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ILLINOIS STATE

GEOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 9

December 1994

Greetings:

It is almost the end of the fall semester and once again time for the annual newsletter. First off, on behalf of the geology faculty, let me wish you all a holiday season and a beautiful and bountiful new year.

Since the last newsletter, I believe we have had a very good year. The geology program got off to a fine start, with but a few birth pains. We are expecting grad students to finish their degree work by May, on schedule. Likewise, the undergraduate program again has about 50 majors, as it did last year at the same time. Enrollments in sedimentology and structural geology are high, but that in itself is usually a bell-weather, is about half of the previous year. Money is extremely tight this year, with a small equipment budget and field trip funding cut to a small fraction of what we need. We don't know if there will be sufficient funds for all of our spring trips.

As you are aware, this past year was Dr. Searight's last year of teaching, and he left at the end of the first half of field camp. The Department faculty and staff had a dinner party for him at the Fireside Inn in Lexington. A very nice Dremel sander was presented to him to give him something to do in his wood shop on days when he has to go outside.

However, unbeknownst to Dr. Searight, a second party with students arranged was planned by Teedra Hudson (88) and Mrs. Searight for the end of his teaching career, as most of you are aware. The surprise worked perfectly. Alumni started arriving a day or two before the June 4th event, but most stayed out of his scheduled time. Mrs. Searight took him sight-seeing off campus, with the plan that they would later go to a chuckwagon supper and cowboy-band show at the outside of Rapid City. He had long wanted to go to one of these. He was overwhelmed when they arrived and found 37 field campers, the faculty, and several alum guests waiting there. After the show, all returned to Connolly for an additional surprise reception, with cake and punch (remember, no beer at SDSMT campus). The lounge was decorated with balloons and ribbons and Mrs. Searight's wife, Jeanne, had made a display of field camp memorabilia going back 20 years. On behalf of the alumni, Tony D'Agostino (78) presented Dr. Searight with a beautiful casting of Remington's four horsemen "Coming Through the Rye". Doc Searight appreciated the works of Remington (perhaps you recall the pictures on his wall) and was very pleased with the gift. The entire evening was a tribute to Dr. Searight and to his 35 years of service. He was very appreciative that so many worked so hard for him. The entire evening, including meals for the students, was paid for by contributions from alumni and some friends. Many thanks to those who made

evening possible.

Alumni who attended the gala, and their states of origin, were: Tony D'A (78), Texas; Debbie Harrity (89), Virginia; Chris Mixon (89) and Vicky, Wis Greetis (80) and wife, Kathy, Ohio; John Grabs (89), Illinois; Kevin Schnoe Illinois; Bret Naugle (89), Illinois; Ron Mehalic (89), Illinois; Teedra Hudson family, Illinois; and David Malone (88), Wisconsin.

This summer's field camp was the largest since the mid-80s. We had 37 s including 21 from ISU, 2 from Bradley U (with ISU) and 14 from NIU. It was hardworking group and all had a great time (I think!). I took over for the las weeks, after Dr. S. left, and proto-Doctor Dave Malone was there for the th weeks. (Dave defended his dissertation research shortly after field camp, I title at field camp.) Drs. Casella and Stoddard were there from NIU. The 1 should be a little smaller again and it will be Dr. Casella's last time out, as I after the next camp.

The search for a replacement for Dr. Searight was long, but fruitful. We w for someone who could teach not only Dr. Searight's sed and strat courses Dr. Nelson's structural geology course, as Dr. Nelson was giving up that cc devote more time to the graduate program. After reviewing 69 resumes an interviewing 18 people at the GSA meeting in Boston (Nov. 1993), and afte 100 applicant's files received in December and January, we finally decided David Malone was our best choice. Some of you know him, as he graduat in 1988 and was one of our top students over the 25 years of the geology p taught at our field camp the last three summers and was highly regarded b students. He completed his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of W His dissertation research was field based (one of the things we were lookin was a study of a large-scale debris flow in the Absaroka Mountains, Wyom Perhaps you remember this as the area of the Heart Mountain "thrust". Dr adds a new dimension to our understanding of this area. His study involve structural geology and volcanic stratigraphy. In addition to teaching sedim stratigraphy, structural geology and historical geology (alternating semeste Day) he has also taken over the role of undergraduate advisor. We expect kept busy.

Dr. Larry Barrows, the environmental geophysicist who joined our program has been involved heavily in the graduate and undergraduate programs. I taught courses in geophysics, groundwater modelling and introductory geo Graduate and undergraduate students have been getting practical experier as theoretical background, in his courses. He has borrowed geophysical e from both industry and the U.S. EPA so students could get hands-on exper of us could have found the large bell on the Quad by just looking for it, how Barrows had the students prove it was there by running magnetometer pro Quad. Recently, he has given talks to the Illinois State Low-Level Radioac Task Group (on the use of applied geophysics in their program) and to the chapter of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society (on gravitational energy ar earthquakes). He is currently working on two papers with a physics underg Kevin Paul, on computer modelling of tectonic stress and earthquake phys

Dr. Corbett, who is always up to his ears in administrative duties, still seen time to do other things as well. This past summer he again led a group trip thirty-some people this time. Every semester he has an undergrad working research project that leads to a student-coauthored paper. In addition, he prepare a paper or two of his own, or with a colleague. His two current are interest are, 1) the relationship of bedrock to groundwater chemistry, with a paper presented to the Illinois Groundwater Association, and 2) developing diagram for use in rainwater chemistry studies, with a paper presented at tl

meeting in Seattle. With this type of diagram he has been able to 1) demo different water-chemistry groups, 2) illustrate compositional changes through rain event, 3) trace changes in water chemistry as a weather system travels across the country, 4) distinguish among moisture sources, and 5) map the U.S. in terms of rainwater types. Also, he has been invited to write a chapter on soil and water contamination for a book to be published by AGI.

Dr. James Day, alias Jed, completed field work this past summer on the Devonian fossils in the Iowa Basin and currently is writing a paper on the topic with Dr. Koch of Oregon State University. He is also working on Devonian changes in conjunction with the Canadian Geological Survey. This study is in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. At the Northcentral GSA meeting Jed is author or co-author of four papers concerning Devonian faunas, Devonian changes, biostratigraphy and chemostratigraphy of the Michigan and Iowa Basins. Also at that meeting, he organized and chaired a special symposium on the geologic history of central-eastern North America and organized the Pander Society and reviewed abstracts for it. Additionally, he was invited to speak at the GSA meeting and served as editor for a GSA Special Paper on biostratigraphy, which should appear in the near future. He contributed two papers in the series. Dr. Day continues to teach a large array of courses, including introductory geology (physical, historical and oceanography), life of the geologic past and paleontology. Add to that a new involvement in a graduate course, aquifer systems.

The big event for John Foster is his upcoming retirement at the end of this year. Over the last couple of summers he and Sylvia have traveled around the country in search of greener pastures for the future. This past summer they toured the southwest and have decided that they will settle somewhere in that area, probably in the high country of New Mexico or Arizona. His azimuth instrument is being manufactured and should be on the market in January 1995. John will receive the instruments, by special arrangement with the manufacturer, probably in February. It will be demonstrated here. Call him for details. A special Groundwater Science Award was presented by the Illinois Groundwater Association, in March, "to John Foster, for outstanding lifetime commitment to groundwater science, culminating in the establishment of the Master of Science degree program in hydrogeology at Southern Illinois State University". When he leaves here John will not only have credit for his graduate program, but for steering it through its first two years. He will see his graduates receive their diplomas. The search for John's replacement is being handled by Dr. Nelson.

The west end of Schroeder Hall rose several inches this summer, caused by the rebound when Dr. Nelson emptied his office and moved over to the first floor of Edwards Hall. Of course, Edwards Hall sunk slightly. Edwards is where the geology program is housed, so the grad students and Larry Barrows also have offices there. Besides his usual course load, Dr. Nelson has been developing a new University Studies course for geology. The University is introducing a completely revised general education program into which most old courses will no longer fit, hence the need for the new course. He is also a member of the College Research Council and he gets to review all of the grant proposals submitted for the college research program --in my view, not an enviable job. This past fall he helped lead the Tri-State Geology Conference. The annual trip was run from DeKalb and visited outcrops on the Pelee Sandwich fault. Also, he and Dr. Aspbury (geography) received another contract for work for the IEPA putting pre-flood well-data from floodplain sites along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers into GIS.

As for myself, in March my paper on the results of the alumni survey for field geology was published in the Journal of Geologic Education. My thanks to all who participated in the survey. In May I presented a paper at the Rocky Mountain GSA in Denver. My paper was on the recognition of two different sources for some of the phonolites in the

Black Hills. Along the same line, this summer an undergrad student, Art S; I discovered many inclusions in a phonolite outcrop and these will be very i supporting some of the hypotheses I have proposed about the phonolites. considerable time this semester writing some of my Black Hills work, which submit next semester. The Rocky Mountain Section of the GSA will be me Rapid City in 1996 and I am already working on some level of participation I have been involved in the new graduate program, by teaching the clastic half of a new course, Aquifer Systems. Jed taught the carbonate half.

Drs. Nelson and Malone report that there are some major changes at Barz Because the heavy rains in 1993 took out a number of roads and bridges, 1 been a high demand for aggregate. All of the quartzite quarries have been LaRue Quarry has had 20 feet of rock removed from one end, giving fresh the shear zone, with interesting dissolution apparent in the quartzite. Two now starting a study of it. At the lower narrows a new quarry has exposed sequence of Galesville and Tunnel City on top of the quartzite. Denzer qu; expanded considerably, exposing another fault.

The department is now on Internet. Except for our names, we all have the address. The names for communication are: lbarrows, jeday, rcorbett, dhn rsnelso and jgkirch, followed immediately by @ilstu.edu . Feel free to drop you are on-line.

Speaking of addresses, please note that the department now has a new a including a new ZIP. It is: 4400 Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois University, Normal, IL, 61790. Mail will still get to us with the old address, l or later it will produce delays if the old address is used.

And now, news from alumni--in no particular order, just the way they com file folder. As usual, I collect information all year long for this, so some of it last January and may no longer reflect current situations. No harm intende want me to have the story straight, write or call late in the fall, just before p recent phone call from Salem Al-Baker (80): he is superintendent of produc with Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., married to an American lady he met at I-F has two boys, aged five and eight. Mike Maske (81) stopped by in January working for the Defense Mapping Agency in St. Louis. Both John Petersor Alex Hutson (94) went to work for Fugro-McClelland in the Chicago area, w under operations manager Steve Nalefski (83). John also got married afte Dan Wheeler (93) is working for Illinois Bureau of Mines in Springfield. Sc (93) called in November. He is stationed in Florida, but is working all over t with Levine-Fricke. Joe Applegate (83) is with the same company, but I be different city in Florida (according to my address listings). Craig Reidner (€ manager of Norway Mountain Ski Resort in Michigan. I hear by the grapev Susan Grandone (90) is now director of the Environmental Health Division County. Chris Wood (76) is an independent petroleum engineer/geologist, Michigan. He stopped by in April while looking at some reef structures in o The previous summer he had been on a dinosaur dig in Wyoming, with Ro (famous vertebrate paleontologist).

Chuck Jolly (72) is president of A.E. Exploration Co., involved in enviro drilling, monitor wells and other enviro-stuff. He has a daughter attending I Sloan (86) is with J.A. Jones Environmental Services in Jacksonville, FL. (Wilcox has moved to Sun Prairie, WI as district manager of ATEC. Devon is with Lawson and Assoc. in the Chicago area. Rick Findlay (93) is doing environmental work with Enico Tech (probably in Arizona by now). He has Tyler, since the last newsletter. We recently had a visit by Paula (Gozner) along with her young son Patrick. After years of technical work with compu looking to get back into geologic work in the Chicago area. Mike Labedis v

March, saying that he was engaged to be married in June. At the time, he courses at U.T.-Arlington. Lori (Rute) Fortner (80) says she is working for Houston, looking at prospects in Europe and Russia. Her husband, Dave (our field camp), is doing independent contract work in the petroleum industry in the Dallas area. They have two young sons. Dave is learning to fly. Gary Car now free-lancing in petroleum geology in the Tulsa area. He tells me that I (76) has been in Nigeria the last several years (one of my old bases of operation). Tony D'Agostino (78) is also now an independent oil consultant in Midland, Deb Harrity has moved to Virginia, but is still with PRC. And last, but not least, Scott (83) has left Missouri and moved back to the Bloomington area to be with Yockey and Brown, where Shannon Fulton-Bowers (92) also works.

And now a word from our sponsors! A reminder that, if you wish to contribute to our alma mater and the department, we have several avenues for doing so. We have a general fund that supports miscellaneous goings-on in the department (specifically the Geography-Geology fund), a fund that directly benefits only geology students (Wesley Powell Fund) and one that supports an assistantship at the graduate level (John Wesley Powell Commemorative Assistantship Fund). Contributions are tax deductible.

Now that we have a graduate program, we occasionally need to support student activities. The question arises as to whether or not to start another fund, means additional book-keeping, or to expand the function of the JWP Fund to include graduate as well as undergraduate support. We are seeking your input in this regard. ie. do you have strong feelings one way or another? We would appreciate your response. We would appreciate you would send us your opinion, using the form at the bottom of the newsletter.

Contributors to the JWP Fund (apparently no contributors to the other funds in the last newsletter are: Lori (Rute) and Dave Fortner (80), Shannon Fulton-Bowers (92), Mike Watson (91), Ron Mehalic (89), Paula (Gozner) Garcia (89), Gary Car (76), Jim Brennen (76), Mark McMahon (82), Steve Burch (75), Andrew G. Jolly (72), Tim Maley (82), John O'Gorman (73), Harold Orndorff (78), Phelps (80), Robert Sloan (86), Wayne Vogelsburg (86), Chuck (80) and L. Wiles. I hope I didn't leave anyone out; if I did, my apologies. Last time I had contributions from Chruscicki (78) and Dave Elbow (71), who contributed to the JWP Commemorative Assistantship Fund. Our thanks to all.

That's about all the news that's fit to print. Issue 10 of the newsletter should be out about this time next year. In the meantime let me know what's happening.

Best Regards,

Jim Kirchner

Opinion survey on the use of the John Wesley Powell Fund:

Should the JWP Fund be used to support the graduate program as well as undergraduate program? (If not, another fund will be established.)

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

Name (optional) _____

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