


[The Department](#)
[Geography](#)
[Geology](#)
[GIS](#)
[Hydrogeology](#)
[Events](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Contact Information](#)
[History](#)
[Faculty & Staff](#)
[Publications](#)
[Learning Resource Center -
Display Area](#)

ILLINOIS STATE

GEOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 10 November 1995

Greetings:

JOHN W. FOSTER

October 21, 1923 - October 9, 1995

Hello again. It is with sadness that I open the newsletter for 1995. The department lost a good friend and valued colleague in early October with the unexpected death of John W. Foster, soon after his retirement began. John had retired at the end of May postponing it for a year so he could help the department and could see the fruits of his effort to establish the graduate program in hydrogeology. John and Sylvia planned on moving to New Mexico for their retirement years. A memorial service was held in Stevenson Hall, with comments made by Drs. Nelson and Corbett, Schollaert and Acting President David Strand. A particularly moving presentation was made by Mark Edwards, former graduate student of John's. The service was attended by family, faculty, staff, students and a number of alumni.

John was born in Concord, New Hampshire. He received an A.B. degree in geology from Dartmouth in 1947 after his plan of study was interrupted by World War II.

He received a Master of Science degree from Ohio State University in 1951 and worked for the Illinois State Geological Survey from 1949 to 1955 and then returned to Illinois State in 1982 on what was initially a temporary appointment. He attained the rank of associate professor and served as acting chairperson of the department from 1987-88. The first two patents registered by Illinois State University are attributed to John and his cohort, Larry Frieda, formerly of the industrial technology department. Several years after he arrived at Illinois State John saw the need for a dedicated graduate program in groundwater science. With the help of all the geology faculty at the time, the paperwork was initiated in 1986. It took seven years to clear the bureaucracy in order to get the program through the approval process and it was funded. It was John who shepherded the proposal through to the end. The program started in the fall of 1993. John saw the first five students defend their theses in the spring of 1995.

A memorial fund to honor John W. Foster is being established by the Foundation Office to aid the hydrogeology program. It is hoped to acquire sufficient funds to establish an endowment to support bringing to campus annually a person for a presentation in the field of groundwater hydrology. You will be contacted regarding supporting this effort at a later time, after full arrangements have been made.

So, otherwise how are things here? A mix of terms comes to mind, including "well", "chaotic", "hopeful", "state of transition" and "state of anxiety". This is different than usual, but the campus happenings this year have been unique things are in a state of flux. If you haven't heard already, President Wallace resigned this summer after a period of internal and external controversy. The University is scrapping its old University Studies program and initiating a new Education program, for which existing courses are not eligible. That means introductory courses as you knew them will be phased out and an entirely new set of courses is being designed and taught on a pilot basis. No one knows yet which courses will receive final approval or which departments will lose enrollment if they are unable to get introductory courses approved. Geology is probably in a reasonable shape because the new program includes a science requirement where all students must take one course in each of two different sciences, select one from biology, chemistry, geology and physics. Geography, however, will be losing its status as a U. S. course and the fate of its newly proposed courses is uncertain. Their (geography's) well-being affects the whole department, as geology and geography have many collaborative efforts. So, we are all hopeful that they will survive this transition.

The undergraduate geology program is holding its own. We currently have enrollment down somewhat from 50 last year at this time, and only slightly above the level considered as a minimum by the dean.

The field emphasis in the undergraduate program continues to be a primary focus. However, "Instructional Travel" funds, that means money for field trips attached to courses, were cut further this year and are insufficient to cover all of our trips. We have no intention of cutting trips, however, and we will be considering alternative methods. Most likely the burden will fall on students in the form of special fees that will be assessed for geology courses. As the administration pours more and more money into advancing technology, the traditional modes of education are being sacrificed for it.

Speaking of field trips, the Geology Club is planning a trip to west Texas and Mexico over spring break in 1996. They are having bake sales and fossil sales to raise money to defray costs. So far there are 15 students planning on going and a couple of profs.

Several undergraduate students have been pursuing independent research projects last year. They were assisted financially by small grants from the John Weir Fund that paid for field expenses, thin sections, etc. Ed Wagner and John Sieving are studying localized dissolution features in the cementation of the Baraboo quartzite. In the process, some evidence of oil was found in the quartzite. Steve Holdaway and John Sieving spent two weeks in the Bighorn Mts. mapping and gathering geologic data in an area several miles north of the field camp map area. Steve also received an undergraduate research grant from GSA for this project, a first for our program.

Steve Holdaway received a National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT) scholarship for field camp. These used to be fairly common, but hard times for the oil companies that used to be the main contributors, so that there were only a few awards this year. Another student, Kris Thompson, received a full tuition fee award from the Department of Labor, through the United Industry Council. A requirement for the award is that she "shadow" the job of some female in an occupation in which females tend to be under-represented. In this case Kris will be working with geologists (83) of the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS).

We contributed 13 students (compared to 21 in 1994) to the 31 who attend field camp last summer. We expect to have about the same number from ISU this summer. Once again we were housed in Palmerton Hall, instead of the Co

basement that so many of you know. Although we have to go up and down flights of stairs, there is carpeting on the floors and no dust blows in from the lot. I was there for the first three weeks and Dr. Malone took over for the last weeks. This was his first year there as a regular faculty member, after several summers as an instructor (graduate student). Drs. Stoddard and Casella were again from NIU. This was the last summer for Dr. Casella. He and the lead geologist provided will be missed. We all wish him well in his retirement. I will be taking over directing and making arrangements for field camp next summer.

Another item that is important to our program is a planned move to Felmley Hall. It won't happen for a while yet, but it is in the works, presently scheduled for the fall of 1997. Completion next year of the new science building adjacent to Julia Hall will result in a major part of the programs of chemistry and biology vacating Felmley Hall, leaving room for us. We anticipate having more space than we have now. I will get an office with a window!

The geology program continues in its effort to present a positive image on campus and in the community. In that regard, the department sponsored a campus welcome for the new Chief of the ISGS, Dr. Bill Schilts. There was a formal reception, followed by a dinner given by Dr. Schilts. He is an easy-going fellow who would rather be in the field than in a coat and tie. We hope to strengthen ties with the Survey and to obtain their cooperation in developing thesis projects. In October the department sponsored a final speaker for Arts and Sciences Week, Dr. Chris Neuzil, who works for the Geological Survey. He is the Birdsall-Dreiss lecturer for the hydrogeology division of the GSA. His topic was on "The Roles of Science and Uncertainty in Solving Society's Groundwater Problems." It was attended by people with a wide spectrum of interests. The next day I was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Illinois Groundwater Association.

There are 28 full-time and part-time students in the graduate program in hydrogeology, keeping the faculty overseeing theses particularly busy. All of the geology and the geography faculty serve as thesis committee members, but so far only Dr. Barrows, Corbett, Nelson and John Foster have chaired committees. The five students to receive a degree from the graduate program by last August are Romanelli, Mark Saelens, Steve Travers and Tom Williams. Carl Davies and John Edwards have defended their theses and several others are nearing completion. Many of them presented the results of their research at a professional meeting. Mark Romanelli was selected to receive the Charter Departments Graduate Student Excellence Award.

Replacing John Foster was a major concern for the department. It is, of course, impossible to find another person with the wealth of experience and expertise that John had. Looking for a replacement began well in advance of his planned retirement. What appeared to be suitable applicants were few. Several people were interviewed but for various reasons were not hired. So, we began the fall semester with a search for a replacement, putting a definite strain on our ability to handle the work load. Through the persistent efforts of Dr. Nelson, who headed the search committee, and Dr. Corbett, a replacement was found to start in January. So, at least in writing, we have a replacement. He is a native of Ghana and received his M.S. degrees in geological engineering from the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana and the University of Windsor, in Ontario, Canada, respectively. He is receiving his Ph.D. in geological engineering, with a specialization in hydrogeology from the University of Missouri at Rolla. His dissertation is on modeling groundwater flow in the vadose zone. He has practical experience working as a geologist in Africa and Canada and is a member of the ASTM Sub-committee on Groundwater and Vadose Zone Investigations. He already has several publications. We are confident that he will be an addition who will continue our program focus on applied geology. He is married and has two children. Before he passed away, John gave his approval for the appointment of Dr. Boateng.

Sam.

With John's retirement Dr. Larry Barrows assumed the position of graduate coordinator. That means he is responsible for all the paper work and effort keep the graduate program afloat, from admitting students at one end of th to keeping higher administration happy at the other end. In addition, he is c supervising eight theses and teaching his usual course load. Of the theses groundwater modeling problems, an area about which much is yet to be le; he is teaching a modeling course to IEPA people in Springfield and has a c the IEPA to do geohydrologic modeling in support of their Well-head Protec Program project. In the past year he co-authored two papers with graduate one with Mark Edwards on electrical resistivity surveying (Proceedings of th Symposium of the Engineering and Environmental Geophysical Society) ar with A.J. Romanelli on gravity terrain corrections (submitted to Geophysics co-author of a paper being presented in Pittsburgh by an undergraduate pf Honors student. That paper is on finite-element modeling of tectonic proces sole author of a paper on the geophysical characterization of solid-waste la submitted to the AIPG. His vision for the graduate program is that the focus it may lead to ISU being a research center for midwest hydrogeology.

In spite of continually having to put out administrative brush fires, Dr. Robe department chair, manages to produce prodigiously professionally. He wro of a new environmental geology textbook, sponsored by AGI, and was a pr reviewer for two other texts. He also presented two papers at the Lincoln, I GSA meeting, one on a comparison of geography's and geology's respons proposed science standards as part of the Goals 2000 education reform pe the other on dedolomitization as an explanation for the chemical compositi groundwater in east-central Indiana. His on-going research is preparation c maps showing annual chemical composition of rainwater throughout the 48 United States. He co-authored a paper presented by Henry Zintambilia (ge the American Association of Geographers on the mapping technique utilize the summer he spent two weeks in the west restructuring the float trip that on the Colorado River for many years. He calls the new trip the "Plateau C Adventure". It will start down the Green River in Wyoming and go into and the Colorado River. Four days will be spent rafting on the rivers and the rer days visiting nearby museums and four national parks, June 15-26, 1996. ! but not all inclusive, costs are \$1100. Contact him soon if you are intereste come ... , limit 20.

Dr. James E. Day, alias Jed, Devonian brachiopod persona of the midwest to spread the good word about the little bivalves. At the Lincoln GSA meeti a paper on the biostratigraphy and taxonomic significance of brachs of the beds in eastern Iowa. During the summer he did some field work in Michig; Wisconsin and Indiana concerning Michigan Basin Middle Devonian stratig also prepared two papers and a manuscript (Middle-Upper Devonian extinc brachiopods in North America) for the 3rd International Brachiopod Conferi Sudbury, Ontario, in September. Jed also led a post-meeting field trip in lo conference participants and is serving as co-editor of the Proceedings for t conference. In addition, he wrote part of a guidebook and led another field Geological Society of Iowa in October. The GSA Special Paper on Paleozc stratigraphy, for which Jed was co-editor, and author or co-author of three : has gone to the book editor for GSA for final approval. He has worked on tl several years. Currently, Jed is coordinating efforts with several colleagues for field work next summer in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Jed's hi productivity and excellent teaching record have made him a valuable collez geology program. The most important news is that Jed was granted tenure Off campus, Jed and Kathy moved to a bigger home last summer.

Dr. David Malone has completed his first full year with us and is well into the first year. He and his wife, Dawn, and their daughter are settled in Chenoa, where they are learning the joys of living in and maintaining an older home. After field camp this summer, he spent another month in the Absaroka Mountains with two students as a mentor for the undergraduate research efforts of the students working at Baraboo and in the Bighorns, cited earlier. An article in the August issue presented partial results of Dave's work on the Heart Mountain detachment in the Absarokas. By the time you get this newsletter he will have presented a paper at the New Orleans GSA meeting on more Absaroka work that he completed this summer. He is also co-author of another paper being presented there and of a recipe (Ornry Dave's Haitian Red Beans and Rice) appearing in a field cookbook being published by the GSA in conjunction with the New Orleans meeting. He is already preparing for the 1996 GSA meeting in Denver by planning a field trip to the Absarokas. He also participated in an ISGS public field trip to the Peoria area this summer. He and Dr. Nelson were responsible for one of the stops on the trip. Dave was elected to be 2nd vice-president of the Central Section of the GSA. He will move progressively up to 1st vice-president and to president in the next few years and will be responsible for planning a field trip and meeting. Dr. Nelson and Dr. Corbett have served previously in this capacity and Dr. Corbett has done so in another year.

Dr. Nelson, better known to many of you as "Skip", has been exceptionally busy this year, particularly as he was in charge of the search committee to replace J. Nelson in charge of developing the new Principles of Geology course that will become the new mainstay introductory course in the new General Education (Gen. Ed.) program. This course is designed to have more direct student involvement and more emphasis on scientific concepts, investigative techniques and applied mathematics. He is also a member of the Science Literacy Committee that is part of the Gen. Ed. development. He prepared the proposal for another course we hope will be accepted for the program, one titled Natural Disasters. Also, he is involved in Project Connections, a cooperative effort among the sciences at EIU, WIU and ISU for interaction with community colleges and local school districts. Outside of the teaching aspect of his professional life, Skip is one of the reviewers of the Geology of McLean County Series being published by the ISGS. In addition to participating in the ISGS field trip to the Pekin-Peoria area, Skip was a major contributor to a September ISGS publication in the Pontiac area. He organized several stops and wrote part of the guide for the trip. He and George Aspbury (geography) completed their IEPA project to create a digital database of groundwater conditions in selected floodplain sites in the Peoria area and presented a co-authored paper on their efforts at the GSA meeting in Lincoln. Skip also remains active in working with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Dr. Searight has been enjoying his retirement. He and Jean have been doing a lot of traveling, including trips to the east coast, Kansas, Colorado and the Black Hills. Tom even spent a week at the guest ranch in Nemo. Tom comes into ISU once a month so to spend some time writing and to have lunch with the faculty. Next semester he will be helping us out by teaching Geomorphology.

I will also mention Teedra Hudson (88), who some of you know. She operates Geological Testing Services in Towanda and occasionally pinch hits for us when necessary. This semester she is teaching two of our introductory courses, and we needed her to cover for the non-replacement of John in the fall semester. She was given a special honor this fall by being elected 2nd vice-president of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists.

As for myself, I continue to harass students in my usual courses. Mineralogy is my focus this fall. After field camp I again spent the remainder of the summer at the Tawas City cottage on Lake Huron. I must say, that while the rest of the co-

sweltered, it was cool on the lake front. However, little of my time was fun-i used the time to write two articles for a guidebook on Black Hills geology tc published in association with the Rocky Mountain GSA meeting in Rapid C April. The articles are on the geology, mineralogy and petrography of the a intrusions in the area of Deer Mountain, Terry Peak and Sugarloaf Mountai northern Hills and on the geology of the Tomahawk volcanic center (diatrer Deadwood. I also wrote descriptions of five stops for a two-day field trip I w leading after the meeting and spent some time working on an article, co-au alumnus Maj-Britt Shaw (93), on a gabbro outcrop in Missouri. Also, in con the Rapid City meeting, I am organizing a symposium on alkalic rocks, co-t guidebook mentioned above and preparing a paper for presentation. (My a deluge of editorial duties is one reason this newsletter is out earlier than us paper is on the mineralogy and chemistry of inclusions found in Black Hills' I am also co-author, with Bob Corbett, of a paper he is presenting at the G' in New Orleans. Personally, Kathe and I are looking forward to spending t Hawaii this year, as we have a daughter getting married there. We also ha grandchild added to the fold, number 5.

And now, in the order in which my notes fall from the folder, are tidbits on ç alumni. Susan Grandone (90) is now Susan Grandone-Schroeder and livin She is the director of LaSalle County Solid Waste Management. As of last Larry Johnston (74) is working in Peoria as Director of Operations for PDC Inc. He had worked previously in nine states with the uranium industry and plants. I was very surprised in August to receive a call from long-lost (to us Ijirigho (75). I remember trying to beat Bruce in a short sprint on several oc course I didn't stand a chance, as he was an Olympic runner. Anyway, he i Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona in 1981, then went to work for his native Nigeria and taught for five years at the University of Ibaden. Now working with Eneco Technical Environmental Consultants in Phoenix. Bru married and has five children. As the small-world would have it, Rick Findle to work under Bruce. Rick was pleasantly surprised to see an ISU emblem office when he went in for an interview.

Another surprise call was from Salem Al-Baker (80). He called from Chicag visiting this country, away from his job with Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. He, two sons are doing well. I have had several e-mail notes from Lori (Rute) F She and husband Dave are still in the oil business, she working for Amoco Houston Energy and Development. They recently had son #3, Michael, joir Thomas, and #2, John. Lori sent us a number of useful publications being t Amoco. An e-mail message from Chris Mixon (89) last December said he v Layne-Northwest Company in Milwaukee. He is also a captain in the Army in charge of an engineer/construction company. This position has led him t extensively (Samoa, Belize, Panama, Germany). An e-mail message from (Schroer) Taylor (81) said that she is working for NCSA in Champaign, is n has a young son, Benjamin. She was wondering if anyone ever organized and, specifically if a 15-year reunion for the class of 1981 was planned. No of, but is anyone from that class planning one? From any other class?

E-mail from John O'Gorman (73) last December said he is still employed b Trust in Chicago, mostly as a financial analyst working on environmental pi managing oil and gas corporations held in trust. He received an MBA in 19 three children. Chris McGarry (93) is working for the ISGS and taking gradi coursework at the U. of Illinois. Several e-mails from Mike Styzen (76), whc for Shell Offshore, based out of New Orleans. Mike says he is one of sever paleontologists left from an original staff of 45. Gives you some idea of the down-sizing the oil industry has seen. He is serving as secretary for the Gu Section, SEPM. He plans to meet with Dave Malone at the GSA to deliver . microscope and U-stage being "out-placed" by his company. Dave is hopin for strain studies in deformed rocks and for student research projects. Kim

stopped by in early October to drop off five boxes of core that Dave can use on projects in Stratigraphy. Unfortunately I did not get to meet with him. He is now employed (Koda Development Resource Co.) in Tulsa. Jeff Stollhans (84) is a geologist with Layne-Western Company in Fenton, Missouri. He works with well-head installations for water systems. Carl Davies (93) completed his M.S. in hydrogeology here and is returning to Australia after a short trip to Haiti.

Alumni contributors, along with their spouses in most cases, to the John W. Fund since the last newsletter include: Pete Lennarson (85), Jim Mackey (82), Lori (Rute) Fortner (80), Chris Wood (76), Rob Sloan (86), Jim I (76), Richard Hartman (73), Mark McMahon (82), Chuck Reeter (73), Chuc (86), Ed Smith (85), Jim Stefano (82), Chuck Wiles (80), Jean Chruscicki-F (80), George Garklavs (75), Bob North (74), Jerry Nott (78), Harold Orndorff (78), Wayne Vogelsburg (86), Keith Whittington (73), Susan (Wygant) You (80), Steve Burch (75), John O'Gorman (73), Dan Towns (76), Tee (88), Paul Jaeger (79), Gary Carnaghi (76), Dave Elbow (71), Ron Mehalic (80), Grandone-Schroeder (90) and Jennifer (Stewart) Axtell (80). Corporate contributions were received from Phelps Dodge, R.R. Donnelley & Sons and Conoco Inc. Contributions to the general department fund were received from Jim Kipp (80) and Kevin Rogers (84). This information is supplied to me by the Foundations (80). I did not leave anyone out. The continued support of our program by alumni is appreciated very much.

Well, that's about all I have. It seems like the newsletter gets a page or two every year and this year it is two more than last. If nothing else, it is a sign that a lot is happening and people are accomplishing things. I hope you will keep giving me things to write about. Although it is a bit early, on behalf of the folks I wish all of you a happy holiday season and the very best of fortune in 1996.

Jim Kirchner

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