St. Lawrence University Geology Newsletter

Winter, 2011

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US
IN THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT!!!

Dr. Antun Husinec Awards, & Professional Recognitions

*Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) has awarded **Antun Husinec** with a *Certificate of Recognition* for an excellent technical oral presentation at the 2011 AAPG/SEPM Meeting in Houston, Texas.

*Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) Awards (or Judging) Chair, 2013 American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Annual Convention & Exhibition (Pittsburgh, PA), appointed in June 2011

*American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Academic Liaison Committee Member, appointed in December 2011.

Recent Papers Published

Chiarenzelli, J., Lupulescu, M., Thern, E. and Cousens, B., 2011. Tectonic implications of the discovery of a Shawinigan ophiolite (Pyrites Complex) in the Adirondack Lowlands: *Geosphere*, v. 7, p. 333-356.

Chiarenzelli, J., Valentino, D., Lupulescu, M., Thern, E., and Johnston, S., 2011. Differentiating Shawinigan and Ottawan Orogenesis in the Central Adirondacks: *Geosphere*, v. 7, p. 2-22.

Huntley, J., et al., in press, "Sub-centennial resolution amino acid geochronology for the freshwater mussel *Lampsilis* for the last 2000 years", *Quaternary Geochronology*.

Husinec, A. & Read, J.F., 2011, Microbial laminite- versus rooted/burrowed caps on peritidal cycles: salinity-control on parasequence development, Early Cretaceous isolated carbonate platform, Croatia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, 123, p. 1896-1907.

Husinec, A., 2011, Carbonate Platform Evidence Bearing on Climate, Salinity, Dasycladalean Diversity, and Marine Anoxic Events During Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous Greenhouse, *Palaios*, 26, p. 519-521.

Lupulescu, M., **Chiarenzelli, J.**, Pullen, A., and Price, J., 2011. Using pegmatite geochronology to constrain temporal events in the Adirondack Mountains: *Geosphere*, v. 7, p. 23-39.

Regan, S. P. '10, **Chiarenzelli, J. R.**, McLelland, J. M., and Cousens, B. L., 2011. Evidence for an enriched asthenospheric source for coronitic metagabbros in the Adirondack Highlands: *Geosphere*, v. 7, p. 694-709.

News

*In the spring American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Convention & Exhibition in Houston, **Jake Colony '11,** took 1st. & **Ben Rendall '11,** took 3rd for Best Student Poster Award.

***Benjamin Rendall '11**-- Ben is in a Masters program at Idaho State University. Ben's senior thesis *Records of new and rare echinoids from the Pierre Shale--Fox Hills transition (Campanian--Maastrichtian) of the Williston Basin*. (Advisor J. Mark Erickson)

***John Murphy '11** is at SUNY Binghamton (see his letter to JME). John's senior thesis *An Investigation of Stream Chemistry Variability of Watersheds in Central St. Lawrence County, NY* (Advisor J. Chiarenzelli)

***Mark Erickson** presented at GSA a paper titled: *When trace fossils are actually body fossils: Medusoid (Cnidaria) tentacles from the Potsdam Group of New York*. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs 43(5): 265. and he was one of many co-authors of a paper with **Dan Peppe '03**: Peppe, D.J.,and 25 authors, 2011. *Sensitivity of leaf size and shape to climate: global patterns and paleoclimatic applications*. New Phytologist, 2011:1-16.

*The following students were initiated into Eta Xi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon this Fall**: Arron Chesler '13, Tyler Harris '13, Ashley Durham '13, Sean Heaton '13, Tim Beaupre '12, Caleb Booth '13, and Cam Mitiguy '14.**

***Sarah McElfresh '98** and Mark presented sponsored by the American Geological Institute a webinar titled *Engaging Alumni in Undergraduate Geoscience Education: What we do and how we do it, a case study from St. Lawrence University*. AGI web site taped Feb. 15, 2011.

*Congratulations to **Jo Palmer '09** who successfully defended her MS thesis on Dec. 8 at UVM! Way to go, Jo.

Annual GSA Meeting

Five geology faculty members and four students traveled to the national meeting of the Geological Society of America to present their research. The meeting was held on October 9-12th in Minneapolis, MN. Student presenters included Bonnie Govoni, Krysa Kornecki, Amelia Oates, and Shelley Kandola. Bonnie, Krysa, and Amelia's work was supervised by Dr. Antun Husinec. Shelley Kandola of the computer science department, worked with Dr. David Kratzmann and Dr. Lisa Torrey (Computer Science). Dr. Alexander Stewart presented a poster on the timing and preservation of glacial landforms in Ohio. Dr. Huntley gave a presentation entitled "Evolutionary and ecological implications of trematode parasitism of modern and fossil northern Adriatic bivalves".

Dr. Alexander K. Stewart

I have been quite busy since last spring. Primarily, I have been preparing my Quaternary Geochronology Lab by using my start-up funds to purchase a few big-ticket items, such as a stereomicroscope with epi-UV lighting and polarization, a Velmax UniSlide® linear-encoder measurement stage for dendrochronology/geomorphology work and a Livingstone bog corer. Fortunately, the microscope and digitized stage have arrived and are being operating by my students and me.

Since last spring, I have presented at a few conferences: North American Dendroecological Fieldweek, International Conference on Military Geosciences biennial meeting (ICMG) and the GSA national meeting. My work from Afghanistan, both geologic and arachnologic (i.e., scorpions), has been submitted to *Geology Today* and *Journal of Arachnology*, respectively. The hope is to wrap up my work on our esteemed *alumnus* Albert P. Crary '31, '59 for a piece in the *History of Earth Sciences* journal next spring/summer and to prepare a manuscript for the ICMG volume regarding geology and soldiering!

On the academic front, we had a successful trip to Alaska for Glacial Field Methods – sunny and warm, really! This fall, I taught Geomorphology and Physical Geology (both with labs) and helped recruit another 10 or so majors for the program from the 100-level class.

I currently have four students working on special projects. Firstly, Emma Coronado '12 and I were in the high Andes of Peru (>4,500m) this summer working with the Keck Geology Consortium of which Emma was a selected team member. We were in the field with *alumnus* Dr. Donald Rodbell '83 of Union College collecting lake/bog core data to help understand these "recently" exposed glacial valleys. As a result of these field-collecting days, Emma has run a series of core samples on our new Rigaku XRD machine. She is helping the team understand sediment composition and provenance in four dimensions. Emma will be presenting these results at the NEGSA meeting and the Keck Consortium meeting and graduating this spring with an honor's thesis in geology.

Another student, Emma Kearny '12 (Environmental Studies/Statistics) is working on dendroclimatology using some driftwood log cores taken in the Bering Strait region of Alaska (taken with Dr. Jon Rosales, Env. Studies). We prepared her cores, skeleton plotted them and will be digitizing them on the Velmax stage this January/February. These digitized ring-width data will be "massaged" by a few statistical packages and correlated (hopefully) with known dendrochronology records in the region. All in hopes of better understanding driftwood (e.g., firewood) provenance and supply to these remote, native villages.

A rising senior, Aaron Chesler '13, was lucky enough to spend his summer on the Juneau Icefield with the Juneau Icefield Research Program (headed by our *alumnus* Dr. P. Jay Fleisher). He was able to collect erosional flow-direction data (i.e., striations) on an exposed nunatak's valley in the region. We are currently folding this independent project into a SLU Fellowship option for this summer. Our hopes are for Aaron to use the modern analogue of the Juneau Icefield for the high-peak region of the Adirondacks for his senior thesis. So, were the peaks glaciated with valley glaciers before the Laurentide overtopped them? Seems that is the case on this lone nunatak popping out of the JIF – we'll keep you posted!

And finally, in conjunction with a grant approved by the Mellon Foundation For Environmental Education Initiative submitted by Dr. Antun Husinec and myself, Antun and I will be summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro this January with six students from varying disciplines on campus. The crux of the trip is to see climate in action and to think about how it is affecting the life ways of the people around the mountain. On this trip, Andrew Twitchell '14 will be collecting field observations of the trek and generating an open-source Google Earth (GE) .kml file to be used by interested educators and climbers. The interesting and unique part of his project will be the incorporation of the new, 3D aspect of GE (SketchUp). We intend for Drew to generate 3D models of the ice extent on Mt. Kilimanjaro for 1912, 1954, and 2008 and, hopefully, an interpretive, 3D extent for 2050(?). This will be presented at the annual Festival of Science this spring.

Me lecturing on the Matanuska Glacier to the Glacial Field Methods Group, May

Quo Vadis? Well, seems this spring will be busy with Hydrogeology and my First-Year Seminar "Scientific Communication" and Tropical Palaeoclimate courses. In addition, I'll be preparing for a busy field season this summer.

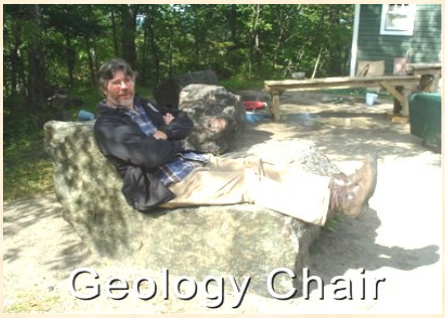
As you may have seen in the April 2011 edition of Momentum, The Dr. J. Mark Erickson Geology University Fellows Endowment fund has pledges of over $200,000. This is thanks to over 40 donors who have made donations (or pledges) ranging from $5 to $100,000 over the next 5 years. Each and every one of these donations is important as it has grown the fund and shows the university the number of alumni who believe in Mark's research philosophy and those who want to ensure that the next several generations of Geology students are able to participate in summer research. As of the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2011) the fund had reached over $125K in hand. This allowed Bonnie Govoni '13 to receive some funding for her summer research with Dr. Husinec on Bahamian Lagoonal sediments. She was also funded by the Alumni Geology University Fellowship and the Piskor Family University Fellowship. The alumni would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Erickson fund and the Alumni Geology Fund. Both of these funds will continue to fund summer research by geology students for years to come. As a reminder donations to the Alumni Geology Fund count towards the alumni donation participation rate where donations to the Erickson fund do not. This is because of the difference between the reporting of endowed funds versus other funds. Both funds are important to the future geology students. If you have not seen the April 2011 Momentum, it was a great write up - you can find it at: http://www.stlawu.edu/giving/momentum/april11.pdf

DR. E.'S RETIREMENT FOCUS OF SLUGAC 2012

We would very much like to recognize the professional work and numerous contributions that Dr. J. Mark Erickson has made to St. Lawrence Geology program and its students for nearly 40 years. After some deliberation we believe that the most inclusive way to do this will be to organize a SLUGAC event for the fall and invite as many of you back to campus as possible. The theme of this SLUGAC will be the contributions that Mark has made to the geology program here at St. Lawrence and the profession in general. We would like you consider to returning to campus next fall to help us celebrate Mark's exemplary career. Although this will deviate from our usual three year cycle it seems most appropriate to hold the event this fall. Stay turned for more information in the Spring Newsletter.

Best,

Jeff



Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Students:

The annual Geological Society of America meeting, held in Minneapolis, has come and gone and we are entering crunch time on campus. However, all signs are looking up as the men's hockey team won their first game last night, coincident with homecoming celebrations, Thanksgiving break is just around the corner, and it has been an excellent recruiting year for new geology majors! By all indications the department is doing extremely well and I like to recognize the efforts of our visiting faculty members David Kratzmann, our petrologist who has joined us for a second year, and John Huntley, a paleontologist and new father, who joined us in late August. Rounding out the roster are Drs. Antun Husinec and Alexander Stewart and of course Matt VanBrocklin and Sherrie Kelly, who keep us moving forward.

The department held a wonderful reception that was attended by nearly 30 alumni at GSA. The event literally could not have been held without Susie Agoston Goldstein ('81) and Dean Eppler ('74). Susie and her husband Hal, who live in downtown Minneapolis, kindly donated the refreshments and libations for the event, while Dean allowed us to hold the event in his suite. Although the suite turned out to be a little smaller than we had anticipated, it was fine for our purposes and allowed us to literally rub shoulders in many interesting ways! Heather Cunningham ('98) brought some great Wisconsin cheese. And the arrangement of all of this occurred through the internet via Sarah McElfresh. Thanks to all who attended and donated their time and goodies for the greater good. I'd also like to thank our four students, Bonnie Govoni, Krysia Kornecki, Amelia Oates, and Shelley Kandola (computer science – supervised by Dr. David Kratzmann) who attended the conference and wowed the crowd with their professionalism, excellent posters, and rugged (in a geology way) good looks!

We have had a wonderful seminar series this fall organized by Dr. Antun Husinec. Among the many speakers we would especially like to thank Stephanie Peek ('06) who visited us last week from the University of Wyoming, where she is in the final stages of finishing her PhD. Ben Zuckerman of UCLA, astrophysicist and brother of North Country Public Radio's Ellen Rocco and brother-in-law of mature student Bill Knoble, gave us a fascinating lecture on the elemental composition of dwarf white stars while on break from his eight stop lecture tour. Rob Menard ('07) visited us as part of the Laurentians in Residence Program and spoke about his time in graduate school and his upcoming employment with Waters Petroleum Advisors, which he found not so coincidentally during last year's SLUGAC conference after meeting Doug Waters ('79). My former advisor, and also that of Charlie Kerans ('76) and Gerry Ross ('77), Dr. Al Donaldson of Carleton University in Ottawa gave us a wonderful lecture on Geoheritage, a topic that has consumed his professional work since retirement.

I'd also like to briefly mention that St. Lawrence University authors (Graham Baird, Cathy Shrady, Sean Regan, and me) dominated a recent special themed issue in *Geosphere* on Grenville geology dedicated to the career of James McLelland of Colgate University. For you departmental history buffs, the last time such a volume was led by the St. Lawrence Geology Department was the February 1980 volume of the Geological Society of America Bulletin! In that volume professors William Romey, William Elberty, Jr. and Russell Jacoby and their students Brian Brock ('76), Roy Christoffersen ('76), Gerry Ross ('78), Tracy Shrier ('77), and Douglass Tietbohl ('78) summarized new work in the Adirondacks.

Best wishes to you all!
Jeff

Hi all,
It has been an exciting and productive first semester at St. Lawrence! I am currently teaching Dinosaurs, Invertebrate Paleontology, and a lab section of Dynamic Earth. I have been consistently (and pleasantly) surprised by the motivation and work ethic of our students here. My paleontology students are conducting an actuopaleontology research project on bulk samples of modern mollusks from shoreface and estuarine environments in the Netherlands. Through this effort they are learning firsthand the control of environmental factors on diversity, community structure, predation, and parasitism.

I just received the good news that I was awarded an Instructional Mini-Grant from the University. I will use these funds to collect Pleistocene and modern molluscan bulk samples from northeast Florida over winter break. The students in my paleoecology class this spring will use these samples for their own research projects. The collection of the samples will be done in collaboration with the Florida Museum of Natural History, which will retain the samples once the students complete their curation. I am also excited to be teaching Evolving Earth in the spring semester. Here's hoping a few students catch the paleo/geo-bug as we tour the fascinating histories of life and Earth!

My research continues to progress as well. My work with trematode parasites and bivalves in northern Italy will be published in *Paleobiology* in January and my manuscript on amino acid racemization dating of modern freshwater mussels was recently accepted pending minor revision at *Quaternary Geochronology*. I plan to continue my work with parasites of bivalves this summer in the collections at PRI in Ithaca and from
modern settings on the East Coast.
All the best,
John Huntley

Hi all,

Well, summer flew past at a great rate of knots and amazingly this semester has gone even faster. I can't believe it's coming to an end so soon.

Summer was relatively productive, a grant submitted (still waiting), a paper developed further, and a trip back to Australia (first time home in 3 years). Lisa Torrey (Math and Computer Science Dept.) and I supervised a summer research student, Shelley Kandola, who wrote a great command-line based geochemical data graphing program which will soon be available for free (open-source). We in the Geology department brought Shelley along to GSA in October where she presented her research and met a few SLU alums. Response to *GPVPlot* was good and we've already had a request from someone wanting to use it. We're working on a paper to submit to Computers and Geoscience and I'm hoping that we can finish it over the winter break.

Looking ahead, I'm putting together the logistics for a field-based course on volcanism. A small group of students will investigate deposits and depositional mechanisms at active volcanoes in Costa Rica in May 2012. I'm very excited about the trip and I'm sure the students are as well.

Cheers,
David Kratzmann

Season's Greetings Geo-Folk,

As usual, my semiannual note to you folks will leave the department business too those members of the Geology Department better suited to keep you abreast of all the goings on in our little corner of the University… while I ramble on with a little North Country weather report. The recent weather here has been mild for the most part. Hard to believe Thanksgiving is behind us for another year and we are already into the month of December with only a few weeks of the fall semester left. As mentioned earlier, November here in the North Country was very mild, as mild as I can remember and mild enough where I found a few tree toads out and about in the woods during Thanksgiving break. Something I haven't found often this late in the year. But even without the earth frozen solid beneath our feet and the lack of cold weather and snow, I can feel that cozy warm holiday feeling beginning to creep into my soul. Maybe it is the short days, maybe it is the sense that the end of the semester grows so near, or maybe it is the increasing holiday lighting I can't help but notice each day on my drive to and from SLU. When it is dark on the way to and from work the holiday lighting brings me that warm fuzzy feeling… Whatever the cause, there is certainly a sense of winter coming and the holidays getting near.

Not a lot has changed for me since the last newsletter, but there has been some change. Shirley and I became grandparents once again as our 3 year old granddaughter, Colee, now has a little brother who is creeping up to around six months of age. That has been a delightful and exciting change… Colee really enjoys being at our farm and is over as often as mom allows. Just thinking of her tagging along for chores makes my eyes want to water a bit… And Shirley and I managed, with the help of one of our son in laws, replaced the leaking half of our homes roof. The back half along with a new gable to cover the back piazza will have to wait until the arrival of summer 2012. Shirley and I also enjoyed a wonderful 10 day trip to Nashville and the Smokey Mountains on the big dresser we picked up a few years ago for such trips. Nashville certainly is a busy and bright place featuring some of the most incredible talent trying to break into the business there. And the Smokey Mountains are a motorcyclists dream with curvy roads, fantastic scenery, and lots of southern hospitality. If you have never enjoyed miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway then I highly recommend you do so whether in a car or on a bike. But in life some change is not so welcome and as fortunate as Shirley and I are; we are not immune to unwanted changes. Aspen and Baloo, our dogs we affectionately called our boys, were lost to the road on Sunday morning of July 17th, both getting hit at the same time while playing and chasing one another. As road savvy as the boys were, they simply lost themselves in the joy and beauty of a hot summer morning. After a few weeks of me moping through chores and feeling the farm to empty, we decided to bring in another four legged hired hand. Reno had large stocky legs that were too big for his roly poly golden puppy body and ears that were oversized to the point of nearly dragging on the ground. It was apparent even at that young age he had some "growing into" to do. Add to that image of oversized body parts enough skin to cover 2 golden retriever puppies and eyes that drooped way too low, not unlike those of a blood hounds. He looked the sad sort that needed a fresh start and stole our aching hearts. With Reno on Shirley's lap and heading home we laughed and wondered if he would ever grow into all that skin, those stout legs, and his big Dumbo sized ears. It appears as the joke will be on us as a month ago Reno weighed in at over 70 pounds. Now at 6 months old he has grown a good bit since then and weighs into the 80+ pound range… Seems he had more loose skin than we thought.

All 8 horses are doing well, even our roughly 40+ year old Appaloosa. Yes, you read that correctly. This past summer we were able to get some decent ground work time into the three, 2 year old horses; two are coming along pretty nicely while the youngest of the three is still pretty fresh and is coming along a bit slower, but she is settling a little more all the time. Hope to spend more time with them come next year. As mild as it has been they continue to supplement their hay rations with occasional grazing. It has been that mild here in the North Country this autumn.

We have no big plans through winter… Shirley and I enjoy a little back country skiing with friends and we look forward to introducing Reno to that activity. With any luck we will have good snow conditions so that we can enjoy some snowmobiling as well. The County trail system trail goes right through our back meadow, making it very handy for us to jump on the trail to visit friends or to just get out and enjoy the big woods from Harrisville to Old Forge, Cranberry Lake, Tupper Lake and many other villages in the North Country region. When it is cold and the snow deep it is nice to have a few options to get outside and enjoy our winter wonder land. And the timing seems right as most of our free time comes during this time of year when our wood shed is full of fire wood for the winter, hay for the livestock is in neat rows and ready to feed, and our summer projects are complete or, at least, on hold until next summer leaving our farm chores down to mainly feeding and watering the livestock and chipping away at next winter's fire wood before the snow gets too deep. It is, for the most part, a pretty quiet and leisurely time for us. Just in time for the holidays to arrive!

And with that my friends, I had better close and get this to Sherrie so she can send the newsletter out to you all. From my family to yours, we wish for you all a safe and happy holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Your technician…….Matt

Greetings!

Finals week is around the corner and geology students are hard at work, and the members of Geology Club, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, and our very new student chapter of AAPG are no exception. Geology Club has had a relatively quiet semester; Dr. Erickson has given two wonderful presentations for us on graduate studies and on the history of St. Lawrence and the Geology department (which included some great pictures of some of you!). We will be having our annual X-Mass Party very soon (that's 'X' as in X-Ray Diffraction and 'Mass' as in Mass Wasting as this is a non-denominational holiday party- so punny) for faculty and students. One of our seniors, Tim Beaupre has been working on re-vamping some of the bulletin boards in the department, and we hope to put together a display on the science of climate change studies for next semester to have up in Brown Hall.

I am also happy to announce that the Eta Xi chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon inducted seven new members on October 20th, 2011. Congratulations Tim Beaupre, Caleb Booth, Aaron Chesler, Ashley Durham, Tyler Harris, Sean Heaton, and Cam Mitiguy! The department is full of highly dedicated students, with a few seniors working on theses and a number of underclassmen in the thick of some great research projects. Amelia Oates, Bonnie Govoni, and Krysia Kornecki, members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, presented their research this October at the national conference for The Geological Society of America in Minneapolis, MN. It was wonderful to meet/visit with those of you that were there! Thanks, as always, for being so warm and friendly.

All the best,

Krysia Kornecki '12

Vice President, Geology Club
President, AAPG student chapter
Editor, Sigma Gamma Epsilon Honors Society

Katie Zubin-Stathopoulos '08 finished MS degree at the University of Calgary and is heading to Denver, Colorado, to find a geology position. Anyone looking for an excellent stratigraphier? Way to go Kate!!!

Hi all,

The summer of 2011 has been quite busy! Following the International Association of Sedimentologists Meeting in Zaragoza, Spain where I presented new results of our study on Aptian (125-112 Mya) cooling events within Cretaceous greenhouse, the mixed US-Croatian research team met in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Thus, enjoying the Croatian rocks, ocean and cuisine were Amelia Oates '12, Bonnie Govoni'13, Dr. Fred Read (Virginia Tech), and our great host Dr. Bozo Prtoljan (Croatian Geological Survey). Both Amelia and Bonnie did superbly, and now they are using the data collected for their theses research. This was the final year of the joint NSF and Croatian Ministry of Science funded project on mid-Jurassic through mid-Cretaceous paleoclimate that Fred Read and I have been working on for the past 5 years. A total of six St. Lawrence students have actively been enrolled in the field research in Croatia!

The Fall semester with 18 students was my largest Sedimentology class so far! Although we had some technical issues (e.g., not enough microscopes in Sed lab), overall it went pretty well, especially the fieldtrip to Cincinnati.

A few weeks ago I returned from a 6-day reconnaissance fieldtrip to Jamaica. This was a great opportunity to explore fieldtrip locations for carbonate sedimentology students in the future. I am very grateful to Richard Wright '86, who has been such a great host during my stay in Montego Bay. Without his help I definitely wouldn't be able to do and see so much during such a short trip; from the remote interior parts of the island with giant caves where no tourists are going, to the coastal outcrops with fossil reefs, and finally the colorful modern corals, sponges and submarine caves along the platform wall. A dive through the "Widowmaker" cave had a happy ending, with fried parrotfish and peanut porridge for desert!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy, full semester even without daily classroom responsibilities, yet it has clearly been one of transition for me in a number of ways as well. I have been spending more time dealing with issues around home and those that involve completion of long term research efforts. Haven't yet done the fishing I expected to do! I hope December 31, 2011 will seem like any other day and will make a seamless transition into a more research-oriented mode of operation. I still expect to be at the other end of the e-mail or phone line if you call or write!

Since the last newsletter I have packed my office (Antun now occupies it), been to MN for Lance and Emily's wedding and to ND to visit the Heritage Center, returned to Vermont which was hit badly by early summer rains and later by Irene making fishing problematic, then SLU for my last convocation as Assistant Marshal, followed by moving my brother, Ray, to Canton from Toronto. In there somewhere I put in a GSA abstract and made the trip to Minneapolis once again for the annual meeting in October. It was a very good meeting at which Dean Eppler, aided by Heather Cunningham and Susie Aguston Goldstein who supplied goodies, hosted the alumni reunion which was well attended.

This time GSA allowed me to visit Bismarck for an important extended period of time to collaborate with John Hoganson on the shark project. We are not done yet but it got a big boost from that extra 10 days or so. John also was recipient of the Arthur Gray Leonard Medal from UND during my stay and I was pleased to participate in that. Now he is busy supervising exhibit planning for the $30 million expansion of the ND State museum! Fox Hills material will play a role in those exhibits I am sure.

Finally, the Paleontological Research Institution board meeting in early November included a visit by Krysia Kornecki to examine turritellid snails in their extensive collections as part of her thesis. Her visit was funded by the Jim Street Fund.

I have heard from a few alums recently; Moe Jones Jackson just passed her exam for certified geologist in North Carolina—congratulations Moe! Kate Zubin-Stathopoulos is doing volunteer work at the Denver Natural History Museum while she looks for work in the area. Trisha Smrecak has settled in to her PhD. program at Michigan State. Chris Stevens is working at Geology Survey of Canada in a post-doc position where he is using his permafrost and GI S/remote sensing expertise to assist with several of their projects in the Arctic. Sarah McElfresh has more alumni news on our alumni web page. I recommend that you check it once a week or so to learn what people are doing. It worked very well as a way of co-ordination the GSA reunion!

I want to take a moment to thank all who have made gift to St. Lawrence, to the Erickson Fellowship Endorsement, or the geology department in my name. Those gifts are the most important long term aid you can do for us to keep the program strong. The second most important is participation in SLU GAC. I thank you all for both.

Well, next time you hear from me I'll be retired. But I will remain an active member of the SLU geology community. Have a happy holidays and a great 2012.

Best wishes,
Mark

Mark has had some very nice notes from alums since he announced his retirement. He shared some of those with the newsletter. He was very pleased to have them.

Jon Harrington '64 writes Mark:

Thanks so much for your recent e-mail. At this time of the year nearly all of our efforts are spent completing necessary field mapping before snow flies. One of my colleagues has recently purchased a plane. This greatly increases our mobility and allows us to cover a larger area quickly. During the winter months, our time is spent drafting and compiling required reports. The consulting practice continues to center around construction and industrial mining, largely permitting, resource evaluation and material quality control.

I am attempting to "semi-retire" with only moderate success. In addition to the work in New York and the Northeast, I have retained my Florida license. For the last 7 or 8 years, this has required spending two months each winter in Key West where I concentrate on the reefs and their fauna, and on beach erosion.

Well I thought you would like to know that the City of Binghamton is pretty much underwater right now thanks to the storms yesterday. However, I took your advice and live on one of the highest points in Binghamton and on the second floor.

Hope things are going well with your last semester! Things are going well here, getting into the swing of things with classes, teaching, and independent research. Looks like I will be (hopefully) doing some geochemical research on some of the finely laminated deposits of the Green River Formation. Nothing too specific has been decided at this point though.

Best,
John T. Murphy, Jr. '11

A further note from John….

Hello Dr. E.,

Well Binghamton is finally draining once again after a pretty devastating flood down here. Even missed two days of school for it!

I had a very good summer. I came in around June 5 and basically spent the whole month assimilating into Binghamton and reading journal articles to get my mind going on what I would like to do. Very low stress the first month I would say. Met most of the students as well over the summer and they are all great. Of course, since it was the summer there were not too many professors around but my advisor (Tim Lowenstein) was around just about every day. I do enjoy being in a program now in which students are very focused and not as sporadic. Tim has also been great, he threw loads of papers at me which were followed by discussions and there was no pressure to engage in one project. I even accepted a little side project trying to examine fluid inclusions from a lacustrine cave deposit 26-18ka from west of Great Salt Lake. However, the fluid inclusions aren't turning out as well as I would like – the inclusions appear to be trapped between needles of aragonite making it difficult to determine any that are primary in origin. But I guess that is the way it goes in this field!

July was spent mostly in the field. We took a 10 day trip out to the Green River and went to the USGS core research facility in Denver, Thermopolis Hot Springs, Yellowstone, and into the Green River over a 10 day time span. That was definitely worth the trip. I went along basically just to observe as one of the PhD students here is looking at spring deposits and evidence for hydrothermal influence in the Green River system. There were four of us in total, the PhD student, Tim, myself, and another new female graduate student. I seemed to fit in very well with all of them and I now share an office with the girl who went on the trip. It is very neat learning from other geologists with different backgrounds and I was a bit surprised to how much I remembered! Still didn't remember it all though.

At the end of July and into August I headed out back to Cody, WY, area with the ExxonMobil Bighorn Basin field trip and that was certainly a treat. I had absolutely no previous knowledge on petroleum studies, or very little, but I learned a lot after that short trip. The students in it were also very well qualified students and sometimes a bit too serious as they tried way too hard to be noticed by the recruiters. There was also a surprising amount of structural geology involved as well which was great as the Adirondacks are a bit complicated when compared to the Bighorn. It is also quite clear that money is no issue with Exxon!

Classes have now started and I am taking Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, and Climate/Paleoclimate. So far, they are going well although it is much more math in these classes than what I have dealt with before in geology. However, I do not mind that as I always wanted a bit more quantification with solving geological problems. Hydro is completely new to me except what I learned in my thesis work. My TA duties are on a class of your expertise: Rock Record and Earth History. I am teaching all the lab sessions both in the field and in the classroom. So far its great as I am brushing up on all the fundamental skills in order to teach it!

Hope that answers your questions. Not much else going on at the moment, looks like I will be heading to Wachapreague, VA at the end of the month. We get all the Jewish holidays off so the department usually sends out field trips on the long weekends. Should be fun!

Take care!
John T. Murphy, Jr. '11

Dr. E-

St. Lawrence is near and dear to my heart and I expect to do more giving as time goes on. It is always a pleasure to meet past geology grads and hear about their paths after SLU, and I look forward to meeting more current students when the opportunity presents itself.

Best of luck with the move, I can imagine that it is a liberating but arduous task; I'm glad you have found a new place to keep your library, luckily it is about as close to campus as it can get!.

I have been finishing my thesis this summer, looking to do my final edits next month; and will start at Whiting Petroleum this fall in Denver. They recently acquired two new electron microscopes (one environmental, one dual beam) and I was trained briefly on them last week. It is quite the dichotomy to write a thesis about kilometer-scale stratigraphy and to image micron-scale pores in the same day! My position at Whiting is in the small 'tech services' group that has their hand in all the acreage, solving geological problems as they come up (so I will likely see a fair bit of Bakken, Niobrara, and various Permian Basin plays), as well as doing some stratigraphy in the Permian Basin. I have not given up on the idea of a PhD and will likely pursue it in a year or two once my feet are on solid ground in Denver, likely doing a project related to work at Whiting (a plan also supported by my bosses). Raff is writing his Masters and working an internship for Occidental Petroleum in Houston, he and his longtime girlfriend from SLU got engaged earlier this year.

I leave tomorrow for Arizona where I will be rafting down the Grand Canyon with Dana S. and her family, which should be an excellent adventure and a nice but somewhat stressful distraction from thesis writing.

I must admit that I am a greater fan of AAPG than GSA, but I'm sure our paths will cross sooner than expected.

C. Kerans is busy as always and just returned from a scouting trip to the Dolomites.

Cheers,

Charles Harman '09

Dr. Erickson,
I confess to having started this letter some months ago, when I received your, then unofficial, notice of retirement to alumni via Will Hackett. (I also saw the write-up in the alumni magazine this spring). Shortly thereafter, I was blessed with the aforementioned individual's presence at NEGSA, along with Jo Palmer, Sean Reagan, and Trish, of course. Jeff was there as well although I was only able to speak to him for a few minutes. It was very nice to catch up. What good friends we've developed in Canton! This letter was conceived shortly thereafter. Of course you will get it months later. Here is a quick re-cap of my life for the last year or so.

I finished my thesis in the summer, and stayed on for the fall semester to teach a night section of "GEOL 342 - Structural Geology for Engineers." I hope I've demonstrated that my advisor's faith in me was not misplaced. I must say, teaching advanced topics is much more difficult; long lectures are draining on students and instructors alike. Engineers are also a different crowd, that's all I can say.

Waiting for Margaret to graduate (she has just defended as I write this) I have stayed in the Pittsburgh area. She has had considerable success in job applications and with many options has chosen to work for Shell. Her start date is in the middle of September. I hope that we can come visit the North Country sometime before then.

Until the big move to Houston, I have been keeping very busy. Since January, I have been employed by a company that mudlogs and geosteers oil and gas wells. I have been on many unconventional Marcellus wells now, doing both tasks, and it is very interesting to see what really goes on out there. My Dad (hydrogeologist, you may remember) has been working on water permitting applications, and some very interesting environmental issues surrounding this work. It is nice to see the whole picture. A great number of people are very polarized on this issue, and very few of them seem willing to employ any level of objectivity in formulating their opinions.

I am in the job search again to find employment in the Houston area. As the move becomes imminent, I am more and more reminiscent of my time at St. Lawrence. I have a strong desire to share the northern geologic sites of my undergraduate "youth" with my newly-acquired Appalachian Geologist friends. I want to show them the Theresa Formation, the famous Potsdam Sandstone on the churches in the *real* town of Potsdam, the outwash sands of the Parishville desert, the ptygmatic gneiss east of Governeur, the Colton-Carthage Shear zone. Nearly all that waits in upstate New York will be new to them. They come from the Valley and Ridge, the Appalachian Plateau, with its Millboro, Mahantango, Martinsburg, and Marcellus Shales. And I want them to meet *you* of course. I imagine saying, "…and this is the geology department, and the venerable Dr. Erickson, to whom I am much obliged, and without whom, you likely would never have me."

Say hello for me (by way of this letter, if you wish) to all the fine faculty folks up there who may appreciate the greeting. And I apologize for waxing so long and maybe poetic. Perhaps it's a backlash against technical writing and the removal of "fluff" that makes me do this.

With greatest sincerity,
Kyle Littlefield ' 07

Hi Dr. E!

It's good to hear from you - thanks for passing along that article, it is an interesting read.

Everything here is going well, though we are in the middle of a pretty severe drought. We have only had about a half -inch of rain in the past four months, which makes me a bit nervous for hurricane season. I've been busy at work doing a number of siliciclastic environment reconstructions using image logs. Pam and I will take a break from it all next week though, and we've got a few days in Utah to visit Capitol Reef, Arches, and Canyonlands.

We moved into a house after a few years of bouncing around and we're hoping to be a bit more stationary for a time. Sorry for all the confusion!

Hope you are well and that you are getting a bit of a break from all the flooding and rain up there!

Best regards,

Ed '03 & Pam Cavallerano

p.s. Congratulations to Pam and Ed on the birth of their first child!!!

Let's welcome the GEO Club's newly elected officers as of 12 -13-11:

Bonnie Govoni—President
Alex Leich—Vice President
Tim Beaupre—Secretary
Ashley Durham—Treasurer

Wow – a huge apology is in order for my tardiness in writing over these many years since I left SLU and your wonderful influence! Am I too late? I've enjoyed all of the updates over the years. I happened to be sorting through some mail and stumbled across the recent newsletter and out comes a SLU Geology patch! My wife, an OU geology grad, enjoyed the recent article on you in the SLU magazine! Congratulations on Lance! I've been in consulting with CH2M HILL since 1989 after graduating from Nebraska – I've had a great career thus far. Moved from Boston down here in 1995. Two great kids, one of whom is a sophomore at Creighton U in Omaha. Son is about to start high school. We're active in boy scouts and did a 50-mile canoe trip with our troop last week down here… we picked up a few rocks - did a little fly fishing. I knew that your day of retirement would come eventually but the news is no less surprising. Mark, geology has been constant part of my life since you and I first met in the early 80's. I am eternally grateful for your guidance and wisdom during my younger years when others didn't make the time. Have a great summer!

Peter van Noort, P.G. '85
Senior Project Manager
Environmental Services Business Group

Dear Alumni,

I just wanted to say thanks to all of you for your help and generosity. Clearly one of the largest factors in our continued success as a department has been our close ties with our alumni. It sets us apart from nearly every other department on campus and allows our students opportunities that compare with great programs throughout the country. Please consider coming back to campus whenever you can and sharing your experiences with our students, you will find them to be highly motivated and eager to learn.

Best wishes,

Jeff Chiarenzelli