

Geology Newsletter

GEOLOGY PROGRAM • WESTERN STATE COLLEGE • GUNNISON, COLORADO 81231

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE GEOLOGY PROGRAM

SPRING 2000

Tom and Bruce Retire

The big news, of course, is that both Tom and Bruce have retired, complete with two smashing retirement parties in summer 1998; one in Reno and one in Conifer, near Denver; but, more on that later. The good news is that geology is still going strong with the hire of two new faculty replacement (although we all know that no one could actually replace Bruce and Tom). **Dr. Rob Fillmore** ('86) joined the staff in the fall of 1998 and **Dr. John Stamm** joined the staff in the fall of 1999.

Hurst Hall

The Hurst Hall construction and renovation project is well underway. The construction of the new wing started this past summer with the demolition of the large lecture halls on the south end of Hurst. This fall the contractors built the basic structure and tried to get the building enclosed before the snow. Over the spring they will work on the interior, finishing the exterior façade, sidewalks, and landscaping. If all goes according to schedule we will move into the new wing this summer and they will start renovation of the old Hurst.

The first floor of the new wing will house geology and anthropology. There will be a new lecture hall, teaching and research labs for both programs, space for computers and instrumentation, and a student learning center (a coffee/study room). We are looking forward to moving in and the new spaces will significantly improve the programs. If you want to monitor the construction progress visit the construction web site:
<http://gis.western.edu/Hurst/Hurst.htm>.

New Faculty at Western Dr. Rob Fillmore ('86)

Rob has filled Bruce's position. As you may recall, Rob filled in several times as a sabbatical replacement and has been hanging around for years waiting for this opportunity. He kept on writing me letters and phoning me, asking when I was going to retire and it finally paid off! We did a formal search for the position in 97-98 and Rob won out in a pool of truly outstanding candidates. He is now teaching most of the courses I used to (Historical, Strat/Seds, etc.) and has added Structural Geology since that has been one of his strong emphases in his graduate studies.

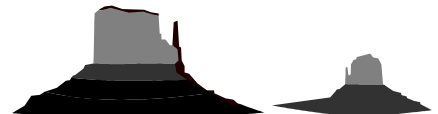
Rob, originally from Oklahoma, came to Crested Butte in the late 70's to be a ski bum, decided to take a geology class and the rest - well, many of you are quite familiar with the pattern of interest, enthusiasm and degradation that formed your Western geology experience. Rob turned on so much that he was our Outstanding Geology Senior, winning the RMAG Hammer in 1986. He then went to Northern Arizona University (NAU) and earned a Master's degree in 1989, working on Upper Cretaceous conglomerates in southwest Utah under the direction of Larry Middleton. Deciding to continue his career as a professional student, he then went to the University of Kansas and worked on Miocene extension and the sedimentological response of part of the Mojave Desert under J. Douglas Walker. While at Kansas, he also worked as an aid to Don Baars (of Canyonlands fame) for the Kansas Geological Survey. He also worked several summers for Exxon Research in Houston doing 3-D seismic



interpretation of submarine fans in the Gulf of Mexico and stratigraphic research in Utah on the Ferron Sandstone with the famous Tom Ryer.

He completed his PhD program in 1994 and started his apprenticeship as part-time instructor at NAU and sabbatical replacement here at WSC, before landing the big prize at Western.

Rob and his wife Hilary have a two-year-old son, Everett. Rob has just completed a book on the geology of the Southern Colorado Plateau to be published by the University of Utah Press late this spring that is destined to become the standard for the region.



Dr. John Stamm

When Tom Prather fully retired last term we had another vacancy and we were able to search for a new faculty member. After much head scratching, discussion and crystal ball gazing we decided to try to find a Geomorphologist/Quaternary geologist. It seems as though hiring a petroleum type is probably not such a good idea, at least for awhile. I guess you get the picture of the type of person we hoped to find – somewhat of a hybrid between an environmentally oriented geomorphologist and an academic research type. A major motivation here is that several people in the Science Department are keenly interested (and we have some grant money) in the Cenozoic history and evolution of the Gunnison Basin, including our anthropologist, Mark Stiger. Mark is very interested in the last 12,000 years of the Gunnison Basin climatic, biotic and human history. Undergraduate

research programs are now very much on our agenda.

At any rate, last spring we hired John Stamm and we feel he fits the above description. John has been teaching geomorphology, soils, and fluvial hydrology, et.al. at California State University, Monterey Bay for the past three years. He earned his BA at SUNY-Oneonta, MS at Penn State and PhD at Kent State in 1991. He did his MS work mapping in southern Death Valley along the Garlock fault zone with Lauren Wright and Bennie Troxel, both highly respected Basin and Range geologists. After he received his MS, John worked for two years for The Mobil Corporation (offshore oil exploration in California and uranium production in Texas/New Mexico) and had a brief stint with the USGS programming an earthquake database. John's Ph.D. research was on a computer model of ice-age climate of the southwest U.S. He did a Post-Doc at Princeton doing computer modeling related to hydrology and global climate

change. John then shifted from computer modeling to field hydrology. He accepted a Post-Doc with Case Western Reserve University (Ohio) and worked on sediment transport in headwater streams in central Idaho. This work supports the U.S. Forest Service in a large water-rights court case in Idaho. So, John's quite well rounded but specializes, and is most interested, in fluvial geomorphology-hydrology and climate change. Because of his broad background, he can do a lot of things (very useful here!) and will be willing to take on projects that fit the local (Gunnison) scene, like landslides, glaciation, etc. I'm sure he will be very collegial with Rob, Allen, and the other science people and will get along with the modern students, which you know quite well can be a formidable task. We'll do a more complete spread on John in the next newsletter. In the mean time please welcome him and check out his neat web page at:

<http://gis/western.edu/geol/faculty/Stamm>

We're On the Web

We are still adding information to our page on the World Wide Web. There are new Web pages for the college. In addition to general program information, we will archive all Geology Alumni Newsletters at the site. The site features new photos of field trips to Central Utah and Canyonlands as well as photos of older field trips. We keep updating the alumni page to help you get in touch with each other and let you know what is happening in the department

We welcome your comments on how the page can be improved to better meet the needs of alumni. The URL has changed from last year and is now:

<http://www.western.edu/geol>

Please update you links.

Annual Geology Awards

The annual graduation banquet is still going strong. We have held two geology banquets since the last newsletter. In 1998 the banquet was in **Allen Stork's** backyard catered by Pie-Zans Pizza.

Allen had fun holding off the police, who were responding to the noise complaints about the band. In 1999 we moved back indoors. It's a little cold in early May-nothing to do with the noise, to the multipurpose room of the rodeo grounds. The banquet, catered by Mikes Market, received rave reviews. Both were tremendous successes as we celebrated the graduation of five graduates in 1998 and eight graduates in 1999.

The VAL MITCHELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP and the RMAG Hammer were given out as usual. The VAL MITCHELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP,

given to our outstanding junior, went to **Rebecca Baily** ('98) and **Becky Thompson** ('99). The recipients of the "Hammer" were **Kayte McConaghy** ('98) and **Ralph Falsetto** ('99).

In addition to the geology awards, **Rebecca Bailey** received an all-campus award as one of the top ten graduates of 1999. Rebecca, Bruce, and **Paul Rady** ('78) missed most of the geology party to attend this banquet. Bruce was there because Rebecca selected him as the person that was most important to her education and Paul was the keynote speaker for the award ceremony.

The annual graduation banquet is held each spring the night before graduation. All geology alumni are invited but because reservations are usually required, please let us know in advance if you plan to join us.

Bartleson and Prather Scholarships

Last newsletter we announced a scholarship for student research that was initiated by **Paul Rady** ('78) and **Peter Dea** ('76). This year we would like to announce the continuation of this program as the **Bartleson/Prather Fund for Excellence in Geology**. The fund will still supply a scholarship and research stipend for students on a competitive basis, who are between their junior and senior year. The idea is to enable them to do some meaningful geology in the summer without severe financial hardship. If you or your company might be interested in contributing to the fund let us know.

Last years scholarships have been completed. **Rebecca Bailey** ('99) worked on the Tertiary Telluride Conglomerate in the San Juan Mountains. **Brian Coven** ('99) worked on the initiation of West Elk Volcanism. He was able to show that the entire West Elk Field was

deposited within a relatively short 500,000yr interval 30my ago. His results were presented at the Denver GSA this fall. **Ralph Falsetto** ('99) looked at the Harding Sandstone in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to decipher the detailed depositional environment of this Ordovician deposit.

Two more scholarships were awarded this year. **Becky Thompson** will continue work on the Telluride Conglomerate in an attempt to understand the regional paleogeography during the Eocene-Oligocene. **Ryan Murphy** is engaged in a petrologic study of two of the Gunnison Laccoliths – Storm Ridge and East Beckwith. He will be studying the relationship between the laccoliths and West Elk Volcano. His project will include petrologic, geochemical and Ar/Ar dating of the laccoliths.

Denver Museum of Natural History Alumni Reception

On Friday evening, April 9, 1999 the college put on an alumni reception at the Denver Museum of Natural History in conjunction with the museum's Colossal Fossil Exhibit. Since it was kind of geological and since many consider Bruce to be a living fossil, it seemed appropriate for the geology staff to be there. So, Bruce Bartleson, Rob Fillmore, and Allen Stork all showed up as co-hosts and guides. It turned out to be a great success and a lot of fun, as over 50 alumni showed up. Happily, a good number of geology alumni showed up and we had a great time reminiscing. Those present included: **Renee Brekke-Liederbach '96, Scot Donato '81, Scott Effner '88, Dave Gaskill '48, Bob and June Just '74, Chris Lawson '94, Ken Miller '83, Ken Nibbelink '79, and Bob Richardson '93**

New Anthropology Major

After ten year of planning, preparation, and politics Western has a new major in anthropology. For those of you who were around recently, you know that the Geology Department is a major supporter. We have worked closely with Dr. Mark Stiger to show that anthropology should be an important part of Western and that there was a demand for the major by offering a Geology Major with an Emphasis in Anthropology. This has been a popular part of our department and the interest of students and your success getting jobs in the field and into graduate school were vital in convincing the State that we could offer the program.

Curecanti Mapping Project

This summer the entire department was involved in a project to help complete the basic 1:24,000 geologic maps of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument (soon to be a park) and Curecanti National Recreation Area. This project is part of a national effort to complete geologic maps of all the National Parks. You just think someone would have done this before

Bruce Bartleson helped set up the project by attending a planning meeting with the Park Superintendent and interested parties. He convinced them that they should hire the locals to do the work. We received a contract to map the **McIntosh Mountain and Little Soap Park** quadrangles. **Rob Fillmore** ('86), **Kurt Panter** ('86), **Allen Stork**, the summer field camp, **Brian Coven** ('99), **Ralph Falsetto** ('99), **Ryan Murphy** ('00), **Jodie Medico** ('00), **Ben Stookesbury** ('01), and **Becky Thompson** ('00) all worked at various times. The only way we could complete this project was to rely heavily on previous work by **Dave Gaskill** ('48) and Bruce who worked on the West Elk Wilderness Study. Dave had donated field maps and notes from this project a few years ago.

The most interesting results came from mapping paleo-Gunnison River gravels, containing Precambrian, Paleozoic and Mesozoic clasts, that trace out how the path of the river was changed by the eruption of the large ash flows out of the San Juan Calderas 50-70 kms to the south. There will be many fascinating studies generated out of this work.

We hope that this will become a long-term project. We will propose to map the West Elk Peak Southwest Quadrangle next summer. Wish us luck!

Many alumni responded to our request for information. Bruce has summarized your letters, e-mails, and phone conversations below. Thank you for updating us and telling us what you are doing. If you haven't already, please take a moment to tell us what you're doing and how you view the quality of your education at Western. Information from alumni helps us assess the Geology Program. We do listen and appreciate your comments, whether critical or complimentary

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Alumni News

1967

Gary Christopher is actually alive and well. He showed up for a slide show I gave on the geology and scenery of the Alps. I think it has been at least 30 years since we've seen Gary. From what I gather Gary is the expert on the geology and history of the local mines.

1969

Jay James was relatively easy to find since he is working with Karen Conrath (who is best known for single-handedly straightening out **Fred Conrath, '75**) at Montgomery Watson, an environmental firm based in Steamboat Springs. Jay worked for many years in various positions, for AMAX, for the USGS, mine engineer, and mine foreman in the coal industry. For the past 12 years he has been a consultant for Montgomery Watson involved in writing permits and writing EIS reports for gold deposits in the U.S. and South America. He still lives in Oak Creek where he lived when he was at Western State. I guess I'll never forget Jay because he showed me how to dress out a deer (very small), which he did in my basement. Time flies, Jay- that was in 1968, I believe.

1970

Jim Browne was the star of the October retirement party for Tom and Bruce since he and his wife provided an absolutely spectacular turkey cooked in oil. Jim is doing special food catering and also has a landscaping business in Evergreen called Dastardly Deeds Ltd.

1971

Dan Larsen reports that his 2nd oldest daughter graduated from William and Mary with a degree in Geology (chip off the old block!), but she promptly took a job managing a sheep ranch in Big Timber, Montana for a while and is now in culinary school in Bozeman. I give,

Dan - you can raise them and point them in a certain direction, but then - get out of the way!

1972

Gary Dow is still with the Bureau of Reclamation in Utah, but reports that he could retire in 3 years and is waffling over it. Gary, I can only say that everyone I know who has retired, (if you can afford it) never regrets it.

Tim (TJ) Kelly has had a career in various enterprises over the years. He started out in mining at the Leadville Corp's Sherman Tunnel mine in July of 1972 but pneumonia led him to rethink an underground career and to develop a condo cleaning business. He did some surveying, worked for Mobil Oil for a number of years (and helped us get many students summer jobs) in Houston and even some offshore well sitting for Amoco in the Gulf. He got a M.B.A. in finance and energy economics but the timing was bad for oil. He left Houston in 1990, came back to Denver, and got into the environmental business with Eneco Tech. He is now working with Banko Petroleum Management in Denver, which consults for oil companies in regards to well permits, environmental assessments, SPCC plans, and advising on land development where oil and gas interests are involved. He sometimes deals with **Steve Reynolds** ('78).

David Westhoff is now back in Colorado on a bit of a sabbatical having completed his contract in Indonesia where he was a geohydrologist for the Grasberg Mine. Dave has decided that he does not want to go back to Indonesia! He is currently consulting for the BLM near Craig. Dave, **Charlie Ponchak** ('73), Tom, and Bruce got together for a mini-reunion in late September at Charlie's house near Ouray. We later joined a combined birthday party for **Julie Fike** ('90) and **Lynn Padgett** ('97) at Lynn's house. What is most interesting is that all four of the alumni were RMAG Hammer winners.

1973

Dave Lageson is still up in Bozeman at Montana State University and reports: 1) that his daughter is now married and 2) that he has been named as the national editor (chief guru) for the GSA Field Guides and is featured with a picture in the November, 1998 GSA Today.

1974

Steve Craig missed the first edition of the Newsletter but reported in right after the mailing. Steve got his Master's degree at CSU, then worked for Bear Creek/Kennecott for 23 years, spending most of his time as district manager in Reno. Steve recently resigned and is now with Golden Phoenix Minerals in Reno where he handles Alaska all by himself and with 30 properties and no money. He comments that "life does get interesting."

Mark Thomas also missed the first edition and immediately sent in a 2-page resume. He got his Master's at Colorado School of Mines (on the Dakota Sandstone near Gunnison), and went to work for Sun in such places as

the Anadarko basin, Big Horn basin, Montana and Wyoming overthrust belts, and his favorite, the Minnelusa of the Powder River basin. Mark was a victim of the mid-80's oil crash, but hung on in Denver till 1990 with friends consulting, including property evaluations for banks, lawyers and the Jicarilla Apache tribe (what a crew - I think I'd rather take my chances with the Apaches). "We didn't make a whole lot of money, but the work was fun and we were usually busy." He then landed a "real" job with EG&G in Morgantown, WV. There he mostly worked on gas sands such as in the Green River and Val Verde Basins. He then "converted" to ground water by taking night classes at West Virginia University and some short courses and has been doing remediation of that sort for the last 8-9 years. Among his projects are a study of a site near Gillette, WY where the DOE burned coal underground in a futile attempt at gasification, but ended up only polluting the local ground water and another near Rock Springs where they attempted an underground oil shale retort. Mark comments: "Amazing how you can start out doing well sitting in the oil business, in a trailer with lights, microscope, etc. and evolve (25 years later) to standing around in the mud looking at samples with a hand lens."

1975

Kevin McAndrews has done a major turn in his career. Kevin had been with Kennecott for over 20 years with the last 7 down in Mexico. Kevin decided he had enough of the new Kennecott/Rio Tinto management last year and struck out on his own with a partner trying to find new deposits in Mexico. This didn't work out so he and Pam packed up their bags and moved up Austin, Texas to go into partnership with his brother Neil in the electrical power brokerage business. You might recall Neil went to school here briefly. At any rate, Kevin is sort of the bean-counter/mathematician for the outfit which consults for electrical power entities to modeling utility loads, financial hedging, risk analysis and that sort of stuff. Quite a change after being in the mining industry all his life, but Kevin reports that he is really enjoying it. Kevin and Pam have one daughter at NYU and another at Brown University.

1976

Jan (Polyasko) Bellis was one of our most perplexing MIAs for the first edition. I had seen her off and on since graduation and knew she was in Boulder but was married and no one knew her new name. I had given up hope of finding her when, in January this year, completely out of the blue, Jan sent me a letter asking for advice on a proposed river trip down the lower Gunnison this spring. I'm really glad she wrote because she has one of the most interesting bios you can imagine - Read on! Jan started working for Gulf Mineral Resources (remember those golden years when all the oil companies briefly got into the mineral business?) doing uranium and coal exploration in Wyoming, Illinois and Ohio. Jan saw the writing on the wall, took some classes in hydrogeology and got a job with

Wright Water Engineers of Denver in 1978. There she consulted on projects in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Yellowstone National Park doing a variety of groundwater type stuff. The most interesting project was a groundwater-rights investigation for the Bureau of Reclamation to find illegal, non-contractual groundwater users along the Lower Colorado River. That sounds like a real can of worms, Jan! At any rate, in 1989 Jan became a partner in Groundwater Specialists of Boulder doing hydro-type work including groundwater evaluations and construction-dewatering analyses for two hotel-casinos in Blackhawk, groundwater evaluations for the Justice Department protesting a water-rights application in the San Luis Valley and long-term studies of the groundwater available for Denver International Airport -- Whew! Sounds like you are in the big leagues, Jan!

Denis Hall is continuing his environmental trend and has become a grasslands and fluvial geomorphology specialist. He is president of the High Country Citizens Alliance, a local group that tries to work with ranchers, developers and government entities. He also is president of the Southern Rockies Ecosystem project, who try to preserve large tracts of intact habitat. From a personal viewpoint is that he recently married **Nancy (Wallof) Nicolaisen** whom you may remember was one of our Geology Minors of the mid-70s (and a romantic interest of Denis back then). Nancy is a self-employed software engineer who has authored several books about computers including one that has been translated into 5 languages.

Dawne (Miller) Pennell is now working for Digital Petrophysics of Bakersfield, CA who contract out to major oil companies. They do reservoir characterization, engineering geology, petrophysics, computer geology, and reservoir analysis. Lately she has been working on the Huntington Beach Field (offshore). She went to the Salt Lake City AAPG last year and heard a talk by **Peter Dea** (76'). Her Master's work was presented on the last day at 4:00 PM. Not a good turn out! Dawne is balancing work and raising 3 boys, 8, 10, and 14. That's a handful. Dawne, how do you do it?

1977

Al Clough as noted earlier, almost won the award for traveling the farthest (Alaska) for attending our retirement/reunion party last fall near Denver. After working 7 1/2 years with the state of Alaska, Al reached his tensile strength limit and went to work with Kvaerner Metals. He is the Deputy Manager of the AJ Mine Project, helping to close out a long abandoned gold mine involving some underground work and a lot of permitting, but he's happy to be back in the private sector. Al also reports running into **Tim Hall** ('79) fairly often.

Kim (Perusek) McDonald couldn't make it to our retirement party, but sent a really nice long letter to us. Much appreciated, Kim! Kim is back in New Orleans, but she hopes her husband's work will bring her back to Colorado in a few years.

Tom Pronold was not having a great year until recently because of the price of oil, but reports the following trivia. His company is called Dolomite Resources partly because of the Dolomite Range between Italy and Switzerland, but also (the real reason!) because of the ledge of Niagaran Dolomite that outcrops & subcrops throughout most of the Midwest. "Many formative hours were spent on the ledge swimming in quarries, hunting rabbits and later, drinking Carling Black Label, PBRs and necking with high school sweeties" Now there's a good reason!

1978

Dave Ernst was in the midst of moving to Chile last time the request for information for the newsletter came out, so missed out for the first edition. I saw Dave in Reno last August and we had a nice long chat. Dave is now working for **Tom Shrake** ('81) and Pacific Rim in Latin America, mostly in Peru, Chile and Argentina but also some in Mexico and Ecuador. Dave got his Master's in 1980 from Eastern Washington working on some small plutons around here (Tomichi Dome, for one) and then spent the next 14 years exploring for gold in Nevada working for various companies (Newmont, Noranda, WestGold, etc.). In his spare time he teamed up with old buddy **Eddie Devenyns** ('78) and they did some gold exploration on their own with Eddie acting as the landman. They still own a potentially mineable property together. Dave is married to Wendy and they have three children ranging from 7 to 15.

Pam Klessig is still in Reno, but after almost 20 years in the mining industry has become a stockbroker for A.G. Edwards. Give her a call!

Carol Ostergren reports that her husband spent 8 months in the hospital last year with the rare Guillain-Barre Syndrome and is now home but in a wheelchair. Her baby, Taylor is fine and so much fun. She sends regards to all.

Paul Rady has been named CEO and President of Pennaco, which is tapping into the huge coal-bed methane resources of the Powder River Basin. Paul was named to the Western State College Foundation Board of Directors last year, so we get to see him all the time along with son Tim, who is a sophomore Business major here. Paul was recently the featured speaker for the new (since 1997) honors banquet for the top ten outstanding graduating seniors, one of whom was ours, **Rebecca Bailey** ('99). I got to introduce Paul!

1979

Ken Nibbelink After spending most of his adult life (18 years) with Amoco, Ken finally got caught up in the blood-letting of the Amoco-BP merger. He had an all to brief vacation, but has now been hired by Santa Fe-Snyder Oil company where he will continue to work on exploration in West Africa, which he did with Amoco. We saw Ken and wife Lynn at the Denver Museum in April when the college put on an alumni get-together along with the Colossal Fossil exhibit with the entire geology staff participating

Myra (Vaag) Lugsch is now on a long-term sabbatical from her geological work. She appeared at the reunion party last fall with her newborn twin boys - really an armload! Congratulations Myra!

1980

Kim (Hunter) Mauch hadn't been heard from since graduation so imagine my pleasant surprise when she showed up at the Reno retirement party last summer looking just like she did when she graduated. At any rate we have had several email discussions since then and here is her updated bio: Her first job out of college was with the Soil Conservation Service as a conservation technician and then Director of the Plains Conservation Center just east of Denver. Working with a wildlife photographer, she presented multi-media natural history slide programs, then worked as curator and program educator for the Denver Museum of Natural History and as a "scientist in residence" at an elementary school ("best job I ever had"). She got interested in wildlife biology and ended up with a summer job in Yukon Flats, Alaska studying nutrient release and waterfowl reproduction. While there she had an interesting experience with a bear eating his way into her tent one night! Since that time she has helped her husband Phil with his custom home construction business in Sacramento. CA doing the books and stuff like that. It must be a tame life after Alaska. Wanting to get back into geology, Kim found a job with CH2M, an environmental and engineering firm, in January this year and is thinking about going back to school to get a Masters. Pretty interesting career, Kim!

Walter (Fritz) Merz wrote back a year ago to tell me that our newsletter serves a useful purpose by providing great reading in the head - Hmmm! As of last June, Fritz was still with Exxon and was a group leader for petrophysics branch, which looks at formation evaluation data and e-logs from exploration wells worldwide. He's now working as supervisor in Houston for a \$3.5 billion project developing 3 large fields in central Africa and building a pipeline through Cameroon. Fritz does recruiting at Colorado School of Mines and has a good time telling the kids that he is from Colorado Western School of Mines - most of them don't get it and nod in wise agreement - oh yeah, great school! Fritz has a five-year-old, is now looking for new personal opportunities and for anyone passing through Houston, he offers to be a bar and party guide.

Carol (Mooney) Hogsett kindly offered her services as geological guide for our annual spring geology field trip in April. Carol and new husband Vic took us to a really remote and interesting Pennsylvanian fossil site near Lamy, NM with giant horn corals, brachiopods, and interesting depositional systems. We met Carol and Vic the night before at Rancho de Chimayo for dinner. Carol also arranged for the renowned Scott Baldrige (Rio Grande Rift expert, etc.) to lead us for a day from Santa Fe to Abiqui. We had a great time! Carol was featured in the

spring, 1999 Crimson and Slate alumni magazine concerning her work at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Liz Robbins reports that she is still doing environmental engineering work in the Los Angeles area. Liz got her Master's at CSU under the renowned Eric Erslev (his first masters student) in structural geology and, according to old friend Frank Ethridge of the CSU faculty, pretty much set the curve in most of her classes there. No surprise; you might recall that Liz was our Outstanding Geology Graduate in 1980.

1981

Tom Shrake, gets many thanks again from both Tom and I for hosting such a great party last July

1982

Ray (Cheeno) Cherniske is back in the Rockies after being in exile in California since 1990. Ray is back with Unocal again but working on the Questa project north of Taos and living in Angel Fire, New Mexico

1983

Andrea Heller has requested that she be put under her rightful year of graduation (we had her under 1985) when she really finished in 1983. But even more importantly, Andrea is now back in Gunnison, where it all began, acting as a special education teacher for the Gunnison school system. Andrea, the notorious **Bob Dickerson** ('77), Kenny and Melody Marks, and Deirdre and I all got together for dinner at Kenny's house in Gunnison last summer, great nostalgia and a really fun time. We see Andrea all the time and she has volunteered to clean out our dusty showcases this summer! Thanks Andrea.

Rod Graham popped in out of the blue about a year ago and kept Deirdre and I absolutely fascinated with tales of his mining career at lunch. Rod is the same witty, raconteur (and more so, with his global travels) and when last seen was working on a residual gold prospect in East Africa. Come again Rod!

Ken Miller The famous "lumpy" showed up unannounced at the Denver museum reception that Allen, Rob Fillmore and I did last April. We had a long, interesting conversation and got his life story. After Western, Ken was in the Air Force for 7 years and then quit and decided to get a Master's degree in Operations Management which partly has to do with industrial safety. He then got O.S.H.A. certified in a 40-hour course in hazardous waste management. At any rate, with all this background, a number of letters, and the help of our alumni network, Ken got a job with Ryan-Murphy Inc. in Westminster, Colorado - an environmental construction management firm (whatever that means). Ken and his wife have two children who must be around 7 and 5 or so by now. Really nice to see you Ken, stay in touch.

Rebecca Miller checked in after our first Newsletter with a complete update on a quite interesting career since graduation. She got her MS from the University of Texas,

El Paso, working on epithermal precious metal mineralization southwest of Chihuahua related to a Cretaceous intrusion. She even believed in her own work and acquired properties, which are being considered for drilling by Homestake. She then spent 5 years mostly doing mapping in Mexico in remote backcountry and then the next three expanding ore reserves for various mines in Nevada and California. She then worked for 5 years trying to permit mines in Montana and basically learned it can't be done anymore. She also worked on some reclamation projects (mine materials characterization, if you want to be formal), including the famous Magma Mine in Arizona. She has now started her own company called Minekeepers and invites us all to contact her for any mining project you want done, including writing EISs.

1986

Lisa Cole-Starkebaum, I am happy to report, is back in Gunnison with her family after years of exile in the Denver area. Her husband, Neal (you might remember Starkebaum's vet clinic just west of town, or Neal's dad Curt, who taught biology at the college part-time) landed a job with the Gunnison County planning department and Lisa is really enjoying being back in town with her two boys, aged 2 1/2 and 5 who come to visit now and then. Lisa does a little consulting, but with the downturn in the oil industry, she spends most of her time with her boys. To be fair, I should mention that Lisa has local connections too and many of you know her brother Mike Cole, who is a local contractor and mountain bike enthusiast.

Dr. Kurt Panter is still here in Gunnison! When Allen Stork became Science Department Chair, we needed some help in teaching some of Allen's classes so we called on good old reliable Kurt again. Kurt taught the hard rock classes for us last year and this fall. This past summer he helped direct the mapping contract we have with the Park Service to do some local quadrangles adjacent to Blue Mesa Reservoir. He is still actively seeking an academic position.

1987

Gregg Altimari was one of our MIAs who was reported to me by his old buddy Jeff Burrows. After graduation Gregg went to work for 5 years for Amax Gold at the famous Sleeper Mine in Nevada. Now he is in the Frisco/Breckenridge area doing surveying for RangeWest.

Jon Kaminsky is working for Intel as a system engineer. He finds the work a bit boring but he runs the validation on beta PC server platforms before they go out and allows him some play-time with the latest high-tech gadgets. Jon is thinking about going back to graduate school after his son starts school, but is waffling. Jon, you should do it, you're really a good teacher, if that's what your goal is, and you aren't that old yet!

1988

Carol (Gallatin) Bieniulis reported in right after the first newsletter was published with some updated news. Seems she had a long field assignment for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Baker Island in the central Pacific. Except for a long bout with sea-sickness (6 days in a cold, dark bunk with no food except for a few crackers and part of a PBJ sandwich- she lost 10 lbs.) it was quite interesting and beautiful. She did a bird survey and found over 700,000 birds on an island that is only .5 square miles. I'm a little curious as to the role of a low-temperature geochemist in this operation, Carol? "Beaches were awesome at sunset with beautiful, warm water - I would definitely go back again" Even with the 6 days of seasickness, Carol?

1989

Christine Peak is on her way back to Australia! Christine and Jim have bought a 2000-acre ranch in the Great Dividing Range in northeastern Australia and plan to become grazers running 1600 head of sheep, 30 head of cattle and several hundred kangaroos. The new ranch is close (in Australian distances) to Christine's folks, so they'll have plenty of help and advice in making the transition from gentleman, retired doctor to grazer. Of course, Christine was raised on a ranch, so she's no rookie. Christine also reports that Jeff, who, as a little boy, went down the San Juan River with us once many years ago, is now 22, salmon fishing in Alaska and probably will go into pre-med. Her daughter Kara, after a degree from Colorado School of Mines is now getting a Master's in International Business through the University of South Carolina and interning in Guatemala and Costa Rica

1990

Julie (Clarke) Coleman-Fike has had a very busy year being resource manager for the Gunnison district of the BLM, but has also had a series of great vacation trips. Get this: New Zealand last winter; sea kayaking along the coast of Baja, followed by an excursion to Barranca del Cobre (Copper Canyon to you gringos and yes, there were great copper mines there!) in the spring and then in late June to Alaska, looking at glaciers near Juneau. Arrgh! I'm jealous. She also found time to publish a paper on an interesting and intrigue-filled Italian miners' strike of the Ute-Ulay mine near Lake City in the early 1900s.

Thornton Mount is back in Gunnison after working as a ranch manager north of the Black Canyon (Flying M) for a few years. He is now bending nails working for a Crested Butte contractor.

1994

Eric Dillenbeck As you recall, Eric was working in mining in Argentina and had met a lovely young lady down there. So, guess what? You're way ahead of me - Yes, Eric got married to Romina (Romi) in January and honeymooned in Australia and Tahiti and was planning on living in Buenos Aires. However, a downturn in the

mining business put his project on hold for a while and Eric decided to do the grad school routine. He was accepted at both Colorado School of Mines and Cal. @ Berkeley (I wonder what I said in the letter?) and he has chosen to go to Mines. He is already back here working with a group that is putting an airborne hyperspectral imager into commercial production. "The focus of the project is on evaluating abandoned mine sites, but basically the technology and process is the same for discovering unknown alteration zones." So, double congratulations are in order and Eric, we're all dying to see your wife!

Kevin Geraghty is in Florida working on a contract with the USGS for oceanographic surveys. He has also started business designing and distributing game fish key chains. Last May when he contacted us he and Diane were expecting their second child. Congratulations!

Chris Lawson is back in Colorado with his family and working for GEOPAK-TMS (transportation management systems) which is a subsidiary of the company he was with in Pennsylvania. His new title is Software Engineer and it involves customizing their GIS based software for big clients like Colorado Dept. of Transportation. Chris stopped by at the Denver Museum reception in April and it was good to see him looking so well!

Suzanne (Schauer) Carmody is still teaching in Colorado Springs, and was here for a visit this summer and just had a baby this fall.

Pete Stelling sent a little note to say that he was jealous we went to Hawaii for our spring field trip a few years ago (check out our web site!), and suggests if we travel that far, why not Alaska? Probably not a good idea for spring break, Pete; but maybe in the summer or fall?? Pete is still working on his Ph.D. thesis and notes that Alaska is like Colorado on steroids.

1995

Rosemary (Hart) Carrol We saw Rosemary at the Reno retirement party (She and Brian Cellura represented the class of 1995!) and learned that she is continuing on with her Ph.D. at the University of Nevada at Reno in hydrology. Rosemary is mostly involved in fluvial geomorphology and computer modeling of contaminant transport and has a paper on mercury speciation and fate in the Carson River-Lahonton Reservoir system.

Brian Cellura We saw Brian at the Reno party and learned he is going great guns on his Master's work at Reno on the stratigraphy of part of the Carlin trend. His work is being funded by Uranerz and will probably go back with them after his graduate work is completed.

Eric Jordan has left Gunnison after driving for Alpine Express for 4 years and is now working on his Master's degree at Drexel University in Philadelphia. The faculty at Drexel put him in touch with an environmental consulting firm (Groundwater and Environmental Services Inc.) and they made an offer of employment and tuition. Eric says it is rough (and a big change) going back to work in a big city and going to graduate school.

Kelli McKeown has a new baby and is doing quite well. Congratulations Kelli! Kelli and her family have moved back east to be closer to family. We hope she keeps in touch.

Catherine (Morgans) Fisher has landed a permanent job with Furey Land Surveying here in Gunnison, working with **Kelli McKeown** before she moved. Sounds like an inside job! She and her husband live in Pitkin.

1996

Renee Brekke-Liederbach also came to the Denver Museum Reception and we had nice catch-up conversation, but not long enough. Renee is now in graduate school in the School of Education at Boulder. She ran into **Ryan Bagby ('97)** this winter in Boulder at a theater production.

Charles (Chuck) Pollard checked in after the first Newsletter reached him with a welcome hello after being out of sight for 3 years. Chuck started out as a volunteer with the U.S.G.S coal assessment program in Montana and Wyoming. He says that it was fun, but the lack of funds forced him into more gainful employment. He found a job with Interpretive Imaging scanning in well logs for their database. Unfortunately, the oil crunch caught up with him. Currently, Chuck is working for Proctor Companies designing theater concession stands. He says he especially enjoys the work environment but still reads his geological books and misses fieldwork. The VP for the company is a geologist and hired Chuck because of his Autocad skills, so there is a relationship.

1997

Ryan Bagby showed up at graduation this year with old buddy **Sean Hlousek ('97)** and related the news that he now has a good job in geology! Ryan is a field engineer with A.G. Wassenaar, a geotechnical consulting firm specializing in soils, concrete and asphalt testing for residential properties in the Denver area.

Amy Crawford checked in this spring with a nice, long letter. Since it was in the *Crimson & Slate*, some of you probably know that Amy is the author of an article in the Dec., 1998 issue of *Nordic Skier*. The article is entitled "To Ski or Not to Ski" and recounts her experience as a collegiate skier. Amy was a national champion NCAA Nordic skier and helped lead her team to the women's national championship. Amy is back in Alaska now and will try out for the 2000 Olympic Nordic team after being in Boulder for several years and a bout with something like Epstein-Barr syndrome. We're all pulling for you Amy!

Sean Hlousek found a great job in Denver with Pierson Graphics Maps Unlimited. They produce the Pierson Guides, the most popular street atlases along the Front Range. Besides maps and atlases they produce custom mapping services, globes, GPS and software. Currently he is in the retail area but is now learning GPS and the new advances in mapping software and hopes to move into cartography. Sean says they are a super bunch of people to work with and he is happy to be working with products that

he can use his education to help sell. Last but not least, Sean and his long-term girlfriend, Elaine were married just about a year ago. Sean and old buddy **Ryan Bagby '97** were up here for graduation this spring.

Lynn Padgett organized an absolutely super tour of the Rocky Mtn. Arsenal clean-up site in spring 1998 for our Subsurface Fluids class. Besides that, she put on a barbecue and opened her house to the class. Lynn and I spent 1/2 day skiing together going into one of the huts near Dallas Divide and then on July 5 we hiked up to Hasley Pass with **Julie Fike ('90)** and friends from Montrose. Read on to see how the plot thickens! She has now left the USGS and renounced the bright lights of Denver. She worked for the BLM again last summer in the San Juans in the Lake City/Silverton area on a 2-month appointment. Lynn has now accepted a full-time position with Buckhorn Geotechnical of Montrose, an outfit that does a lot of geotechnical consulting in the Crested Butte area, Telluride, and other Western Slope ports. She got the job because one of Buckhorn's employees was on the Hasley Pass hike and commented on how busy they were and really needed help? So Lynn, when are you going to buy Orvis Hot Springs?

1998

Stephanie Foggia is up in Alaska working for a mining geologist. Last we heard, she was doing field mapping using a helicopter looking for gold and had purchased a 45 pistol for bear abatement.

Katye McConaghy is working on her M.S. in metamorphic petrology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver under a full ride. Former faculty member **Mary Lou Bevier (1982-85)** was of great help to her in securing the fellowship. Katye is working on skarn deposits in B.C.

Chantal Simonpietri landed an 11th hour internship with the USGS doing hydrology and is now in Boulder with NCAR/NOAA or INSTAAR.

Wade Broadhead was working for the local BLM office thanks again to **Julie Fike ('90)** and just recently accepted a job in the Grand Junction office

Tessa Walker received a special commendation for her work as a GSA intern in Denali National Park, Alaska last summer and was written up for her outstanding work. Tess is in the Seattle area being a Navy wife and is actively seeking employment according to a recent e-mail update. She and her husband stopped by this spring.

1999

Brian Coven worked for Schlumberger Reservoir Technologies over the summer doing stratigraphic analysis on the Morrison formation in Southern Utah near the Henry Mountains. This fall he presented the results of his Barret Scholarship at the Denver GSA Meeting.

Ralph Falsetto is working for the Forest Service in Chadron, Nebraska as a GIS specialist.

Retirement Parties!

There were two outstanding retirement parties you folks put together for Tom and Bruce. Thanks! The first affair was in late July 1998 with Tom and Anne Shrake acting as hosts in their beautiful new home in the mountains so near of Reno. Tom barbecued a brisket of beef and opened up his considerable wine cellar for tasting. Alumni attending included: **Rosemary (Hart) Carroll** ('95); **Brian Cellura** ('95); **Steve Craig** ('74); **Elliott Crist** ('75); **Ed DeVenyns** ('78); **Jim Douglas** ('77); **Dave Ernst** ('78); **Pam Klessig** ('78); **Kim (Hunter) Mauch** ('80); **Laura (Nelson) and Eric Ruud** ('82); **Anne (Bouchet) & Tom Shrake** ('82); **Kirk Swanson** ('83); **Ron Thoreson** ('75) and **Gene Urie** ('77). **Greg Hill** ('91), was planning to come, but had a rather lame excuse - he got married that day! We forgive you Greg!

Then, in early October, **Jan and**

Rod McCabe ('77) kindly hosted a great blowout near Conifer, CO. We didn't really call roll but in our collective memories we counted 50 to 60 alumni. **Al Clough** ('77) flew in from Alaska, **Mark Fernandes** ('78) and **Nancy Molyneux** ('77) came in from Connecticut and Rhode Island, respectively; **Brad Boshetto** ('83) and **Dale Marcum** (83') came in from California, but the champion long-distance traveler was **Brian Johnson** ('80) from Australia. Two groups of alumni stand out: the class of '83 had by far the biggest single year turn-out (10), and the Deerfield, Illinois group now hold the record for the most people from one high school (4). The party was a great success with speeches (mostly short), awards, lots of reminiscing, and lots of good food and drink (the special turkey that **Jim Brown** ('70) and his wife prepared was the hit of the party). Everyone agreed that we really should do this sort of reunion/party more often and plans are underway.

Peter Terbush

- A sad death

You may have seen a news report in June concerning a Western State student being killed in a rock fall accident in Yosemite. The student was **Peter Terbush** and very sadly, he was a new geology major having just completed Physical and Historical Geology. He was a very enthusiastic young man and had a great deal of experience climbing. He was apparently belaying some of his friends at the base of a 100-foot rock face when a large mass of rock came down. Instead of running and risking the lives of his friends he held his position and took the full brunt of the rocks. This was a major rock fall that was described as "a huge rumbling sound, like a jet coming close -- we saw a tiny plume of impact that then rose up like a nuclear blast. A huge layer of dust settled over much of the valley."



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