



# EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Geology & Geography



*Campus, circa 1950*

2020-2021  
Annual Newsletter

# Greetings from the Chair

Hello, GEO alumni! What a year, what a year...seems as though the sands keeps shifting under our collective feet. There have been challenges upon challenges, but the Department has been able to keep up and keep moving, with many positives of which to speak. We graduated our first student from the Accelerated Professional Science Master's program this past summer! If you recall from our previous newsletters, this accelerated version of the PSM was just inaugurated in Fall, '18 along with twelve other similar programs across campus. Of all of the new programs, two have born the first fruit with graduations – ours and the one in Technology. The Graduate School is particularly proud of this achievement. Hats off to Shirley Menshah, '19 and '20, for this singular accomplishment.



If you receive the alumni news magazine, "*Forever EIU*," you will see Shirley and our program highlighted on page 27. We signed two more Articulation Agreements with Richland Community College and Rock Valley College, with schedules for both Geology and Geography programs in each. Our drone fleet continues to grow, with five more being added to the collection. These drones are being incorporated into our courses with field components as well as in research projects. This give students the opportunity to learn how to utilize this new and exciting technology in ways to further scientific inquiry and revelation. Last but certainly not least, Luke Jansen '20, who is now a graduate student in our PSM program, won a singular scholarship from across the entire state from ILGISA – the Illinois Geographic Information System Association. In spite of all that is happening, we are still doing pretty well!

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and healthy, and I hope to hear from you at some time in the future.

Best, Diane

# A message from our Dean



I arrived at EIU in July and am slowly getting to know our College and its departments. As alumni of the Department of Geology/Geography, you know much better than I what a fantastic department this is and you will have fond memories of the excellent faculty and fine facilities you enjoyed while you were here. It's gotten much better, I can assure you! I am particularly happy about the enrollment growth in the department; these students know that they will work with world-class researchers and be taught by outstanding teachers! The department also increases its connection with two-year institutions by adding new articulation agreements and attracting transfer students. My

favorite, however, is the superb minerals and meteorite collection showcased in the hallways and I envy the students who are allowed to work with such very fine specimen!

My heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Burns and her faculty for their achievements over the past year and I have every confidence that this year will be just as successful. Thank you, alumni, for your support of this program!

Barbara Bonnekessen  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Hi GEO Alumni!

Please let me introduce myself- I'm Michelle Rhine, the new Office Manager! I have transferred from the EIU Payroll Office, so some of you may recognize the name.

On a personal note, I grew up in Brazil, South America where my parents were missionaries. After graduating high school, I moved to the area to attend Lake Land College and transferred to EIU. I graduated with a Bachelor's in Education (k-9) and Minor in Spanish with High School Certification. Along with 10 years of teaching experience, I also have experience in Office Management and Human Resources.

I live in Mattoon with my husband, Chris, and my two daughters, Marina and Melody. I enjoy volunteering for my church, traveling, photography, crafts, and spending time with my family and friends.

I look forward to assisting each of you. Please submit requests by email, phone and/or in person.

I am very excited to be here and hope to maybe meet each of you in person at some time!

# Department Alumni



**Kevinetta O'Brien** (Geography, 1969 & 1977)

Hello from Massachusetts!

Diane welcomed me at the 2019 Homecoming tent and persuaded me to update my life's journeys. Remembering Roger Barry, Walt McDonald and Mary Jo Read's knowledge and enthusiasm, I have always incorporated plenty of geography activities in my classrooms of 33 years. Since retirement, I am a Museum Education teacher at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge Massachusetts. My travel interests have found me in 28 countries on 6 continents. I visit on campus when I can and engage in University events.

Again, like the echoing sound of an Alma Mater at our commencement, I hear "So shall our hearts, our hearts, remember thee."

*Photo caption: Kevinetta O'Brien, '69 and '77, returned to EIU last year for her 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at Homecoming. A staunch supporter, Kevinetta was presented with a department sweatshirt that had just been created that year in a joint effort between the Geography and Geology Clubs. It was a real pleasure to meet her in person!*

**David Malicki** (Geology, 1973)

I thank the EIU geology professors who, in spite of my having "room for improvement," encouraged my graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. In the ensuing 47 years, I initially worked as a geologist, earned a Master of Science degree and then have worked as a geophysicist ever since.



*Dr. Dewey Amos (left) out in the field with students in Spring, 1972. The camper in the background is the one and only infamous Dewey camper. Pictured to the right of Dr. Amos are Rick Myers, David Malicki, Cathy Moses, "Bear" O'Leary, Rick Hires and Kevin Felton.*

### **Steve Liston (Geology 1984)**

Greetings Alumni!

Wow, how the time has flown by! Most of you will not remember us, but we all graduated from Eastern with B.S. degrees in Geology back in 1983 and 1984. We were blessed to have excellent instructors including Drs. Dewey Amos, Alan Baharlou, Gary Wallace, and others. Their dedication and hard work prepared us well for the careers and lives we now enjoy. Looking back on those days, we fondly remember not only the geology we learned, but the wonderful relationships that were built during that time. The department had almost 100 geology majors back then, but it was like one big happy family.

Our group has remained lifelong friends since those great days at EIU. Our careers have varied from petroleum geology and teaching, to working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For the past few years, we have re-connected with Dr. Wallace and have joined him and his *Colorado Hiking Group* touring several of the National Parks located in the western United States. We enjoy Dr. Wallace's teaching just as much today as we did back then. This picture is from our trip to Glacier National Park.



*Pictured from left to right are Dave Mick, Angie Mick, Dr. Wallace, Anita Brown, Steve Liston, and John Basnett.*

**Terence W. Dixon** (Geology 1992)

What am I doing these days? Working for Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions that provides consulting services in support of the IDOT Bureau of Design and Engineering performing Preliminary Site Assessments (PSI), Environmental Compliance Assessments (ECA), and emergency response incidents. I am responsible for consulting related strategic environmental management and compliance including risk-based metals management. I am the task manager responsible for project scoping and budgetary development, cost-savings analysis and project deliverables. Other than IDOT work, I am involved with site characterization and remedial design and implementation at Superfund sites in Michigan. Playing and reffing hockey. Proud single Dad with an almost empty nest (one still in college); recently I have become a grandfather for the first time. Peace and love to all.

Best wishes to you, your family and my EIU family!



*Here I am working at an outcrop on the Isle of Man.*

**Samuel Fisher** (Geography 2010)

I graduated from EIU way back in 2010, with a degree in Geography w/ Environmental concentration and a double minor in Earth Science and Music. Then I went straight to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and got my Master's Degree in Geography & Environmental Resources in 2012, where my thesis was on wind energy (see link below!). After SIUC, I furiously applied to jobs while working as a high school substitute teacher before being hired at AECOM in St. Louis. AECOM is a large engineering and consulting firm, and I work as an environmental scientist on pollution remediation projects in the St. Louis metro area.

It's quite an interesting job – in terms of field work, I've worked on soil vapor extraction systems, pumped toxic waste out of the ground, sampled groundwater, streams, and springs, measured stream flow (using valuable experience from Dr. Gutowski's Field Methods course), managed a field laboratory, installed groundwater monitoring wells, measured landfill gas, sampled for radon in office buildings, and all sorts of fun stuff. In the office, I compile and interpret field data, write reports, prepare budgets for different projects, and occasionally assist with a proposal. In February 2020, I became a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager.





*That's me pretending to be conductor of the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar in New Orleans. Watching the mansions and live oaks roll by from the streetcar is a joy. Music, food, architecture, and ambience make New Orleans one of the most special cities in the world.*

Outside of work things have been going well. In September 2019, I married my wonderful wife, Joanna. We live in St. Louis and love the great architecture, parks, consistently great music scene, museums, and everything else that make St. Louis a special place. It is surreal that it has been ten years since I graduated from EIU. My time at EIU was so much fun, and the Geology and Geography department was a great home. In the fall of 2006, I was a freshman who didn't know where to focus his studies. One day, I was wandering through the Physical Science Building and stopped to look at the Mineral display. Dr. John Stimac (Department Chair at the time) walked past, and we started talking. He talked about the Department of Geology and Geography and the various programs it offered. I liked the sound of it, and soon after declared Geography as my major. My whole life could have been different without that chance conversation. Thanks to the professors of Geography and Geology! I hope the department continues to thrive for decades to come.

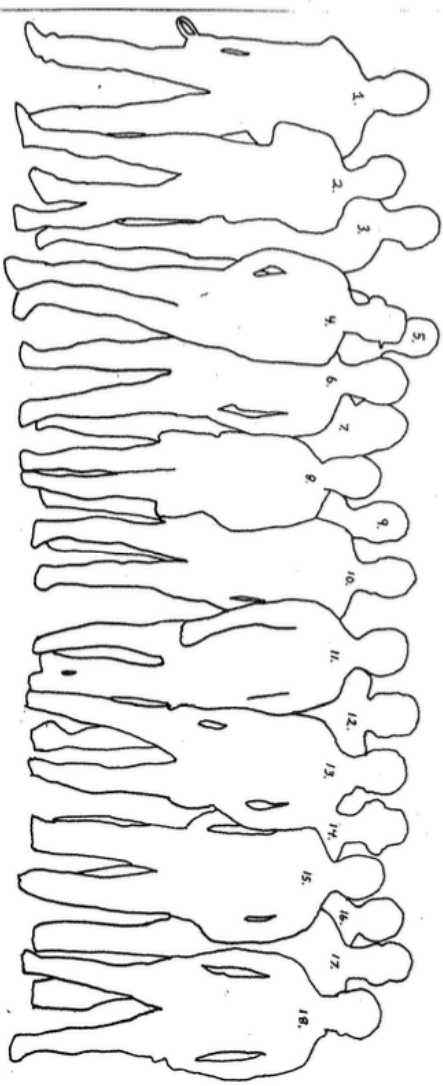
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236649288> The effects of geographic distribution on the reliability of wind energy)

**Blast from the Past** (EIU Geology Field Camp, Black Hills, 1986)



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP  
 BLACK HILLS  
 1986

- |   |              |    |                |    |                    |
|---|--------------|----|----------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Marty Ryan   | 7  | Dana Modtke    | 13 | Mike Gleeson       |
| 2 | Pete Barys   | 8  | Vivian Lee     | 14 | Tim McCoy          |
| 3 | Greg Ferris  | 9  | Dave Hertzling | 15 | Dave Vollmer       |
| 4 | Richard Kwak | 10 | Tom Lenahan    | 16 | Dr. James Stratton |
| 5 | Jon Croup    | 11 | Jon DiCarlo    | 17 | Rod Aman           |
| 6 | Steve Gurney | 12 | Kevin Spencer  | 18 | Mark Johnson       |



# Recent Graduates

## Fall 2019

Cole Biethman (GEG)  
Joshua Dye (GEL)  
Tanner Jones (GEG)  
Alyssa Moore (GEG)

## Summer 2020

Saegan Phillips (GEL)

## Spring 2020

Rase Collins (SCI TC)  
Perry Cozatt (GEG)  
Balogun Damilare (PSM)  
Seth Ethington (GEG)  
David Frye (GEG)  
Dexter Harbison (GEG)  
Kyler Houser (GEG)  
  
Allison Hudson (PSM)  
Luke Jansen (GEG)  
Alexander Kerley (GEG)  
Shirley Mensah (PSM)  
Agenda Nawa (PSM)  
Farouk Olaitan (GEG)  
Lauren Sesko (GEG)

# Student Award Winners, Spring 2020

## Geology Awards

- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship: **Emily Bosworth**
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship: **Carolyn Karns**
- Errett & Mazie Warner Presidential Award: **Kristen Ames & Kim Clark**
- Geology Alumni Award: **Emilia McGuire**
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship: **Saegan Phillips**

## Geography Awards

- Errett & Mazie Warner Presidential Award: **Everett Lau**
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship: **Tomas Delgado**
- Grace Markwell Meier Award: **Luke Jansen**
- Ruby M. Harris Award: **Phillip Collins**
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship: **Michael Otwirk**
- Annie L. Weller Scholarship: **Farouk Olaitan**
- Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship in Geography: **Kyler Houser**
- Wise & Stoner Undergrad Scholarship in Geography: **Dexter Harbison**
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship: **David Frye**
- Belayet Khan Geography Award: **Alex Kerley**



*UBI volunteers – Geology and Geography majors volunteer their time to help plant “bee friendly” gardens for the Urban Butterfly Initiative launched by biologist Dr. Paul Switzer. L to R: CJ Karns, Saegan Phillips, David Frye and Emma Baker.*

## Student Organizations

### Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)

Gamma Theta Upsilon’s 2019-20 was a good year for GTU (at least the start of it). Under the leadership of David Frye we continued to meet and engage in outreach, service, and much consumption of food. Whether we were busy helping to clean up Geology’s adopt-a-highway section, honoring our graduates with the traditional “Last Supper,” or just enjoying dinner at T. Garden things went swimmingly.

Sadly, many planned Spring activities were curtailed by the COVID outbreak. This is doubly disappointing as we had a large group graduate (David Frye, Troy Schmitt, Alex Kerley, Dexter Harbison, Farouk Olaitan, Shirley Mensah and others all completed their degrees). But we are still happy to celebrate their success, even if it wasn’t done in person.

Michael Otwirk has kindly agreed to take on the leadership role this year and our first (socially distanced) dinner is coming up soon. I am confident the year holds great things.

## Geology Club & Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)

The students enjoyed some fun times in the sunshine keeping our stretch of Highway 16 between Mattoon and Charleston clean for the Illinois Department of Transportation through the Adopt a Highway Program. Other activities were planned but had to be scrapped when the pandemic hit. Gamma Chi students still managed to get in their service hours that are required by the National Office, but a special “shout out” has to go to David Frye. He logged at \*least\* a hundred hours working for the Urban Butterfly Initiative, the Embarras River Stewards, the local food pantry and more. He was recognized for his outstanding service contributions on campus by receiving a Distinguished Senior award. The honors society chapter won the Outstanding Chapter and Service Awards again this year. While certainly a bragging point, as this chapter has won the Outstanding Chapter more than any other chapter in the entire nation, it’s actually becoming a little...boring?...to mention. Well, the headaches of having quality students...

## Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Geographic Information Science

The PSM in GIScience continues to play a vital role in our department, with eleven students currently working toward their professional degree (spread the word—we are always looking for more!). The past year saw five graduates (Kai Subramanian, Allison Hudson, Damilare “Dre” Balogun, Shirley Mensah, and Agenda Nawa). We also welcomed several new students aboard. These include undergraduate alumni Farouk Olaitan and Luke Jansen.

This year also saw the first graduate from the new accelerated track for the PSM. Under this program, undergrads are allowed to take and reserve up to 9 hours of pre-graduation work to count for their graduate degree under select circumstances. We have had three students opt for this track so far—Shirley Mensah, Tanner Jones, and Tomas Delgado.

As mentioned, the first graduate under this option was Ms. Shirley Mensah, with an undergraduate degree in Geology and now a Master’s in GIScience. Shirley was extremely engaged during her time at EIU, serving as an officer in multiple clubs, working on campus for TRIO, and receiving numerous awards and honors. She is already hard at work with her first job in the geospatial field and plans to pursue further education down the road.

As the PSM moves ahead with streamlined curricular changes, we are focusing our efforts on developing a full online model to serve working professionals across the

state. If you know someone looking to further their education in GIScience, we'd love to hear from them.



*For more information on the PSM program, scan this.*

# LYNCH HILL Revisited

by Dr. Tom Woodall, former EIU cross country coach

Usually it is the parade, the game, private parties, tailgating, visiting etc. that provide the basis for Homecoming memories, but on Saturday, October 26, 2019, a unique Homecoming memory was created. Since both the EIU Soccer and Cross Country teams won National Championships in 1969, organizers of the 2019 Homecoming provided a special 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for some 20 alums, former athletes and loyal Panthers, most of whom are now at least 70 years of age.



*Returning victors – alumni from the '69 Soccer and Cross Country teams: Front Row: Tim Mannos, Gabino Sandoval, Rennie Garsbelis. Back Row: Bob Huber, Bob Bilocerkonyez, Nick Markulin, Frank Uremovich, Paul Engelmeyer, Bob Franken, Gerardo Pagnani (who scored the winning goal in '69), Jim Logush, Lionel Forde, Carmelo Rago, Alfredo Velasco and Judd Glow*

When I came Charleston from South Dakota State University in 1965, I was hoping to find some hilly terrain on which the runners could train. As fate would have it, a perfect site just two miles from the Lantz Gym was located south on "Hog Farm" Road, now called University Drive. This abrupt hill, created by glacial moraines that cross the area, became known as "Lynch Hill." It was owned by Bob Lynch, a rural mail carrier, his wife and small son, who established a produce stand (watermelons, corn and other farm produce) very near the top of the hill. Bob and his wife are shown standing by his red truck in this undated photo.





Ever since 1965, EIU athletes have done some training on that hill, including EIU cross country runners that ran it in their weekly training. The “Hill” provided a great challenge to the cardiopulmonary system, strengthened legs and taught good “form” to the athletes. Over the years, runners would “guesstimate” the grade of the hill to judge their stamina and progress. It was passed down through the years that it “was about 10%” in grade, but this was never verified. The Lynch Family was approached about establishing a small monument to celebrate the people who trained on the hill, and they were excited about the idea. In order to establish accuracy, I reached out to the Chair of the Geology and Geography Department, Diane Burns, to see what could be done. Within a few days, Dr. James Riley had his Field Methods students come out to the hill to document the uphill running distance and the percent grade. It was a fantastic way to have the students get hand’s on, real-life experience as well as establish bonds among EIU generations.



*Dr. Riley's Field Methods class – L to R: Phil Collins, Everett Lau, Xander Richards (back), Kyler Houser, Luke Jansen, Perry Cozatt, Alex Kerley, Saegan Phillips, Troy Schmitt, Emma Baker, Dexter Harbison, Julia Contreras, Cole Biethman, Chris Borroff. Front: Michael Otwirk, David Frye, Paige Palombizio.*

The students got quite a work out on the hill – it was 90 degrees on the afternoon they made their calculations. Walking up and down the hill in the heat provided some with an unexpected physical challenge – good old "Lynch Hill." After meticulous measurements, the students determined that the one way distance up the hill was 200 meters, with a grade of 8.5%. This data was included in a commemorative sign that now sits on the hill, which was dedicated on that rainy Saturday at the '19 Homecoming.



# The Faculty

## Diane Burns

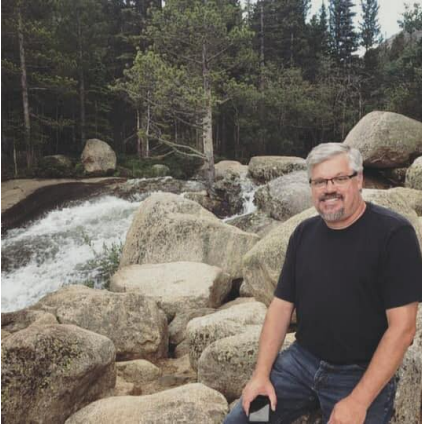
A wooly year to say the least! Seems like so much has happened...I have been Chair of this Department for three years, so my term was up at the end of June. Having accomplished a lot but having a LOT more that I want to do, I agreed to stand for another term if the faculty and upper administration agreed. Thankfully, they all have been very positive in their support of what I have done and how I have managed the Department and readily renewed my contract. Thanks go to you, wonderful alumni, for all of the help and support you have given to me – we have been doing great things together!

In more personal news, my backyard vegetable patch did better this year and I finally have been getting to some landscaping projects that I wanted to do. As much as I love rocks, they are terrible things to pack around the base of undeserving dogwood trees. I have three of these, and the poor things have been trying to grow for the past couple of decades through 8 inches of river rock. After looking increasingly more anemic over the past few years, I had all of the rock removed – the trees heaved large sighs of relief! I'm trying now to nurse them back to full vigor, but we'll see what happens. Jasper the Wonder Dog enjoys his daily hikes around the area and is as playful and energetic as a puppy, even though he'll turn nine this year. We are both enjoying the cooler weather from our deck and looking forward to some fire pit shenanigans in the coming weeks. I hope all of you have a healthy and enjoyable year!

## Craig Chesner (emeritus)

This has been a year that I am REALLY happy to be retired! Can't imagine giving on-line lectures, remote microscopy labs, or distance field trips! The altered world did not stop me from publishing the Toba lava domes paper, serving on a Ph.D. committee, and spending considerable time in the remoteness of the Keweenaw. Hopefully someday I can return to Toba for another field season or two! Wishing you all well in 2021!

## Mike Cornebise



Greetings, G/G Alumni! I hope the newsletter finds you in fine fettle. This has been an interesting year to say the least. To provide an example, I'm presently teaching a section of World Regional Geography as a "hybrid" course. Of the 80 students enrolled, 40 attend class on Tuesdays and the other 40 attend on Thursdays in the University Ballroom (all sitting six feet apart with masks on to boot). Students then complete online assignments to round out course instruction. In my role as Associate Dean, I was involved in the summer planning efforts for the fall

semester opening of EIU. Classes are held in a combination of face-to-face, hybrid and fully online formats. The biggest challenge was preparing non-traditional classroom spaces in buildings such as the MLK Union (where students attend class in rooms like the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Underground and Vending Lounge), Booth Library, McAfee North Gym and Pemberton Hall. It's been an adventure, but I believe EIU has made every effort to keep students, faculty and staff as safe as possible. I hope you are all well and I look forward to a time when we can more readily meet in person rather than on Zoom! Stay safe!

## 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, Spaceship Earth, Broadcast Meteorology, Cultural Geography, and next semester a new course in the Honors Program entitled, "Our Goozle-Goggle: Exploring Unknown Landscapes." I also continue to work closely with my broadcast meteorology students at WEIU's EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch." We continue to have a strong team of Broadcast Meteorology students who keep viewers informed across the region. Everett Lau is in his final year with us and I am happy to introduce Stephen Elmore, our new addition to the team who also plays on the Panther football team! Of course, we have a new batch of students moving into the program this semester and we continue to attract prospective students to the program out of high school year after year!

## Jim Davis

Hello alumni and friends! I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy in these unusual times. As I'm sure is the case with many of you, this year is off to a rather strange start with the COVID-19 protocols in place on campus. However, despite all the challenges, the department continues to move along and provide a high-quality experience for our students.

This fall marks the beginning of my 18<sup>th</sup> year at Eastern and I continue to teach many courses in human geography including Cultural, Economic, Sports, Tourism, and the Geography of Europe. This fall I am also teaching Population Geography for the first time. I am also continuing my work with the athletics department as I am beginning my 10<sup>th</sup> year as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative.

My family continues to do well. My oldest daughter graduated from high school last May and is now a freshmen at EIU studying Nutrition and Dietetics. My youngest is a sophomore at CHS. Hopefully I will have better luck getting her interested in Geography.

I hope you all will stay in touch and if you find yourself back in Charleston, please stop by and say hello!

## Belayet Khan (emeritus)

More than four 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 34 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 more than three decades. The chairs of the department were great 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 Extended Learning (Continuing Education). Teaching has always been 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. 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 is an Emergency Medicine doctor at the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College in Chicago. Our son, after graduating from Northwestern University and Rush Medical College in Chicago is currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Resident Medical doctor at University of Illinois Medical School, 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 recent years, we ventured east to visit Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Bangladesh. We have recently traveled to Sweden, Finland, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh and Morocco. We also traveled to Tunisia and Czech Republic to see historical places. In 2019, we went to Ecuador and was thrilled to visit the Equatorial Landmark in Quito. 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. Although I am retired, I periodically teach a class or two for our department. Having spent an extended period at the institution, I have been present for Eastern's successes and its struggles at times. I can say without hesitation that despite occasional hardships, EIU is now stronger than ever. Eastern's community at large has always remained positive and confident. I am confident that EIU will continue to prosper moving forward as it always has in the past. Early in my career I have hoped for an academic position where I would feel a sense of belonging and Eastern has been that place for me. 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. I humbly want to state that by God's grace, my vision has come to fruition, and I remain optimistic that the future will continue to provide treasured adventures.

# Barry Kronenfeld

Hello alum! I am back from sabbatical and ready to face the world again. I had a wonderful experience representing EIU as visiting fellow at the National University of Singapore in fall 2019, where I taught Cartography and Internet GIS to bright young students from around the world. A melting pot of food and culture and a modern city world renowned for urban planning, Singapore is a geographer's paradise and a great place to learn about the history of Asia.

Making it back to the USA right before Covid-19 exploded in China, I spent the spring and summer on research projects including a cartography focused Covid-19 animated dashboard (developed with Jason Yoo, current PSM student). Check it out at <https://www.eiu.edu/gisci/coviz/>, and stay safe everyone!



*Singapore, fall 2019. Clockwise from upper left: Ceramic bowls recovered from an ancient shipwreck off the Singapore coast, Chinatown, me at the Botanic Gardens, a small grocery/cafe by my apartment, “trees” at the Gardens by the Bay, model of downtown Singapore by the Urban Redevelopment Authority.*

# Christopher Laingen

August 2020 marked the start of my twelfth academic year at EIU. The previous year was enjoyable both professionally and personally. Of course, the SP20 semester was interrupted by Covid-19, and that interruption continues. Many people have referred to the pandemic as a crisis, which may be true for some. The word crisis in Japanese (危機=kiki), when broken down into its two symbols, contains the kanjis 危 = ”danger” and 機 = ”opportunity”. So, I’ve viewed this situation as an opportunity. At work, I’ve used it to put together the best online course content I possibly can because I truly believe – Covid-19 or not – that the future of higher education is online. But at home, and most importantly, I’ve used this opportunity to spend more time with family and friends. It has also been rewarding to see how

well Kenny and Edy have adapted to their ‘online learning’ routines, which will thankfully be ending in early November as they head back to the classroom.

My family and I have tried to place our focus on health and happiness and have largely ignored the negativity surrounding all that’s happening in the world today. In June we took our annual family trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of northern Minnesota. We’re so thankful to have kids who are adventurous, who are tough, who don’t need ‘screens’, and who can entertain themselves for hours on end playing with sticks in the woods and games of UNO at night.



*Kenny (8) & Edy (6) in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, northern Minnesota, June 2020*

My wife and I have also continued our own tradition of going on multi-day hiking trips. This year we hiked the ~80-mile Solitude Loop Trail that circles the Cloud Peak Wilderness area of the Bighorn Mountains in north-central Wyoming. We made it around in four-and-a-half days, experienced temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to below freezing, hiked in sunshine and snow, and saw plenty of wildlife (coyotes, moose, deer, marmots... but no bear). I’m very thankful to be married to someone who’s not averse to sleeping in a tent for a week.



*Sam and I at Florence Pass (~11,000 feet) on our last day on the Solitude Loop Trail in the Cloud Peak Wilderness, Wyoming, June 2020.*



The trail also lived up to its name – **Solitude** – as we encountered only five other hikers during our trip. Someday we'll go back and do the loop in reverse to see what was at our backs, but next year's plan is to go into the Wind River Range for five or six days. It's wonderful to live in a country that has designated wilderness areas – places that are so underutilized by most of its citizens – especially during times like these.



*Highland Park, Cloud Peak Wilderness, Wyoming, June 2020.*

## Katie Lewandowski

Greetings Alumni!

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. It's been such a strange year. I haven't traveled since going up to Chicago for a workshop on the Illinois Earth and Space Science Content Test in February. The North-Central Geological Society of America meeting this past spring was online. I did attend the National GSA meeting in Phoenix last September. I presented a paper on some research I have been working on about publications dedicated to women in science over the last 10 years. In addition, I was honored to speak on Imposter Syndrome at the Women in Geology Reception at GSA. Both talks were well-received. I also attended a meeting in Columbus, OH in October that celebrated 50 years of Women in Antarctica. It was in 1969 that the first all-woman geological expedition to Antarctica was launched from Ohio State University, my alma mater. The meeting was fantastic! Two of the original members (Terry Tickhill Terrell and Eileen McSaveney) of that expedition attended and spoke about their experiences on the ice. In addition, they had lots of other women speak about their experiences in Antarctica over the last 50 years. It was pretty amazing to be in a room full of so many women who had been down to Antarctica to do research. As many of you know, I went down to the ice as a graduate student in 2007. It was an amazing opportunity. I did present a poster at the 50 Years of Women in Antarctica meeting. Continuing my recent interest in women in science, I presented information about Maria Klenova, a Soviet oceanographer who was the first woman to work as a Principal Investigator in Antarctica. She did this in the late 1950s, when it was still taboo for American women to sail on research cruises.

Otherwise, I continue to teach lots and do some research. A new program has been launched at EIU. It is an accelerated program for teacher licensure. It is for students

who already have a bachelor's degree in science. They do an internship in a public school and over the course of a year take classes and do what they need to do to get licensure (take the content test, do the edTPA, etc.). I am working with a group of 6 students who are doing this right now. It's an interesting program. This semester, they are taking an online version of my science methods class (BIO/PHS 3400). I am also teaching the face to face version of that class with undergraduates this semester, as well. As far as geology classes, I'm teaching GEO 4850 (Environmental Geology) and GEO 3085 (Vertebrate Paleontology) this semester. These are both face to face classes, too. It's weird teaching in a mask with all of these safety concerns. I hope that we are soon back to normal, but only time will tell.

Cheers,  
Katie Lewandowski

James Riley  
petta reddast



*Traversing talus slopes among the cirques, arêtes, and horns of the Absarokas.*

Betty Smith (emerita)

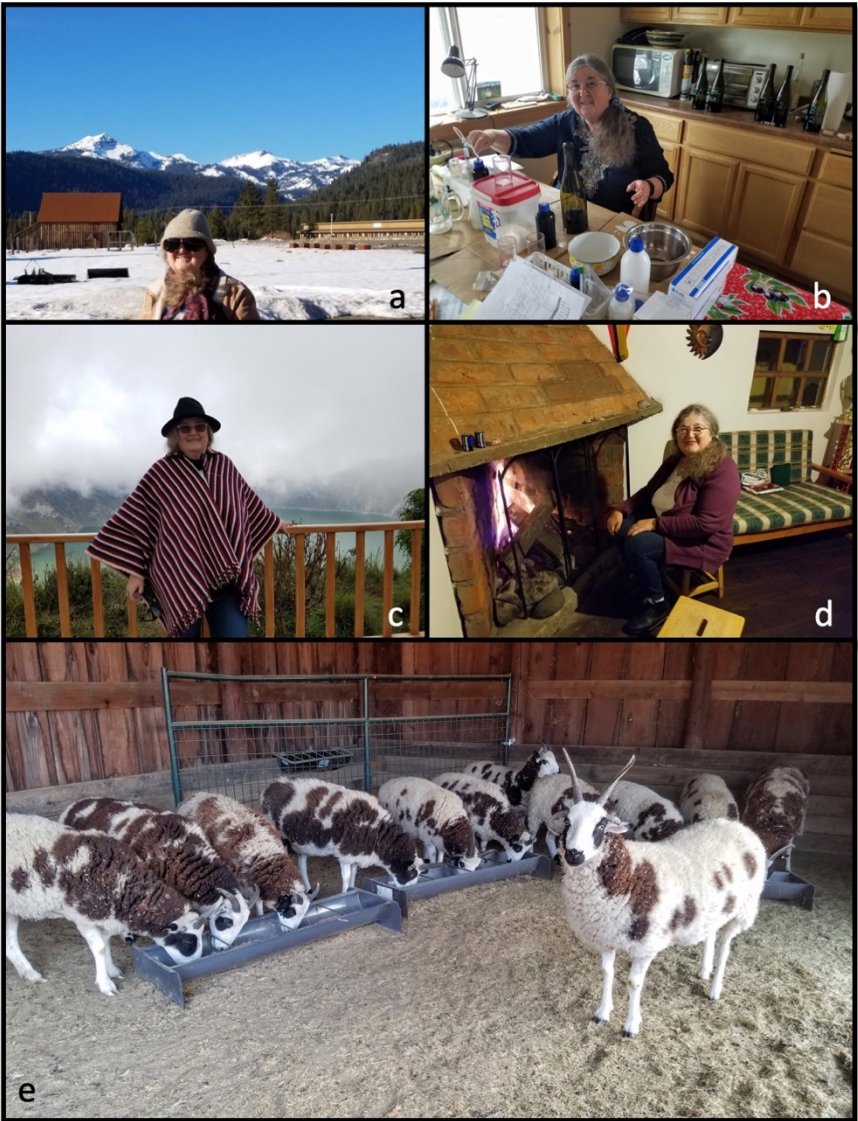
Hello colleagues, students, and alum,

I hope you are all safe and well! Since retiring I continue to be happy and busy, making new friends and catching up with old ones. I have a big garden full of huge tomato plants, peppers, butternut squash, acorn squash, and watermelons. My dog Lucky (half Appenzeller Swiss Mountain dog and half Border Collie) likes to chase lizards in the garden and sleep in the shade. I have planted several varieties of seedless table grapes as well as cabernet sauvignon grapes for red wine and orange muscat

grapes that can go either way, for table grapes or wine. My heritage Jacob sheep (white with black or lilac spots and horns) had seven lambs this spring and are doing well. I just started Basic Chemistry for Winemaking online at University of California Davis and am helping with testing wines at my friend's winery in northern California.

Professionally I continue research on Ponderosa Way, finally having time to work with maps I acquired at the National Archives in Maryland in 2019 and other maps from the Sacramento State Archives. I serve on the Board of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS) and attended the conference in Springfield last October. Not surprising, our MALAS conference that was planned for Washington, D.C. this fall has been converted to an online Zoom meeting. Covid19 virus has so changed our lives! Last March I made a trip to visit friends in Ecuador, where I used to take students on study abroad trips. Suddenly on Sunday I received an email saying my Thursday return flight was cancelled and there were no future flights to book. I managed to get a flight that same night, Sunday March 15, to come home. It was packed! I did not realize until I was on board that it was the last flight by American Airlines out of Ecuador. The following day the entire country went into "lockdown." Upon returning home I self-quarantined for a couple weeks.

I wish you all well in your studies, careers, and personal lives.  
Dr. Smith



a. Dr. Smith at Lassen National Park Feb 2020; b. Dr. Smith doing wine chemistry at Mount Tehama Winery in Manton, California; c. Dr. Smith returns to ancient caldera in Ecuador, Lake Quilotoa, 11,000 feet elevation March 2020; d. Dr. Smith visits friends in Andes Mountains of Ecuador March 2020; e. Jacob Sheep in the barn August 2020 (Note: Black or lilac spots are sun-bleached brown)

## Dave Viertel

Greetings. It has been a busy year with me taking the reins of the PSM program during Dr. Kronenfeld's sabbatical and now sharing duties since his return. It was rewarding to see several students through their final steps in the PSM program and gratifying to see them move on to successful jobs.

I have continued to teach many familiar classes, while adding offerings such as Land Use Planning and Urban Geography to my repertoire. Lockdowns and the surprise move online definitely added excitement in Spring; I'm happy to say students adjusted well to the challenges. A Summer to prepare has led to even smoother classes this fall as I teach two classes fully online and one face-to-face.

Life for my family has been great. My daughter is ten now and seems to be acquiring new animals each week (Guinea Pigs are the latest). My wife, who is an academic advisor over in education, continues to flourish at EIU. Our camping trips have been sadly curtailed this year, but we have been lucky enough to ride out this COVID craziness in relative peace. I sincerely hope you and yours can say the same.

## Support the Department, Support the Students!

**We are so grateful for all of your various types of contributions!**

You can help us keep these quality programs and outstanding students going. Support comes in many guises – whether sharing your ideas, suggestions, job opportunities and internships, equipment contributions, presenting talks and more. Some examples – in the recent past, we have had Jim Ursic, '75, and his colleagues present on “Geophysical Investigations and Opportunities” in his role in the EPA. The talk was very well-received by the students and left them eager to learn more about careers in the EPA. Bill Bandy, '79, gave an inspirational discussion on his career, with many pointers for the students as to how they could also succeed. Bill also dropped off a large collection of wulfenite that our mineralogist, Jake Crandall, was excited to receive, as well as an impressive array of field guides that will be used in years to come. Rick Smith, who is with the Doe Run Mine in Missouri, donated a \*huge\* chunk of galena which now proudly sits in our new, museum-quality mineral and meteorite display. Most, however, do send donations, and these are \*greatly\* appreciated. These funds are used to afford educational and research materials for student investigations, fund travel to present their projects at conferences, provide scholarships for deserving individuals and more. They have many more opportunities due solely to your generous support.

If you are interested in a monetary contribution to our department, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/giving.php>. Once you have pulled up that page, you will see the first part where you enter the amount you will be given and a drop-down menu to the right of that to direct your gift to Geology and Geography. It is on the second page of the menu under the “College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” about one third of the way down on that second page. The Foundation has reworked the website and made it a little more difficult to navigate. If you are directing it to a specific scholarship/fund, please make note of it at the bottom where it asks if it is in memory of someone. As always, checks made payable and sent to the department will be processed exactly as you direct.

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. and 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 obtaining daily climate data for the National Weather Service
- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography or Earth Science
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either Mathematics (even years) or Geographay (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 and Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in Geography
- Others – establish 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 is then multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1 match. Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are appreciated but please contact the department beforehand to ensure optimal use as well as conformance to University regulations. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email or call me – thank you so very much!

Diane M. Burns, Chair  
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*Geology major Shirley Mensah was invited to give a talk at the Spring Board of Trustees meeting as to what it means to have an EIU education. President Glassman introduced Shirley to the Board.*

## Feeling social? Come see what is going on in social media!

We have Facebook pages and groups – pages are public, but the groups need to have you invited to join. Besides “shout outs” and various GEO-related postings, we also use the groups as a clearinghouse for all job opportunities and internships that come to our attention. If you are looking for a position, you should definitely join! If you know of opportunities, you can either join the group and pass along the information or just send along in an email and we’ll get it posted. To join or to send job opportunities, please email Diane at [dmburns@eiu.edu](mailto:dmburns@eiu.edu).

Coming soon – Instagram and YouTube!!

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

[eiu.edu/geoscience](http://eiu.edu/geoscience)