Greetings from the Chair

June 2013

A highlight this past year was the October 19 Geology Alumni Reunion with 49 alumni and a few guests attending. The faculty, staff, and current students really enjoyed talking with the alumni. We had lunch at the student center, two panel discussions, an overview presentation of where we are now, graduate student poster presentations, and many opportunities to mingle and reminisce. We ended with cocktails under the tent outside of McGilvrey Hall (see photos below). What a success! The most common remark I heard from the alumni was “We must do this again.”

I’m delighted to report that Carrie Schweitzer received the 2013 Outstanding Research and Scholar Award for her work on decapod crustaceans and her research in paleontology, which centers on systematics and biogeography. This award recognizes outstanding faculty members for their notable scholarly contributions that have brought acknowledgement to their fields of study and to Kent State. Carrie has published more than 120 technical books and papers since 1997. She is co-author on the revision of the Decapoda volume of the “Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology,” which is the benchmark for research in the field. Carrie is the first Regional Campus faculty member to receive this prestigious award.

Congratulations also to Abdul Shakoor who was awarded AEG’s 2013 Terzaghi Mentor Award. This award is presented to select AEG Members for their achievements as mentors throughout their career and Abdul is only the 5th recipient of this prestigious award.

In January Liz Griffith took a position at UT-Arlington where she and her husband are now both faculty members in the Department of Geological Sciences. After teaching three years at the Ashtabula Campus Yonathan Admassu moved east to Virginia where he started a tenure-track faculty position at James Madison University. After 37 years Yoram Eckstein has decided to hang up his geologist’s hammer. He will continue to serve as an Associate Editor for Water International and the Hydrogeology Journal and this coming academic year he will pursue teaching and research activities in Russia as a senior Fulbright Scholar. We wish everyone the very best in their new endeavors!

We are very pleased this year to give our first Distinguished Alumni Award to Donald C. Gifford (BA, 1951). Don has spent the majority of his career as a Petroleum Geologist working for a number of different companies from 1952 to 1967 (Union Producing, Texaco, American Petrofina, and Marr Co) and then as an Independent Geologist from 1967 to the present. He has been a member of AAPG, the Mississippi Geological Society, the Dallas Geological Society and past President of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists.

Don Gifford writes “As I reflect on my years at Kent State University, I recall that the total student population was around 5000 with 18-20 Geology majors and one professor! A second professor was added in our third year (1950). The Geology courses were well thought out with plenty of Math, Physics, lab work and numerous field trips. Over the years I have found that there were many more courses offered by the Geology Department at Kent State University than offered at many so called high power schools. Also, the faculty gave students an abundance of personal attention. When I was hired as a Petroleum Geologist it became clear that I could compete with any of the other Geologists who graduated from Texas A&M, UT, and Oklahoma University. I have been very proud to be an Independent Petroleum Geologist. I have spent the last 60 years having Geologists as friends and associates both in Industry and in Geology Societies. I value the many opportunities that my degree in Geology at Kent State University has afforded me and I thank the Department for this honor.”

We’ve heard from alumni that companies are keenly interested in new potential employees having completed HAZWOPER training. In May the Geology Department and the College of Public Health worked together to offer a HAZWOPER 40 hour course on the Kent Campus. Four of our students enjoyed taking this course at about half the cost of taking it externally. We hope more will take advantage of this convenient opportunity next year!

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Holm, Professor & Chair

www.kent.edu/geology
M.S. Theses Completed (Summer 2012 - Summer 2013)

Julie Bloxson: Characterization of the Porosity Distribution within the Clinton Formation, Ashtabula County, Ohio by Geo-physical Core and Well Logging (Ortiz)

Kirsten Enzweiler: A Geotechnical characterization of the epikarst at the Clearwater dam site, Wayne County, Missouri (Shakoor)

Scott Scheiner: Refining Paleoproterozoic Sedimentary Sequence Boundaries in East-Central Minnesota, Carlton County: Implications for Source, Age, Correlations, and Tectonic Histories (Holm)

Gregory Aaron: A geochemical and hydrologic comparison and assessment of acid mine drainage in glaciated and unglaciated eastern Ohio (Griffith)

Jeffery Harrison: Linking Late Holocene Sedimentation in the western Arctic Ocean to an Atmospheric temperature proxy record from Blue Lake, Brooks Range, AK. (Ortiz)

Ramin Safaei Jazi: Simulation of groundwater flow system in Sand Lick Watershed, Boone County, West Virginia (numerical modeling approach) (Eckstein)

Ph.D Dissertations Completed (Summer 2012 - Summer 2013)

Adiel Klompmaker: Mesozoic Decapod Diversity with an Emphasis on the Early Cretaceous (Albian) of Spain (Feldmann)

Tej Gautam: An Investigation of Disintegration Behavior of Mudrocks Based on Laboratory and Field Tests (Shakoor)

Ovidiu D. Frăntescu: Systematic, Paleobiogeography, and Paleoecology of Cretaceous Decapod Faunas from northeast Texas (Feldmann)

Adina L. Frăntescu: Comparative Study of the Eocene Fossil Decapod Crustaceans of the North American Atlantic Coast and European Tethyan Provinces (Feldmann)

David Waugh: Utility of Fossil Cuticle Morphology Applied to the Taphonomy and Taxonomy of Decapod Crustaceans (Feldmann)

Cristina Robins: Systematics and Phylogeny of the Fossil Galatheoidea (Anomura, Decapoda): Uncovering their Evolutionary Path (Feldmann)

Geology Scholarship Awardees

Amoco Alumni Scholarships: Jessica Tashman, Krysia Kornecki, Matt Waugh

Geology Field Camp Scholarship: Stefanie O’Connor

Emerald Environmental Field Camp Scholarship: Beth Avram

Richard A. Heimlich Field Camp Scholarship: Dan Gardner, Kelly Beavers, Lerin Baltzly

Donald C. Gifford Geology Scholarship: Laura Zemanek, Yuchen Shen

Glenn Frank Scholarship: Owen Jensen

Katherine L. Moulton Research Scholarship: Kevin Engle

School of Hard Rocks Research Award: Chelsea Windus, Chelsea Lyle, Nidal Atlallah, Matt Harding

Joe and Karen Struckel Scholarship: Roger Sicker

Bauer Experiential Learning Scholarship: Sabrina Tucker, Becca Coloutes

Testimony of a former Glenn Frank student (as shared by Carol Bersani at the Fall 2012 Celebration of College Teaching):

“I remember that Glenn Frank learned my name and asked what I was interested in. He learned everyone’s names and helped us to learn something about each other. So, we were forced to talk to one another in the class and we had to be aware of one another. Everyone wants to know and to be known. That is what he did and then he did something else. He helped each one of us get excited about geology for real. Somehow he listened to each of us to understand how we learned, and then made his passion for geology somehow our passion, at least for the time we were together. I will never look at rocks in the same way because of Glenn Frank. I think that at the end of the day we each knew that we were visible in his class and that he actually cared about our viewpoints.”
During the last year I served as Interim Dean of the Honors College, working with students and faculty from across all colleges and majors in the University. We have been able to increase the number of courses offered for Honors and have worked to increase the number of students who take the opportunity to do thesis research in their majors. While I expected this to be a one year assignment, I have been asked to continue with Honors. However, I have maintained my work in Geology and will be teaching one course in the Department during the fall semester. During May I was able to travel to Croatia and to the Italian Lake District at the foot of the alps.
I am thrilled to have joined the faculty last summer. It’s been quite an eventful year and I am incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support and friendship from the faculty, staff and students in the department. For the previous three and half years, I was a post-doctoral scholar at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley. Prior to that, I completed my PhD at Stanford University in 2008. After 10 great years in the San Francisco Bay Area, I am transitioning nicely to life in Ohio (particularly enjoying seasons that actually change).

My research focuses on the fate and transport of metals and radionuclides in the environment. In particular, I am interested in the (bio)geochemical processes that occur at mineral surfaces which can limit or promote contaminant transport in a range of surface environments. This work is done by applying laboratory-based analytical and microscopy tools and synchrotron-based x-ray spectroscopic and scattering methods to investigate natural and model systems.

I am continuing to develop these research themes at Kent State and have submitted grant proposals on “Trace element incorporation during iron sulfide nucleation and growth and the impact on the formation of shale-gas deposits”. The presence of pyrite precipitates can limit hydrocarbon flow during shale deposition by decreasing porosity and permeability within the shale deposit. However pyrite formation and growth is strongly affected by the presence of even minute amounts of minor and trace metals (co)precipitated with the pyrite. I am especially proud to have received Kent State’s Farris Family Innovation Award to support this work. A parallel project aims to explore trace metal transport in an acid mine drainage setting located in the Huff Run Watershed, about an hour south of Kent. This is an area of historic coal mining, with a heavily polluted watershed.

This past year I taught “Environmental Mineralogy” (a new course in the department) and “Environmental Geochemistry”. I am eager to continue to develop these courses, and was particularly happy with field trip components in each class. Students in Environmental Mineralogy got a tour and demonstration of surface sensitive instruments at Kent State’s Liquid Crystal Institute, with an emphasis on how to apply those tools to geomedia. Students in Environmental Geochemistry visited the Huff Run Watershed, and got hands-on field chemistry experience measuring water quality in impacted streams that have undergone reclamation.

This has truly been an eventful year, and I could not have made it through without the support of my wife Gussie. She enjoyed many years in San Francisco, the last 6 as the principal of a special education school in the city (and located just a stone’s throw away from the Pacific Ocean). She was extremely supportive as I searched for a faculty position, and was happy to make the 2500 mile move. In October, we were blessed to welcome our daughter (and first child) Hannah – who is already set to be a future geologist.
I’ve been working on five externally funded research and education projects on topics from paleoclimate research in the Arctic, water quality work in Lake Erie, and educational enhancement and scholarships for the department. This work has resulted in nine publications from my group and collaborators. The most prominent of these was a paper published in Nature Geoscience, which described the longest known record of the Arctic Oscillation to date, and provided the first linkage of the AO to the 1500-year cycle. This paper was one of the most blogged about articles in Nature Geoscience for several weeks and received considerable media attention.

Other research published this year included studies of Holocene climate and sea level rise from Sri Lanka, application of geophysical logging methods developed in my lab to study Holocene thermokarst development in Hudson Bay, and sea level rise in the Bohai Sea on the northeast coast of China, and methods to characterize the phytoplankton populations in Lake Erie. I presented work at the 43rd International Arctic Workshop at Amherst, MA, the 3rd International IMAGES/PAGES workshop on Western Pacific Paleoceanography in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and an AGU Chapman conference on the Agulhas Current System off South Africa and its role in climate in Cape Town South Africa. One of my students, Jeffery Harrison successfully defended his M.S. thesis on Holocene Terrestrial-Marine climate linkages between the Chukchi Sea and Brooks Range, Alaska.

Working with Anne Jefferson and Elizabeth Griffith, I’ve developed a new teaching module for Sed/Strat to teach our students about the application of stable isotopes to stratigraphic questions. This work is part of an NSF funded education grant with Anne Jefferson as the lead Kent PI. The other education project on which I am a co-PI is the NSF S-STEM scholarship program, which provides ~22 scholarships to undergraduate students across the sciences at Kent State.

Service-wise this year, I am working part time in the Provost’s office as one of three Faculty Associates for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. My task is to work to improve the recruitment and retention of undergraduates from groups underrepresented in the minorities to Kent State University. In the Department, I have also served as the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, the Employment and Internship Coordinator, and a member of the Curriculum committee. This past year we almost tripled the number of applicants to our graduate program and recruited one of the strongest classes in recent history. It’s been a rewarding and exciting year watching the department grow to 150 undergraduates. I look forward to getting to know these new students.
We’ve have had another busy year. Highlights include field work in China over the summer of 2012, sponsored by NSF and the Geological Survey of China. A paper describing the Triassic shrimp from Yunnan Province resulted. Leveraging that effort, we received a National Geographic Society grant to return to China this summer to continue the work. In the middle of all this, we had a Chinese student, Mr. Huang, visit Kent to work in our lab for about six weeks. We made two field trips with students to Mississippi (in December) and Mississippi and Alabama (in March) to visit Krysia Kornacki’s thesis area and collect fossils for the Stark and Kent collections. Great time – but not great weather. Between those trips, we worked at the Smithsonian and the Carnegie with other students to examine pickled and fossil decapods for a variety of projects.

Spring Semester has been fairly frantic, with the completion of dissertations and defenses of dissertations for four students, Adina and Ovidiu Frantescu, David Waugh, and Cristina Robins! Adiël Klompmaker completed his dissertation and graduated in the summer, 2012. Wade Jones, has a publication in review about a Devonian shrimp collected from a well core in Pennsylvania. He has been invited to participate in a Pennsylvania Geological Survey guidebook for their Fall 2013 field trip. The other really big news is that Carrie is PI and Rod is Co-PI on a new NSF grant to study diversity patterns in decapods through time. What a year!

Perhaps the most exciting event, however, was that Carrie received the Outstanding Research and Scholar Award from the University – a major achievement! Additionally, she was the keynote speaker at the Stark Honors Award Ceremony where she presented, “Everything I know I learned on a geology field trip.” Carrie also got about $20,000 from the KSU Foundation Grant competition for teaching equipment for the Stark Campus. Summer plans in addition to a month in China include work in Poland on Jurassic horseshoe crabs (preparatory to Jessica Tashman’s thesis research there in August) as well as attending the 5th International Symposium on Fossil Decapod Crustaceans. Then off to Slovenia to look at more Triassic fossils. No end to the good stuff.
David Hacker

It has been another busy and productive year of teaching and research. The field trip to Mammoth Cave National Park continues to be the highlight of the Hydrogeology class. The weather was excellent as we explored karst landforms and springs on the surface before venturing underground for six hours to study the formation of different cave levels, including the present level of Echo River with its blind fish and grayfish. At field camp, we had another enjoyable field season of mapping exercises, rock studies, and eating at Sanford’s. The field camp continues to grow in popularity with last summer having 47 students attending, many from other universities. It is always enjoyable to have so many students from a variety of backgrounds come together for the common goal of studying geology in the field.

In research, I continue to work on projects involving magma emplacement in laccoliths and calderas and the geologic hazards associated with their eruptions. In Utah I am working with colleagues from the Utah Geological Survey in tracking down the source of the largest gravity slide (a mega landslide) in Utah that formed around 21 million years ago. This Heart Mountain type structure presently covers at least 300 square miles of the northern and central Markagunt Plateau. I am also continuing my research (with Ted Dasgupta) on laccoliths, dikes, sills, and diatremes in the northern part of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

This fall I presented some of our findings of this research at an international conference on the physical geology of subvolcanic systems (LASI V - Physical Geology of Subvolcanic Systems: Laccoliths, Sills and Dykes) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. As part of the conference, we spent two days hiking in the Karoo Basin examining unique saucer shaped sill complexes and associated breccia pipes belonging to the Jurassic Karoo Large Igneous Province. As a result of LASI conference series, which pooled geoscientists from different fields including magmatic petrology, geophysics, structural geology and mathematical geology, the collaborators are working on a textbook on shallow level magmatic systems with an expected publication date of 2014. I am currently responsible for the chapter on hazards and environmental aspects of subvolcanic sill and laccolith growth. In the meantime I am co-writing two other textbooks; “Geology of National Parks” with Ann Harris of Youngstown State University, and “Earth Dynamics” with Dr. Dasgupta here at Kent State.

Neil Wells

This year I greatly enjoyed teaching a new-to-me course, Scientific Methods in Geology. (I hope I got across the pleasure and desirability of abundant, quantitative, well organized, and clearly presented data and I’m piling up cool modifications for next time.) I’ve also continued working on northern Ohio’s late glacial and postglacial landscape, especially shorelines of early precursors (glacial and postglacial) to modern Lake Erie and terraces in surrounding river valleys.
Abdul Shakoor

My students and I continue to work on some of the projects we started last year (stability of colluvial soil slopes in Ohio, seepage problems at Mountain Lake, Virginia, underground cavern stability, Cappadocia, Turkey, and Cedar City landslide, Utah). New projects we are working on include influence of grain-size distribution on permeability of granular soils, variability of structural data for slope stability purposes, and effect of gravel content on permeability of sandy soils. Additionally, I continue to work on a collaborative research project with Ohio State University aimed at developing a computer model for landslide identification using LiDAR data. This project is funded by Ohio Department of Transportation.

In 2012-13, I attended the AEG Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, with Michael Glassmeyer, Nate Saraceno, Ashley Tizzano, and Yonathan Admassu, where all presented papers. Additionally, I attended the North American Landslide Conference in Banff, Canada, where I presented a paper co-authored with Lisa Nowicki, and the GSA Annual Meeting, in North Carolina. I also co-authored papers with Ala Hajdarwish, Yonathan Admassu, James Fisher, and Tej Gautam.

I was honored with the 2012 Meritorious Service Award by the Engineering & Environmental Geology Division of GSA and, in 2013, the Glenn W. Frank Outstanding Teaching Award by the Department of Geology.

This year, my Engineering Geology class had a very successful trip to various dams in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Kristen Enzweiler, one of our Alumni, led the trip.

Alison Smith

Another busy year! I continue with research into the applications of ostracodes as paleoclimatic and hydrologic tools in reconstructing Late Pliocene through Holocene aquatic environmental records. This year I ran two workshops on ostracode research initiatives, one in Cologne, Germany and one in Charlotte, North Carolina at the 2012 GSA meeting. I have two M.S. students currently working on thesis projects-Frank Matthias, finishing up his thesis on the Plio-Pleistocene record from Butte Valley, California, and Kevin Engle, working on his thesis on an early Holocene lake record from Vermont. Frank presented preliminary results at GSA-Charlotte this year, and both students attended the Charlotte workshop and met a lot of ostracode researchers! Don Palmer and I co-authored another paper, this one in Ostracoda as Proxies for Quaternary Climate Change, vol. 17 in Developments in Quaternary Science series, Elsevier Science Publishing. I would love to hear from you, and remember, if you have any fossil collections taking up space needed for other things-please donate them to the teaching collection!
Hi! I’m a hydrologist and geomorphologist with research interests that have taken me from young lava flows to city storm sewers and lots of interesting places in between. I joined the Department of Geology in August 2012 as a part of a University-wide cluster hire focused on urban ecosystems. From 2007-2012, I was on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I worked and advised students on projects focused on stormwater management, stream restoration, gully- ing from historical agriculture, and other topics related to the intersection of human land use and hydrology. In 2006, I earned a PhD in Geology from Oregon State University on the hydrology and landscape evolution of the central Oregon Cascades. I also have an MS in Water Resources Science from the University of Minnesota and a BA in Earth and Planetary Science from The Johns Hopkins University.

Since arriving at Kent State, I’ve been busy writing papers and grant proposals, teaching Urban Hydrology, recruiting graduate students, and generally familiarizing myself with the water and landscapes of northeastern Ohio. I’ve also been setting up my research lab, which includes a Picarro system for analyzing stable isotopes of water. A highlight of this year was receiving a NSF grant with colleagues Joe Ortiz, Liz Griffith (now at UT-Arlington), and David Dees (College of EHHS, Kent State). Our grant focuses on how hands-on experiences with water isotope analysis can be incorporated into the undergraduate curriculum.
Jeremy Green

This past year has been another great mix of teaching, research, and professional service activities! I’m pleased to report that I had two peer-reviewed papers on dental microwear in sloths and armadillos published this past year, including one with my former Senior Honors Thesis student, Mr. Nicholas Resar, as lead author. Preliminary findings from another project involving reconstructing life history patterns in Permo-Triassic dicynodonts from South Africa using growth lines from tusks was included in grant proposal to the National Science Foundation in January. This proposal is in continued collaboration with colleagues at the University of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History.

The vast majority of my time this past year was spent teaching undergraduates at the Tuscarawas regional campus about the dynamic nature of our planet. My teaching curriculum continues to include nearly all of the Kent CORE courses in geology, plus my upper division All About Dinosaurs class. My students from the All About Dinosaurs class attended a field trip to the Vertebrate Paleontology Division of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History this past spring. In addition to scholarly activities, much of free time this past year was spent working with my wife on repairing and renovating our recently purchased 100-year old house in New Philadelphia, Ohio. I look forward to very productive and fruitful year in both teaching and research in 2013 and remain thrilled to be involved in the Geology department here at Kent State University.

Sue Clement

This year brought new opportunities for me to learn about science education. I was part of a faculty cohort that traveled to Cambridge, MA to participate in the Teaching Professor Workshop, Using Grading Strategies to Understand and Improve Student Learning sponsored by the Provost office. From this, I hope to further a collaboration with Dr. David Dees and Dr. Patricia Tomich on assessing student attitudes in science and math courses. I participated in a Teaching and Learning conference sponsored by the Faculty Professional Development Center on Metacognition and finally, this June, I am off to San Francisco to be part of a "On the Cutting Edge Professional Development Program" sponsored by NAGT and SERC for those who teach courses in Oceanography.
I am very happy to have joined the faculty at Kent State this past year on the Stark Campus. I am interested in the health effects of earth materials and recently completed my graduate education and research at The Ohio State University under the direction of former Kent alumnus Steven K. Lower. My research focus has been on the biophysical nature of biological interactions with earth materials, such as how bacteria interact with iron sulfides, or how human lung cells respond to the presence of asbestos. I currently teach introductory Geology courses at the Stark campus. I am interested in the science and learning of geology and am developing a service learning program for the Environmental Geology course in conjunction with Stark Parks so as to provide students with a field-based learning experience. My future goal regarding geoscience education includes developing ‘flipped’ lectures for my introductory courses, wherein students watch short video clips of the lecture material normally given during lecture and use classroom time for hands-on projects, field trips, or other activities designed to teach the material.

Eric Taylor

My research into paleomagnetism and tectonic processes has taken me from my British homeland to far-flung places such as New Zealand, South Africa and, most recently, a post-doc at the University of Chicago. I've now landed at Kent State, and I'm very happy to be here. It has been a bit of a whirlwind since my arrival in town this winter, with courses in Geophysics and Earth Dynamics to teach, but as the summer approaches I am taking my first steps towards getting some research projects going, with some planned fieldwork in the Pacific Northwest, looking into the history of the Cascadia subduction zone, and a grant application or two. My graduate student Matt Harding and I are also building an sandbox deformation model to support his research into salt tectonics in the Appalachians, which I am also hoping to utilize in the Tectonics and Orogeny course that I am teaching in the Fall.

Chris Rowan

My research into paleomagnetism and tectonic processes has taken me from my British homeland to far-flung places such as New Zealand, South Africa and, most recently, a post-doc at the University of Chicago. I've now landed at Kent State, and I'm very happy to be here. It has been a bit of a whirlwind since my arrival in town this winter, with courses in Geophysics and Earth Dynamics to teach, but as the summer approaches I am taking my first steps towards getting some research projects going, with some planned fieldwork in the Pacific Northwest, looking into the history of the Cascadia subduction zone, and a grant application or two. My graduate student Matt Harding and I are also building an sandbox deformation model to support his research into salt tectonics in the Appalachians, which I am also hoping to utilize in the Tectonics and Orogeny course that I am teaching in the Fall.

Eric Taylor with glacially carved Gunnison Mountains in background, as seen from Crested Butte Mountain, CO.
Tathagata Dasgupta

It gives me great pleasure to announce that last year has been yet another exciting year for me. There has been multiple developments on the teaching front last year. In addition to teaching in class as well as online versions of the CORE geology course Earth Dynamics, my teaching assistants and myself have launched a full scale web based Earth Dynamics laboratory course, which has been quite popular. This work could not have been possibly done without the help of my student assistants, namely Greg Aaron, Nick Bonini, Jeff Harris, Mike Glassmeyer, Nivanthi and Chuks. This laboratory course along with the online lecture version of Earth Dynamics is going to be constantly updated throughout the future years to fit the needs of our students.

I have also started teaching Earth Material I (previously known as 'Mineralogy') from the Fall of 2012. This course is, for most of the Geology major students, the first major geology course that they take and it is quite a challenging task to ease them into advanced topics of geology. I am very excited that with this I responsible for teaching the complete Earth Material series (mineralogy and petrology) and I aim at giving our students a solid foundation in mineralogy and petrology which will help them become successful in their professional lives. I see lots of opportunity to improve upon the existing model. For instance, along with Dr. Eric Taylor of Stark Campus, I am currently developing a website of mineral and rock atlas for our students that will have detailed description of identifying techniques of different common rock forming minerals and rocks along with high resolution pictures and videos of hand specimen and thin sections. Our plan is to have a first draft of this website up and running by Fall of 2013. If done right this website can be a great teaching/learning tool for students and faculty members alike.

I am also scheduled to start teaching 'Principles of Geochemistry' starting from the Fall of 2013. My training in trace element and radiogenic isotope geochemistry puts me in an unique position to teach this course and I plan to give our students a solid foundation in the understanding of the world of elements and how they behave in the natural world, so that regardless of the specialization that my students might get into in the future, they will have the necessary background knowledge and understanding of the geochemical systems that they will be dealing with.

Last summer I co-instructed our geology field camp course along with David Hacker and I cannot wait to go back to the Black Hills, South Dakota to teach field camp again this summer. Along with instructing field camp students I will continue to collect field samples from the Northern Black Hills Igneous Province (NBHIP) for our ongoing research project for which I am collaborating with David Hacker. Our initial findings were presented by David Hacker in the LASI 5 conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa last October. In addition, I mentored two undergraduate student research by Heather James and John Burwick where they looked at the petrography of volcanic rocks from the NBHIP. My students and I plan on presenting the findings of their research at the Annual GSA meeting in Denver, later this year.

Merida Keatts

Nick is now 2yr 4mths and a little terror.

Annie Krieger

Two graduations and my first grandchild, adorable little Jack.
Dick Heimlich, Emeritus

Since the 2012 Alumni Newsletter appeared, my older son/daughter-in-law/wife and I traveled to The Netherlands, Norway, England, and Ireland. Among a wide range of geological and non-geological sites, we visited the spectacular fiords near Stavanger and Bergen, Norway and the well-exposed (along the coast) columnar-jointed basalt lava flows (40,000 columns!) at Giants Causeway north of Belfast, Northern Ireland. At home I served as a Reviewer of proposals for the GSA North-Central Section Undergraduate Research Grant Program. For the third year, I served as a Volunteer Teacher with the Baldwin Wallace University Institute for Learning in Retirement, giving a course on the Geology of Selected National Parks (this time including Yellowstone, Zion, Crater Lake, and Acadia). I also took several courses offered in the program and gave a national parks talk at the Northern Ohio Geological Society Annual Banquet.

I continued working on the Geology Alumni Update Project (which I initiated in 1978 early in my term as Geology Department Chairman), contributing labor steadily but at a slower rate since my retirement in 2009. Although I am now just a few months short of age 81, I am still committed to this project and I send new alumni information to Merida Keats who manages the alumni website. As most of you know, she recently did a terrific job revamping the various webpages. Some of you send the information (email address changes, career summaries, photos, employment changes, etc.) to Merida and/or to me; either way the information reaches Merida who gets it on the webpages. I still make some telephone/email contacts (not to ask for money!), and I have been meeting alumni for lunch when you visit family in Ohio. Since last year’s Newsletter these get-togethers have involved alumni who graduated during the period 1967 to 1995 - quite a spread!! - and they have been a lot of fun.

Visit the new Alumni Webpage on Wordpress! Please contact Daniel Holm (dholm@kent.edu) or Merida Keatts (mkeatts@kent.edu) if you’d like to add your experiences.

kentstategeology.wordpress.com

Beautiful Blue and Gold Geology Bumper Stickers Available - Contact Annie (akrieger@kent.edu)

Hasanthi Widanagamage (PhD student) working with David Singer on an x-ray microprobe experiment at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory (June 2013). They were studying the micron-scale spatial distribution and speciation of strontium in natural and synthetic barite crystals.
Photos of the 2012 Department of Geology Reunion


George Lardis (B.S. 1955) and Dorothy Lardis, Donna Bennett and Dave Bennett (B.S. 1967).


Gordon Nelson (B.S. 1967, M.S. 1970), and David Bennett (B.S. 1967).

See more photos at the Alumni Website

Our **Sigma Gamma Epsilon** chapter is still making **Grain Size Folders**! Proceeds go to scholarships for Field Camp and Research.

The **KSGS** T-shirts, Polos and Hoodies are officially on sale! Proceeds go to undergraduate scholarships.

Contact Annie at 330-672-2680 if you are interested in making a purchase.