes (mostly oceanography), the departmental methods class for the pre-service science teachers (BIO/PHS 3400), and geology major classes (Paleontology, Historical Geology, and last spring I taught Vertebrate Paleontology).

The number of Earth and Space Science Teacher Licensure students has increased to three! That's good news. Two of them are just beginning the program and one is taking methods currently. We continue to have good candidates that successfully complete the Science Teacher Licensure program in Earth and Space Science,

Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. In the last few years, all have been offered jobs for the next semester before they completed their student teaching.

I had the honor of working to revise the Framework for the Content Test in Earth and Space Science this summer. It was a pretty intense day of work in Springfield in August. It was interesting to meet other educators from around the state (secondary educators and college professors). I look forward to being involved in with this in the future.

I've become involved in an after-school program, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Team, with Martinsville Elementary. We are still in the planning stages, but will get started working with kids (3rd-6th graders) in October. We plan on doing a bunch of long-term projects. I have two Science Teacher Licensure students (Katrina Osick and Brandon Bergee) who will be leading the students in these projects. I also participated in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Night last week.

On the research front, I had two publications come out in GSA Memoir 214. It's a volume dedicated to Women and Geology. The volume editor requested that contributors submit photos to use for the front cover. Mine is featured on the bottom right hand corner. This was a wonderful project that I really enjoyed and am proud of. One of my articles focuses on the 1969 first all-woman expedition to Antarctica. The other looks at the history of women in oceanography. I also continue to do micropaleontological research with undergraduates. Last spring, John Grubaugh worked on some samples looking at diatoms in the Southern Indian Ocean.

I'm still in Casey, enjoying all the big stuff with my dogs, cat, and husband.

Cheers,
Katie Lewandowski

James Riley

Damn the torpedoes



Jim Riley and Geology/Geography student Abby Knight presenting, “Spatial patterns of channel morphology and bed material texture at a chute cutoff,” at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans, LA on April 12, 2018.

Betty Smith

I am a 23-year veteran of the Department, having joined the faculty in 1995 after a year as a geography instructor at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. My Ph.D. is from SUNY Buffalo, New York; I have a Master’s degree from CSU Chico and a B.A. from University of California Davis; all of the above degrees are in geography. My dissertation was “Urban Morphology in South America” and as you might expect, my regional expertise is Latin America. I have traveled many times to South America for field work, research and to lead study abroad trips. I enjoy teaching Cultural Geography to mostly incoming freshmen. I also teach one of our department’s most popular classes, Spaceship Earth: The Present State, a senior seminar about various environmental issues and human/land interactions. Designed for non-majors, I find the course is a wonderful opportunity to introduce physical and human geography concepts to graduating seniors who will not have or have not had exposure to the discipline of geography. I enjoy using technology in the classroom and am amazed at the impact the internet has had on teaching and learning in the new millennium.

The past year has been fun and productive as I return from a research sabbatical. I am thrilled to have the opportunity this year to collaborate with two geography seniors, Madeline and Jake, who are working on research projects related to Ponderosa Way Firebreak, located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930s. Madeline and Jake will be able to use some of the data I collected during sabbatical at the State of California Archives in Sacramento as they do their analysis and prepare posters for a spring conference.

I continue on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies and in my position representing Geographic Education at the US National Section of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), a part of the Organization of American States (OAS). I have published over twenty scholarly articles and presented research results at regional, national and international conferences. There is never enough time for everything one wants to do. I continue to have fun updating my classes and advancing my research projects. I wish our graduating seniors and alumni all the best in their future lives and careers.

Dave Viertel

Hello alumni and friends! The past year has been another great one in Department of Geology/Geography. As I begin my twelfth year at EIU I'm looking forward to new challenges and opportunities. As I become more involved in the Professional Science Masters in GIS, Dr. Kronenfeld and I have started a new survey course to help introduce our cohort to life at EIU. We have a fantastic and diverse new group of students this year ranging from returning graduates (Kai Subramanian and Shay Oldham) to new faces from around the world (including Nigeria, India, Saudi Arabia, and Namibia). If any of our graduates who are GIS professionals have an interest in coming to talk with the group about your experiences, please contact me. We would love to welcome you back!

I continue to teach courses in Remote Sensing and Cartography as well as other specialties. Last year I had the opportunity to teach Land Use Planning while Dr. Smith was on sabbatical. Looking forward, I hope to revisit and revamp a course in Lidar for next Fall, and continue to offer my Remote Sensing courses both face-to-face and online.

My family continues to thrive in Charleston. My daughter is in third grade this year and has developed a newfound love of theme parks. It looks like the roller coaster of life will continue for some time to come.

I wish all of you well and would love to hear from you as you have time!

Support the Department, Support the Students!

Would you like to help the Department in its mission of helping our students learn about, and prepare for, a career in Geology, Geography, and the earth sciences? There are a variety of opportunities to help, ranging 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 contribute, 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, <https://www.eiu.edu/giving.php> and select Geology & Geography from the drop-down menu. 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.

Existing scholarships and funds:

- General gift account – unrestricted use towards student support or equipment purchases
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- 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
- Belayet Khan Geography Scholarship - junior or senior Geography student.
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – any student majoring in Geography.
- 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)
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship – seniors in Geology attending field camp
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in observing daily climate data for National Weather Service.
- 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)
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship – junior or senior in geography
- Annie L. Weller Scholarship – junior or senior in geography
- Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in geography
- Wise & Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in geography
- 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. 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 do not hesitate to email or call me. Thanks so much!

Diane M. Burns, Chair
 Email: dmburns@eiu.edu
 Phone: (217) 581-2626

More information on the department, faculty, and student opportunities can be found on our website:

eiu.edu/geoscience