

GEOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2006

Greetings and salutations to all friends and alumni of Gustavus Geology! I know I promised to get this to you by the end of the semester, but procrastination and some new technical problems have plagued me from the start. I begin with some personal and departmental news from the faculty and follow this with a compilation of the responses to my requests for news from you. I performed some minimal moderation on what you sent me, mainly to remove some personal greetings directed to me and to compact the text. Once again I enjoyed reading these messages, and I expect you will, too. Sorry if I lost your message somewhere along the way. It is not just creeping dementia; I have been doing that all my life. Please write me at jcarlson@gac.edu if you have questions, corrections, or suggestions concerning this document.

Faculty News

Jim Welsh

Greetings! Hope all is well with everyone. I am happy to report that we just graduated eight. However, we are seeing a little dip in numbers of majors, with only two anticipated for next year. Interest though appears on the upswing with sophomores (though too early to report actual numbers). Three of our students presented at GSA last fall, and two of those papers have a chance of being published.

Ben has settled in to his first full year. I am pleased to report that he is doing very well. He taught "Principles" both semesters and has done an excellent job with the class. He led a J-term trip to the "Southwest" last January, that attracted a significant number of students.

I am saddened to report that Russell will be leaving (see below). Russ was a great addition to the department. Russ is both an excellent teacher and researcher, and was well liked by students. We are going to miss him.

We have developed a couple of new courses. Influenced by all of the natural disasters from last year, we have introduced a general ed offering entitled "Unnatural Disasters" Russell developed and taught the course last spring. The class was well received and we plan to continue it. We think the class has potential to increase awareness in geology, and hopefully will help attract majors. Ben is developing 200-level course called "Global Climate Change", which he will teach for the first time next fall.

On the personal side of things, I am beginning to dabble in some “diamond—related” work. I supervised two students this past year. Brian Goldner did an interesting study on garnets used as indicator minerals in diamond exploration. He was attempting to correlate color in garnets to their chemistry, and developed a scheme for digitizing the process. Tina Erickson looked at the chemistry of an unusual amphibole-bearing peridotite intrusion from Stearns County (MN). While the rock is not a kimberlite (which you may recall is the basic source rock for diamonds), it may have komatiitic affinities (komatiites are flows with an ultramafic; i.e. high Mg composition). This may be worth pursuing further, as I am not aware of intrusive equivalents of these rocks described in the literature.

Nice to see some of you at GSA in Salt Lake City last fall. For me there was some reminiscence as my old field camp experience was done out of Park City. I took our students, Brian Goldner, Julia Anderson, and Ellie Bash, along with alums Joe Beer and Ryan Erickson on a little road trip through those canyons.

In closing I would like to make a request. I would appreciate if any of you could provide some “quotable copy” as to your experience as a geology major at Gustavus. In particular if you could say something about what you are doing now, and how you thought your geology experience helped prepare you, or perhaps any “fun” remembrances. I am interested as well in “quotes” from those of you who are not actually doing “geology”, with comments as to how the geology major contributed to your development. My goal is to place a few of these on our website to use as a recruiting tool.

So cheers. I plan to be at GSA in Philadelphia this fall, hopefully recruiting to fill Russell’s position. Hope to see some of you there.

Russell Shapiro

Lots of news to report here. The biggest news is that we had two more girls born on November 1st (Celeste and Lily). More hands to carry fossils! Second, I will be leaving Gustavus after four years of filling Joe Carlson's shoes to return home to California where I will be at Chico State. Though I was only here for one student life, the memories and lessons run deep and there will always be a part of me that will miss the place. Jim Welsh has been a great mentor (when I remember to listen). Ben Laabs, Mark Johnson, Julie Maxson, Michal Tal, and Joe have been wonderful colleagues--a point I do not take for granted. Most of all, each year I got to know wonderful students and I hope to stay in touch over the years. This last year, Julia Anderson ('06) and Ellie Bash ('07) worked with me out in Colorado on methane seep deposits and both presented excellent posters at GSA. Brian Goldner ('06) worked with us in the field but, alas, his heart belongs to the ore deposits. I continued to work on the iron formation and began a comparative study with the Cambrian Bonanza King formation of Nevada. Last summer, Brett Haukedahl ('06) and I measured sections outside of Las Vegas (where Brett had a memorable and lucrative night). So, as twilight comes to my time at Gustavus, I bid you all adieu and my sincere thanks for the hospitality and friendliness and Joe's walleyes.

Ben Laabs

Greetings from the not-so-new-anymore face in the Geology Department! Thanks to Jim, Russell, Kathy and the geology majors for helping me settle in nicely at Gustavus. My short time here has been great so far, and keeps getting better as summer approaches.

During the fall semester, I taught Geology 111 and Geology 246. Geomorphology (Geo 246) proved to be very exciting, mainly because all students completed mini-research projects. Topics included mountain glacier reconstructions in the western U.S., measurements and interpretations of till fabrics in the New Ulm Formation, climate characterizations based on SNOTEL data analysis, and GIS-based analysis of runoff/land cover relationships in drainage basins of Minnesota.

My favorite teaching experience of this year was the J-term field trip course, “Geology and Biology of the Southwest” (GEO 210). We traveled to National Parks and Monuments in western Texas, southern New Mexico and Arizona, and ended the trip with a 5-day backpacking trip in Grand Canyon. Students were responsible for presenting the geology and/or ecology at one stop on the trip, which made my job easy! The weather was quite variable – mostly cold, but always dry! Check out images and descriptions of the trip at http://homepages.gac.edu/~blaabs/Geo_210/

As for the spring semester, I just completed another exciting semester of Geology 111, 350 and the research seminar. Once again, the senior geology majors completed an excellent batch of theses, and the juniors are geared up for summer field work. I’m especially proud of Jonathan Carlson, Kate Lawson and Andy Rishavy, who worked with me on projects in geomorphology. Juniors Todd Kohorst and Ellie Bash will work with me on mapping glacial deposits in small drainages in the Wasatch Mountains, and Kitty Hurley will begin a project on the hydrogeology of the floodplain aquifer at Seven Mile Creek County Park. Should be a great summer!

For my own research, I presented the results of my recent research on the glacial history and paleoclimate of the Uinta Mountains at the Geological Society of America meeting in Salt Lake City in October 2005. I also co-led a professional field trip at the meeting to view some of the glacial landforms I’ve mapped in the southern Uintas. During the spring, I’ve been busy assembling equipment for the new cosmogenic nuclide preparation lab in Nobel 127. This facility should be up and running by the end of summer, and I’m hoping the first cosmogenic-surface exposure ages will come from this lab by spring 2007. I have been fortunate to publish a few papers in the last year, mainly on various aspects of the glacial history and paleoclimate of northern Utah. These articles are listed on my webpage: <http://homepages.gac.edu/~blaabs/publications.htm>. Finally, I just returned from the UINTAS 2006 Symposium in Salt Lake City, where I presented results of my recent research to colleagues and scientists from a broad range of disciplines who are also working in the Uinta Mountains. A busy year, and hectic at times, but it’s exciting to be working on such interesting projects!

Mark Johnson

Hard to believe that I have been here in Gothenburg, Sweden officially employed (and officially gone from GAC) for three years! I am teaching Sedimentology, Surficial Deposits, Quaternary History, and Groundwater. Students are good—very much market conscious, and few are into it just to ‘lust after the life of the mind,’ as Joe commonly quoted—who was it, Chet? It is challenging to figure out a new academic culture, especially in a different language, but I am enjoying my position. I am in the middle of a two-year research grant working on some moraines and drainage deposits in central Sweden (a little like Agassiz stuff), and I will go up to Iceland for a week this summer to begin a project on recent moraines. I was in Iceland for a week last summer and I urge all on this list to make a point to get there sometime. It is a magical place! My daughter Ellen is 4 and as

darling as can be. My wife, Kacka, and I are so blessed (really!) to have her. We moved into our newly built house just over a year ago, and have spent May planting Spirea and a host of other shrubs. I built a deck. We look forward to three weeks in the States this summer in CO, UT, AZ, and CA, but not MN. It will be a sprawling trip with us three plus sons Jack and Lucas and their girlfriends. If any Gustie comes this way, you MUST plan on stopping by. We will give you a free place to stay (in exchange for a little weeding, perhaps)!

Mark D. Johnson

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Joe Carlson

I would yet again like to thank all of the responders for a crop of notes that made the task of compiling a fun and interesting one. I am well settled into retirement and a few things strike me about this state. We don't have to go for that walk and picnic in the Landscape Arboretum in the rain today—they are predicting warm and sunny tomorrow. There's no need to fight the crowd at the boat ramp on a Saturday morning. (But then again, it is getting so those damn retirees are crowding the place on a Tuesday!) It is absolutely amazing how you can fritter away retiree time. Grocery shopping and a trip to recycling are now a full day's accomplishment, whereas that used to be something squeezed in after a day of classes. Marge and I have had a great time traveling—a nice trip along the coast of Oregon and northern California, a cruise of the Hawaiian Isles, Boston, the Black Hills, Dubuque, etc. None of this has had geology as a purpose, but I can't help myself from exclaiming, "look at those sea stacks," or informing Marge that Bunker Hill is a drumlin. She seems to tolerate this pretty well. Best wishes! **Joe Carlson**

Alumni News

Walter Youngquist

Walt reports that he continues to work on the revisions for a second edition of his book, GeoDestinies. He wrote an interesting article for "The Social Contract" on the folly of rebuilding New Orleans on a sinking delta in the path of hurricanes. The public and the politicians are unaware or choose to not to face the basic geologic facts presented in Geology 101. He says it is hard to resist the temptation to say, "I told you so," about the oil crisis after taking criticism for publishing papers predicting just exactly what is happening now—I was "too pessimistic—lots of oil." Public likes to live in happy illusions and the politicians cultivate them, for no politician gets elected telling that we have a problem we can't solve. "We will achieve energy independence"—was first heard in 1974 after the 1st oil crisis and ever since in every election. Notice how we are now energy independent—current **DAILY** oil import bill is now more than 3/4ths of a **BILLION** dollars! And growing!!!!

James A. Swenson 1950

I had a BS degree from Gustavus in 1950 with a major in geology. Our mentor was Chet Johnson. After school and a stint in the Korean War I returned to the University of Minnesota in the Dental School. My graduation was in 1958. My office was in Richfield, and I retired in 1958. Now we spend summers on a lake in Alexandria and winters in Phoenix. My partners in the Geology Department at Gustavus were Cleo Swanson and Ed Benson. I married Carol Retzlaff, ex '53, in 1951 and just had our 55th anniversary. We have 3 boys and 6 grandkids in the Twin Cities. I had a great time at Gustavus and it had much to do with my attitude and outlook throughout my life. A lot came from Chet Johnson.

Ken Hamrum

Is an attorney in Morris, Minnesota.

Sheryl K. Filby

I don't have much new news... still cruising along as a hydrogeologist at Barr Engineering. Actually, if you could put in a plug (or know of anyone looking)- we are hiring like crazy <http://www.barr.com/jobs/jobs.htm>). Barr has hired a lot of Gusties in the past and always appreciates a Gustavus grad resume! My new personal news is that I am recently engaged- getting married somewhere on the shores of Lake Superior this fall. The lucky guy is James Williams- currently the assistant director of the International Wolf Center up in Ely. We just got back from a wonderful winter vacation in Yellowstone.

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Joe Malkovich: 2003

This past year I finished my Americorps term of service in Washington state, and met my wife Sarah, a Washington native, there. We got engaged during a backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon, and we married in July 2005, in Washington. We really enjoyed backpacking and climbing in the Cascades and Olympics. Highlights included climbing Mt. Adams and backpacking around Mt. Olympus on our honeymoon. We also spent a week canoeing in the BWCA. Currently I live in Madison, WI, where I started a MS in Water Resources Management in September 2005. Upcoming plans include several more canoe trips and a backpacking trip of several hundred miles this August on the Pacific Crest Trail in the Sierras, and, I hope, climbing Mt. Whitney.

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Kathy Bonnifield

Last year I went on my third election observation mission with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). One of the more interesting aspects of this mission was that my partner was Russian—15 years ago who would have guessed that an American and a Russian would observe an election in a former Soviet Block country? We've come a long way..... I also have moved back into the nonprofit world and am now a program assistant for the international programs at The McKnight Foundation. It's an incredible job and

I feel very lucky to have it. My younger brother came back from his National Guard duty to Iraq in November. My older brother, also in the National Guard, left for training in October and will be arriving in Iraq sometime within the next month. It's my understanding that both my brothers will be home spring of 2007. I've been waiting for both of them to be home at the same time for a long time. (Both of them have been activated twice now. The first time they went to Italy.) My fiancé and I are planning on getting married in the summer of 2007—it should be a wonderful celebration.

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Emily Tremain 2003

I have changed advisors and projects for my MS degree. I am now working with Dr. Luis Gonzalez and Dr. Greg Ludvigson on stable isotope geochemistry in the Cedar Mountain Formation. It's a very cool project involving an expensive laser and fossils! I am still working on my MA in museum studies as well. I am set to graduate in Dec. 2006 for both degrees, provided I am able to finish all my research this summer. Oh, I am a graduate teaching assistant for the Intro Geology labs at KU.

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Alec Nord 2005

Currently I am working as a survey technician for Bolton & Menk, INC. (Engineering and Surveying Company). I will be attending the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs & Policy. I am pursuing a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, with a emphasis on Environmental Planning.

**I have a new email address: alecnord@hotmail.com

Jacqueline (Lundberg) Rose 1986

The kids and I are doing fine. I've just completed my fifth year contracting to Union Oil (formerly known as Unocal) which was recently purchased by Chevron. As a side project I helped submit permit applications for a gold mine near Nome, Alaska. My kids are growing up too quickly. My teenager is giving me gray hair as I teach him to drive. I'll be teaching my 6-year old boy and 4-year old girl how to fish this summer. It will be a lot of fun. I went silver salmon fishing last summer. I don't have the photo with me but will send it in another email.

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Wade Schulz 1998

I don't remember if I sent the news last year or not. It's hard to believe that would not have shared the news that I have a 1 ½ year old son. My wife, Shannon (Mitchell) '98 and I named him Kyle. Kyle is really cool. He loves to be outside and he is very smart. A very good combination . . . if you know what I mean. In October Shannon and I visited the Philippines to watch a high school buddy get married. We were there for 10 days and that was a wonderful trip. We stayed a week with his new bride's family in a suburb of Manila and a couple of days on one of the 4,000 islands that make up the country, called Boracay. Working for Rice County Planning & Zoning.

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Evan Christianson 2005

Working on my masters co-majoring in geology and environmental science at Iowa State University. My research project is a hydrogeologic investigation of two gravel pit lakes that are now used as Ames' emergency water supply and are also the centerpiece of a new environmental park.

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John Skalbeck

I am nearing completion of my fifth year at UW-Parkside and I am truly enjoying myself. Having recently returned from our annual Spring Break Geoscience Club field trip, I have a renewed sense of awe after experiencing for the first time the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Bryce Canyon and revisiting Hoover Dam, Las Vegas, Arches, and Canyonlands. Like my first trip to see mountains during the Northern Rockies field trip at GAC, our new geology majors are now hooked on rocks! I have recently been elected as Director of the Environmental Studies Program which means I am obligated to host meetings and take care of administrative details but also to promote environmental awareness around the campus-which I do enjoy. I will spend my summer months completing a study on E coli contamination that leads to beach closings due in Racine and Kenosha, WI; starting a research program regarding watershed characterization in Alta, UT; and preparing my Tenure Dossier. I will be conducting an earth science short course for area middle and high school science teachers in April and take part in the creation of an online earth science examination for a virtual college in May. I continue to help boy scouts earn their geology merit badges and explain to elementary students the wonders of the rock cycle. My youngest son Carson (4) seems to have inherited some rock hound genes as he collects specimens each day to bring home to mom. Middle son Sam (11) is at home on the theater stage playing the likes of Oliver this past summer and Rudy in Over the Tavern with the Carthage College drama department this spring. The eldest son Casey (13) has taken to music playing both concert baritone and jazz

trombone. Lucy continues to be the rock of the family bring order to a chaotic house of boys and tolerating our obsession with hockey. On Wisconsin-Go Badgers in the Frozen Four!

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Lee Petersen '68

I will be celebrating my 28th year with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation this June. Following a retirement of 3 months in 2002, I came back to Anadarko to work with the National Petroleum Council on the recent Gas Potential of North America evaluation and to teach some courses with Al Scott (ex University of Texas) on core description and interpretation. Following the N.P.C. study, I was asked by Anadarko to manage the re-organization of the business services and financial portions of the company. This was followed by an offer to manage the Risk Consistency Team. Just recently I was asked to become International Advisor to the Senior Vice-President of Exploration and Production. I guess retirement is still somewhere in the distant future. Prior to my brief retirement in 2002, I was fortunate to be involved in managing a variety of exploration projects in Algeria, Tunisia, Indonesia, Canada, Faeroe Islands, Alaska, and the Gulf of Mexico - So, I've seen a lot of geology and culture during my career with Anadarko. Have had a lot of fun, worked with some extremely talented people and managed to find a good deal of oil and gas. I guess the thing I am most proud of during my career with Anadarko is watching people I hired and trained advance in the company. The Senior Vice-President of Exploration and Production is one of the first individuals I hired and trained and another individual I hired just recently was named Chief Geoscientist of the Corporation.

On the home front, Ginny and I are still married. After 35 years, I don't understand why she puts up with my wanderings. My oldest son, Chuck, is a Systems Administrator for a construction company in Wichita and has three children. Since graduating from Texas A & M, he is busy raising his children as true Aggies - A culture I still don't understand! Jill lives in Durango, Colorado and is special events manager for the Strater Hotel. Ole, my youngest son, finally graduated from St. Thomas University several years ago and works at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. Anna, the baby of the family, recently graduated from the Aveda Institute in Houston and is in the process of moving to Dallas where she works in a Salon/Spa as an Esthiology person. Although I have not worked as a paleontologist since graduating from Arizona State University in 1974, I still have thoughts of "hunting dinosaurs" if and when I ever retire for real. Ginny doesn't believe I will ever retire - she may be right. Hope everything is going well for you. I assume Chester is still alive and kicking - if you get the chance say hello to him for me.

Jim Lundy

I am not sure what I reported in my last contribution to the geology newsletter, but anything I can remember probably qualifies as news, at least on the geologic time scale. After 16 years as a hydrogeologist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in 2004 I moved to the Minnesota Department of Health. I'm still a hydrogeologist, but instead of looking at human-caused pollution in ground water, now I get to study naturally occurring compounds in Minnesota's drinking water aquifers: nitrate, arsenic and (my favorite) radium. While

we are entertaining multiple working hypotheses for radium occurrence, one theory getting lots of attention right now involves the upward discharge of very old waters from the precambrian rocks to the Paleozoic aquifers, possibly along poorly known fractures or fault zones in the rock. It would be pretty cool if that one worked out--I'm collecting data on it right now.

Our family is doing well. My wife Sherryl is a planner at the MPCA, and she works on projects involving continuous program improvements. She recently achieved what's known as "black belt" status, so I have to be especially careful around the house. Sean (nearly 15) plays lots of soccer and football; and since his mom and I complained that football is too violent he is working on picking up lacrosse (I'm not sure that's any better; we'll put off further orthodontia until these sports careers are over). Rose (12) just completed her first hoops season as a point guard, with her team taking first place; she also plays lots of soccer and enjoys performing traditional Japanese dance with the Sansei Yonsei Kai group. Both kids do well in school, and I am sure they will wreck all the curves someday at GAC.

Kristi Picken (Lund) 1987

I haven't done a great deal with my geology minor since graduating in 1987 until recently. My husband and I have a three year old son who is blooming into a little scientist. My geology minor has come in quite handy while we've been on fossil digs in the backyard sandbox and when we play dinosaur during the day. I'm usually an herbivore who is quickly eaten by a much bigger and stronger carnivore like T-Rex. We are planning a few field trips for the near future - one to the Field Museum in Chicago to the Dinosaur Sue and a trip to Dinosaur National Park in Utah with a stop at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, SD if the three year old has his say. On our way to Chicago we'll drive past the Kettle Moraine State Forest and I'll be able to talk about what I know there. We have four minerals (salt, baking soda, sugar, and epson salt) growing on our window sill in the kitchen that have been fascinating to watch. If you have ideas you'd like to send us to help us keep up with our budding scientist, let me know. Our one year old daughter just stomps around like a dinosaur to keep up with her brother, but I'm sure she'll keep us busy in the near future too. Attached is a picture of Lucas on a fossil dig in the kitchen pantry.

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Erik Lindstrom, 2000>

I hope the past year has been a good one for the Geology department and Alumni. The past year has been a busy one out here in Davis, CA. I am still working as a Swim Coach and Trainer while my wife Sarah finishes up her PhD in Neuroscience at UC Davis. We have had no free time outside of that since the birth of our daughter Annika Mia Lindstrom last July 3rd. She already shows an aptitude for soil science (or at least that's what I tell myself when she eats dirt in the garden).

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Andy McGrath ('95)

Sorry I missed the deadline for the last letter -- it's always great to receive these annual chronicles of fellow classmates and hear about everyone's coming and goings. It is remarkable how quickly the time flies by. I was shocked to learn that this past fall was marked with my 10 year reunion. The memories certainly don't feel 10 years old! Your letter seems very timely however...I just finished reading Rising From the Plains by John McPhee. It was one of those books I meant to read 10 years ago. It really got me in that "geology state-of-mind" again!

Well for the sake of space, a few abbreviated updates for everyone: I am happily married and excited to say a new father! This past January, Stacy and I welcomed twins Tyler and Sydney into our family (photo attached -- Tyler is on the left). With the twins, everything else in life is pretty much a blur. Just over 11 weeks now, they are a couple of terrific babies -- not real fussy and generally happy! I consider myself pretty lucky.

We are all living in Southwest Minneapolis not too far from Lake Harriet (if you know the area). I have now spent just over 5 years at Wells Fargo as a computer programmer (a.k.a. web developer) and I am currently working towards my MS in Software Engineering at the University of St. Thomas. I still have a Pavlovian response to seeing a road-cut or watching a random documentary on say the geology Yellowstone. The beauty of geology is that it always manages to find me -- I rarely have to go looking for it.

What free-time I have left is either spent training for a few annual triathlons that are scatter throughout the summer months or relaxing at my in-laws lake home near Fergus Falls. I know pretty rough!

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Laine Sletta '83

I was recently named the Zoning Administrator/Emergency Management Director for Brown County.

Drew Tarara '95'

It is always nice to hear from you. Sounds like things are pretty normal around GAC these days. I am still a geologist with ENSR, although my focus is mainly on former leaking underground storage tanks and site cleanup. I get to dig around in the dirt once in a while, but it usually smells like gasoline...My wife Jen and I have 2 new additions to the family. Last August she gave birth to twins. Natalie and Samuel. Those 2 along with Jake--our not quite 2 1/2 year-old make things very interesting around our new home in Woodbury, MN.

Andrew J. Tarara

Geologist

ENSR

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Dave Davis 1994

Not too much new to report here. I still work for Cargill, Inc. in Minneapolis. I don't use my geology knowledge professionally but this past Easter, I was able to give my relatives a 15 minute summary of the geological history/significance of the loess hills of Nebraska and Iowa. I may have gotten a few of the details wrong, but I think they believed me.

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Brian Kraatz

Nothing new to report here. Hope to have my dissertation filed in one year. Also hoping to get back to Mongolia again this summer.

BrookeSwanson, 2000

It's good to hear from you! I am now the Assistant Director at the UW-Madison Geology Museum and spring is the peak of our school tour and outreach season - so I've been juggling our tour program, science nights at local elementary schools, and planning our annual open house. We just hung a Pteranodon model up in the museum and we're having Martin Lockley come speak at the open house, so it should be a "pter-iffic" time... On the home front, Cooper, our sheepdog puppy, is now nearing his second birthday and is as interested as ever in the squirrel that torments him from the trees and power lines in the back yard. Brandon and I are getting married in October and we're already debating investing our wedding money into a convertible and heading to Las Vegas. We'll keep you posted.

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Russ Sharp ('68)

Thanks once again for supplying us alums with news from the Northland. I personally don't have a real interesting tidbits from Dallas. My employer, Comstock Resources, is about the 40th largest gas producer in the US. We have been very busy, as you can imagine, drilling for natural gas in E. Texas. Currently, our industry is in a critical shortage of new geoscientists. I hope the GA Geology Dept. is still strong and that some of your upperclassmen are considering grad school at one of our industry friendly schools (OU, UT, A&M, etc). Barbara and I will be traveling to the Pacific Northwest for a vacation this summer where I hope to take in a lot of points of geologic interest.

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Sheryl Horton

I don't know when the next newsletter is going to be released, but I have news to report in case anyone is interested. I have moved on from the Bureau of Land Management and taken a position with URS Corporation in Phoenix, AZ as a geologist in the Environmental Investigations team. I am conducting Phase II work and water resources projects all over Arizona and some in Nevada as well. Just thought it was time for an update to the old school.

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Joe Beer

Spring has come to Denver as well as MN. I saw my first mosquito while standing in the lift line at Winter Park several weeks back. It seems like a lot has changed for me in the past year. I defended my Masters thesis at UMD in December and moved out here to Denver in January to take a job as a geologist with EnCana Oil & Gas. Jenny and I bought a house in Denver and we've really been enjoying the sunny weather, great hiking, snowshoeing, and of course the multitude of microbrews.

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Owen Anfinson

Here is what I am up to? I am just about to complete my first year of my masters degree at Washington State University. I have been teaching principles of geology labs as well as going to class and working on my research, so I have been quite busy. I will be teaching principles again for the second part of this summer and next year I will be teaching sedimentary petrology. The first part of the summer I will be doing research on the Channeled Scablands. Luckily Mark Johnson had sparked my interest in this region way back in Geomorph, so I wasn't a complete rookie on the topic when I had arrived. I also believe Ben had us read Back to Bretz (a very controversial paper, which is the reason for part of my research) for senior seminar. I will be using various techniques including U-Pb isotopes from detrital zircons to track the provenance of the outburst floods. I will also be looking at the eolian climatic interaction since the sediments deposition. I will be conducting the majority of my research at Hanford Reach National Monument, which for those of you that don't know is the place where the plutonium for the Nagasaki bomb was produced. So, as you can imagine, there is a lot of red tape surrounding the area. Well, good luck to all of you still back at GAC. I still miss the river valley.

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Kristin Anderson

I heard the final call for new news, and I thought I'd give you the update. My husband, Michael, and I moved to Portland, Oregon, bought a house, got a dog, and I have a new job. What do you know? I guess I'm finally settling in. I am now working for the City of Portland Water Bureau doing drinking water quality work. Portland has a protected watershed in the western Cascades for its sole use, and I get to go up there every week. Besides being a pristine water source, it has great volcanic and glacial geology--basalt carved into U-shaped

valleys is a theme. It is quite beautiful and I can't believe how lucky I am, but then I think about the bears and cougars and the fact that I am out in the wilderness alone, and it brings me back to my senses. Outside of work, I had the great fortune of getting to go to Asia this February. A friend of mine is doing international water work in Sri Lanka for a couple years, so it seemed a good time to go. While there, I took a hiatus at a Buddhist meditation center in the center of the island up in the hill country where tea is grown. In that brief time, I received total clarity about the fact that I am utterly unenlightened. In other news, we also traveled to Cambodia and Laos, both countries I would strongly recommend seeing. I think that's about it. If anyone wants to come out to the Pacific Northwest to check out the rocks (and beer), you are more than welcome.

P.S. I don't know if I ever told you that I visited Mark in Sweden in 2004. It was great. I had just gone on one of Dave Mickelson's geology trips to Iceland (rough), and then headed to Sweden. I thought Mark and I should take a picture in front of a big statue of Gustavus Adolphus that was in Gothenberg for the Quarterly (how appropriate), but the cheese factor was really too much.

You can reach me at this email or k_m_anderson@lycos.com.

Kent Johnson

Sorry for being a "know who I am kinda guy".... Here is a quick update. I am currently teaching 7th grade Life Science and 8th grade Earth Science at Plymouth MS in Robbinsdale ISD 281. In my Pre AP Earth Science class the last few years I have been field testing a new text book for Middle School Science with the AGI called CUES (Constructing Understandings of Earth Systems) it will be published the next few years by It's About Time Publications. Last summer I participated in TIMES Project with Lee Schmidt and the Science Museum of MN (Lee let me use Jim Welsh's Brunton that had been left behind). A few years back Jan of 2003 I completed my Masters of Science in Science Education and Technology through Saint Cloud State University. I live in Saint Michael MN with my wife Patty and 3 beautiful girls.. Addie (7), Katie (5 soon 6) and Bridget (3). Time goes by very quickly for me these days. The last few days memories of our J Term and Nobel Conference on "Darwins Legacy" have surfaced as we have been exploring the origins of life and how it has changed through time.

Kent "Monte" Johnson - Class of 1984

PMS- Team I

Earth & Life Science

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Dylan Blumentritt

Nag, nag, nag. Hi Joe, hope things are well with you and the department. I guess now I fall under the guilt-ridden category. I successfully defended my master's here at UMN- Twin Cities in December, 2005. It had to do with using LIDAR data and cosmogenic nuclide dating of offset alluvial fan surfaces to constrain slip rates of the Calico Fault in the Mojave Desert, CA. Currently I am employed by the UMN geology department (in conjunction with the Minnesota Geological Survey) as a researcher. I am working to on Lake Pepin and other sub-basins of the Minnesota River (including Redwood River, Blue Earth River, and 7 Mile Creek) in order to determine the sources (upland v. bank erosion) of suspended sediment in the system. I believe we will be working with GAC students on the 7 Mile Creek portion.

On a more personal note, most of my winter was spent coaching youth hockey. But now that hockey is over I've had more time to help Megan (Backer, '03) plan for our wedding this August, which will be held in the Gustavus Arboretum (so Joe, be expecting an invitation in the mail).
Can't wait to hear what everyone else is up to. I'll be passing through town quite a bit over the next few months, so tell Jim not to be surprised if I poke my head in to say hello.

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William Beslock '73

-- sorry about not responding earlier. I've had quite a few things on the table -- what with being an executor of my folks trust (I just lost both of them within the past two years) and guest teaching in two school districts (the sub season has been heavy). I notice that the earth science vocab has increased over the course of 30 some odd years -- with lots of new terms to commit to memory (even for high school earth science students). My daughter, Christie, just finished the first segment of her teaching certification exam. I told her that she'd better specialize in something. She's going into early elem. ed (with some science and social studies background as well -- I hope she don't go down that road -- I never had that much luck with it). My son Billy is doing great -- in his first year of high school. My youngest son Jacob is doing ok as well (for going on two years old -- he enjoys his colored push button phone). Good luck on your field trips -- I'll always remember the one we went on in the Rochester area

Steven C. Emerson : 1967.

Greetings from Fergus Falls, Mn. I never did use my Geology degree, rather became an Investment Banker, now retired. However, just for something to do in the Winter, I substitute teach at the Public Schools, and it comes in very handy when teaching the 8th grade Earth Science class. Maybe we will meet if there is a 40th Class reunion
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Ryan Erickson 2001

I Hope all is well down in St. Peter and I hope the fish are biting for you up north. I'm finishing with my UMD classes this spring and hope to have my masters thesis finished by Christmas. This summer I will be working with several other Gustie Alums at Barr Engineering as an intern in the Cities.

Cathy (Saunders) Schultz '88

Nag Nag Nag - so I guess I could give you something. I am living in Bemidji, MN (almost 7 years now) with my family (husband Dave, graduated from Gustavus in '82 is the CFO for Paul Bunyan Telephone Coop, kids Mackenzie is 10 and Nick is 8). Started working for Landmark Environmental (a company based in Bloomington) doing Phase I work from home two years ago. The works is great and the hours are flexible. I still teach skating, am a Rotarian and belong to the Chamber of Commerce. See bald eagles daily, as well as

deer (they doo poop a lot in the yard) and am determined to become a better golfer this summer! That's it in a nut shell!

Nathan Lind

Though not working in the Geology field, I would like to report that I have a new job. I have been working at the Science Museum of Minnesota for almost nine years, and just this month moved into the IS department. We are now four in our family, with the addition of Madeline about a year ago. Greetings to all.

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Scott Brown '98

Greetings, fellow geo-folks! Well, I've gone and switched coasts. My wife (Clara) just finished her PhD at Berkeley, and was offered a post-doc position at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute on Cape Cod. Somehow I managed to convince my boss in California to let me telecommute from Massachusetts, so I'm still working with the same small consulting firm. It sure cut down on my field time (I haven't mastered doing geomorphic assessments by webcam yet), but I have been enjoying working from home, and plan to take full advantage of living a quarter-mile from the beach this summer. I'm also looking forward to experiencing a real autumn this year for the first time in several years.

Bob Pesta 78

I am vice president of the Helena Mineral Society with about 150 very active members ranging in age from 2 to 102 years old! Interests range from mineral collecting to fossil hunting to faceting gems to metals prospecting to black lighting. As the club's field trip chairman I am busy preparing for 2 or 3 trips per month from May - September in about a 70 mile radius. The wide variety of interests coupled with working around weather conditions that include snow in June and remote areas closed for fire danger in July/August makes arranging each summer's schedule very complex. Each year we find time to visit a wide variety of old mining claims, road cuts, creeks and weathering zones to collect several dozen different minerals. The club also maintains several quartz and gem material mining claims for our members. I've have learned a lot about minerals, mining, and prospecting from the other members and from the presentations at our monthly club meetings. A presentation by a geologist last fall dealt with the discovery of diamonds in matrix about an hour north of Billings. We've known of small diamonds being found in Montana that were brought by the glaciers from Canadian sources but this location may have mining potential. Sorry, it is on private land. The Helena area experiences a number of small quakes each year and there are many active zones with the last major quake in the 1930's. Last summer I experienced the first quake (4.3+ about 60 miles away) that I could easily feel and was surprised to hear what sounded like a strong breeze blowing. As I write this on May 1st the evening news is warning of snow at my 5,000 foot level the next several nights and temperatures in upper 20's for lows. At least I don't have to worry about tornadoes!

From the mountains south of Helena, Montana. Bob Pesta

Susan Joy

Greetings to all!

I spent the last year at the University of Idaho doing some graduate work in the area of geomicrobiology, very interesting stuff, but not my idea of a PhD project. After much thought, I have decided to leave school and I am joining a small groundwater consulting firm in Boise. I'll be joining three other geologists/hydrogeologists and I expect the work to be extremely challenging. Good thing Gustavus and the geology department made me write so much, I have a feeling I'll be spending my first weeks editing and writing reports. My husband is staying at UI and finishing his MA in History, then he plans on joining me in Boise. We still have our dogs, no kids yet, and we have some long distance road bike trips planned for the summer. My place in Boise is open to any and all geofolks who are passing through, susan.joy@gmail.com or 208 874 2021.

Cheers! Susan

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Sara Matthias Dobbs '84

Steve Dobbs '84

Steve and I are finishing up our 6th year living in Nigeria. Highlights of this past year include a trip to Equatorial Guinea in February. We spent three days on Bioko Island visiting black-sand beaches, the volcanic crater lake of Pico Biao, and trekking up to the highest point, Pico Basile, where we conversed in Spanish (EG is the only spanish-speaking country in Africa) and shivered in the cold even though we were just a few degrees north of the equator.

In March, Steve was fortunate enough to attend a Geology Field Course in the Karoo Basin of South Africa studying turbidites. April found us on a road trip traveling through eastern Nigeria to check out a couple of high elevation plateaus: the Obudu Cattle Ranch with rare birds and some of the most scenic vistas in Africa; and a Field Station at Ngel Nyaki for the Nigerian Montane Forest Project, an unusual ecosystem with endangered plant species and a few remaining chimps. We wrapped up the trip with a visit to the Drill Ranch at Afi Mountain where a successful captive breeding program for the pandrillas monkeys is preparing to reintroduce a group back into the wild.

As we write this, we're getting ready for a move to Aberdeen, Scotland. Our oldest son, Austin, is graduating from highschool this year and will be attending Texas A&M University with plans to study chemistry. Our youngest son, Aren, will be a sophomore in the fall and has an interest in studying geology. If you're traveling through Scotland, please stop in and say hello.

Lari Knochenmus-1983

I am still with the USGS after 20 years of service. I have recently (in February) moved from Florida to Nevada. It is a big change. From swampy flatland to mountainous desert. My only child (Alexandra) with my ex-husband (Greg Lassi) is in her junior year of high school. I can't believe how fast time has passed. Alexandra doesn't have any interest in geology but I guess I can't blame her as she is surrounded by geologists including grandpa (Darwin Knochenmus), my long-term significant other (Dann Yobbi), her father, and me. She has however in the past been a volunteer of science for the USGS and been exposed to springflow measurements complicated by manatees and mud bogging in the swamps--her favorite part of helping me. Most of my foreign travel to exotic places is to visit my brother who has lived in France since 1989.

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Amy P. Moe-Hoffman

Last fall Dave and I got married in my home town in northern Minnesota. It was a great time. The weather was perfect and the people were very fun and supportive. We couldn't have asked for anything more. Since then I have continued working at the University of Colorado museum, as the invert/plants collections manager. Things are going well here. We have made great progress on the reorganization and database project that was the crux of the grant that pays my salary. Not too long ago David applied for a teaching position at the University for Peace in Costa Rica (affiliated with the American University). He was offered the job and we accepted, so we will be headed to Costa Rica in a month! We will be in Ciudad Colon, just outside of San Jose. I don't have a job yet, but will be looking into it when I get down there. There are many opportunities in museums, but also there is the chance I will be teaching English, or perhaps even making jewelry to sell. Today is a big day for us, as Dave defended his PhD dissertation and has now officially received his doctorate in Cultural Anthropology.

Look us up if you are ever in Costa Rica!

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David Ellingson

Dear Friends, After 4 plus successful years at Cloudveil, I wanted to inform everyone that I'll soon be leaving to pursue a new opportunity and wanted to transmit my new e-mail address/telephone to all. I'll fill you in on the details shortly, but for now feel free to drop a line or give me a call to catch up.

New e-mail: dave@north-starsolutions.com Mobile: 307-413-0389

Jay D. Schied 1978 I am employed by Three Rivers Park District (formerly Hennepin Parks) for nine years. Prior to his position I had a 12-year stint in non-profit volunteer social service agencies. I remain a rock hound. I became a mentor through the Big Brother/Big Sister organization and have been matched to a young boy for 4 years. We spend most of our time together outside (skiing, golfing, watching wildlife). I remain (basically) a low-tech guy..no PC, still use a rotary phone, no cell phone nor digital camera, etc. I am planning to get some land in the near future and volunteer for invasive tree/shrub species removal in the woodlands.

Dale Pangrac 1971 After teaching Earth Science at the Orono, Minnesota Middle School for 4 years my wife and I moved to a dairy farm in SE Minnesota in 1979. We are now a certified organic dairy with daughter Kim and son-in-law milking about 120 cows. We are in the middle of the karst topography area with all the interesting things that involves.

Monica Gowan

reports that since she moved back to the stable craton in 2001 life has been less hazardous but apparently not enough. Please keep your fingers crossed for her as she is hoping to be admitted AND funded into the Hazard and Disaster Management PhD program (it is never too late!) in Christchurch, New Zealand. Maybe that's where the "GAC reunion raft trip" should be? In the meantime she soldiers on at the Mayo Clinic in the Division of Epidemiology, reflecting on how similar natural hazard assessment and epidemiology really are, and the numerous parallels between urology and hydrology (no kidding -- it's all about Q). While not at work she and Carrie Farrow giggle often and reminisce about the old days playing hacky sack in Nobel Hall and listening to Bob Dylan on the jukebox in the Flame Bar. Many happy memories of the Gustavus Geo Club...

Mike Durfee

Well, about one year ago, I lost my job with Wells Fargo...massive layoffs in the mortgage sales department (also read: end of the re-finance boom...). So, I ended up delivering pizzas from January thru May, when I got a new job, with Progressive Insurance as a property/casualty adjuster (in the Eagan office). Not directly related to GEOLOGY, but in a roundabout way, the two professions can be correlated... So, Geology is the study of the earth & it's processes over time, and to use a few geologic phrases, one can correlate insurance. Read: automobile estimating & casualty adjusting is similar to geology, in that they are both include the study of temperature & pressure over time. temperature =emotions. Pressure = angry people, or in the case of reviewing automobile damages, reviewing the damages & determining the amt of pressure exerted on a vehicle & identifying the damage (faults? grabens? folds?) & extrapolating to determine where the damage may exist. Additionally, vehicle accidents can also be correlated to MASS WASTING. A stretch? likely, but any justification fits right about now.

Anywho, apologies for the tangent.

Since the last newsletter update, Sara & I have purchased our first house (in Eagan), and that takes up a majority of our free time. Beyond the new jobs & our new house, there is little time for anything else. So, if anyone is in the South Metro area & sees a Progressive vehicle

driving down the road, there is a reasonably good chance you will see me at the helm!

Tom Marks

Here is an essay.

Current

Geologically speaking, I turned out to be a dud. I have not gone on for an advanced degree. I work in a Grain Elevator, take care of an ailing Mom, and engage myself in domestic drudery. Initially, at the elevator I did some grubby outdoor work but now I work in the office. I dispatch trucks, weigh in loads at the scale, calculate prices, buy and sometime sell grain, maintain files, field telephone calls, and get to do some statistical analysis of our trucking. Generally, when we are busy, time goes fast and I enjoy what I do enough to look forward to coming to work. My boss is something of an intellect and we have lively discussions on everything from drainage ditches to spirituality. I am president of our canoe club this year and have a good group of people to work with. I continue to exercise at the YMCA and do a home practice of yoga twice a day (sort of). I do a lot of fast walking and some running. I bike, canoe and swim seasonally.

Autobiography

In 1967, I gave up religion. I asked myself if religion isn't true, then what is. Since that time I have been pursuing a life long quest for an alternative world view. When I first got to college in 1967, I became interested in geography and psychology. They seemed to split the universe between them nicely. But I quickly became interested in philosophy as it seemed philosophers were more concerned with the kinds of things that I was interested in. Unfortunately, the Vietnam War was on and the draft board was hot on my heels. I did a stint of 4 years in the Navy and re-started college in 1974. I completed a degree in philosophy with minors in math and history with a great deal of work in Latin here at Gustavus through a student exchange program. Philosophically, I became immersed in rationalism with a good dose of skepticism and philosophical analysis, and tended to distrust science. My first course in geology in 1978 changed my mind about especially when I contemplated the nature of crystal form and ionic radius ratios. Since then I have gradually moved into the empirical camp. I now seem myself as an empiricist of the logical positivist variety (latter day positivist as I put it).

After graduation in 1978 and some post graduate work, I worked for the local library system and did a two year stint of graduate work at the University of Illinois in philosophy with a good splashing of economics. My heart wasn't in it and I suffered academic burn out. In retrospect, I wish I had finished a degree in philosophy. I didn't recognize it at the time, but I have had a life long passion for logic especially inductive logic and now wish that I could teach it. Several attempts to teach community education classes recently brought in no students. My shifting interest in logic has mirrored my philosophical development from rationalism to empiricism. I had been heavily influence by geometry when I started logic and had done a great deal of correspondence class work in the Navy. Deductive logic seemed to be just the ticket and I recognized the power of symbolic logic to analyze arguments. However, hen I enrolled in philosophy course work, my interest

in doing philosophy *more geometrico* became diffused and I became more intrigued with esoteric concerns in philosophy. When all that ended in 1978 after my 1st course in geology, science, the scientific method, statistics and all that kind of stuff started to influence me and I am currently concerned with judging good inductive arguments from bad ones.

Around 1982, I returned to Mankato to do some work in mathematics and eventually education. I had a really neat job as statistical programmer while a graduate assistant.. In 1986, I entered the computer industry and became fascinated with quality control especially automated testing. The company was too small to support my kind of work and eventually failed after I was laid off in 1991. I decided to wing another venture into academia. That's when I showed up at Gustavus and did geology. I forgot to mention that I had done all the core classwork in biology from around 1987 to 1990 before I went full time at work. It really wasn't possible for me to go to graduate school given my domestic circumstances, so after graduating from Gustavus I entered the astronomy program at MSU. Also, I became interested in anthropology and seem myself as something of a sociobiologist today. I started to recognize that everything came together in the area of Big History, the attempt to write the history of the universe from then to now. Look at trends. Speculate on philosophical ramifications. I had the good fortune to meet a visiting professor from Australia, who does this kind of work during a History Conference in Mankato.

In 2000, I got involved in Green Politics. I chaired the Issues & Policy committee until about 2003. We literally built the Mankato Local of the Green Party and fielded three statewide candidates in 2002 including myself as state representative candidate. The intensity of this kind of work ended my academic career. In 2003, I saw the handwriting on the wall. I re-entered the work force through a temp agency and worked in a call center. When the position terminated due to shifts in the company, I finally got hired at my present job and have been there ever since.

Philosophical Concerns

Logic, Big History, Science and Philosophy (analysis, positivism) continue to dominate my thought. I am an ardent opponent of religion and spirituality which I consider to be verbal garbage. I seek truth not about just little things but about big picture things. While contemplating the question of the purpose of life from a chemical eye point of view, I think I have a vision of why life has come about. I think the purpose of life is to help atoms attain nirvana, that is, fill those grubby little outside electron orbitals with electrons. To do this they form molecules and chains of molecules, eventually DNA and RNA. Then life. To the old question, which came first the chicken of the egg, I say the egg. The chicken is the eggs way of making another egg.

Tom

Charlie Lessman

Greetings to all the Gustie Geology kin.

I finished my MS in Environmental Systems from Humboldt State last spring. "Zoning ordinance recommendations for the permitting and installation of small-wind-energy systems in Humboldt County, CA" is available to read at the HSU library. Whoah, not all at once!

I put in one more year at the farm (4 total) before leaving Northern California last December for Ankeny, IA (a satellite of Des Moines). I took a job as an Environmental Scientist with Snyder & Associates, Inc.:
<http://www.snyder-associates.com/energy.htm>

We are Mid-American Energy and Clipper Windpower's subconsultant for their wind projects' wetland delineation. Right now I work on NEPA projects (EA's, EIS's, etc.'s) and environmental site assessments, but I'm hoping to get into more of the wind energy side of things. Ankeny, IA is a lot different than Willow Creek, CA (!). For instance, Willow Creek has a Bigfoot Museum. Ankeny has a Baptist Seminary. Ankeny also has stoplights (lots of 'em). Willow Creek has none. Luckily I found a tennis club here, and an adult tennis team asked me to join them. We're ranked #1 (of a whole 6) in Iowa, and preparing for the district tournament in June.

I planted my parents' garden in Omaha for Mother's Day, so I still manage to get my hands in the soil. But it's mostly tennis and technical writing for me these days.

Best wishes, Charlie

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Charlie Lessmann

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Randy Hunt

Been out most of the month on the road and slowly getting back into the swing (in between car maintenance, replacing a dishwasher, etc. etc. - ah life). News update: Kids made it through another year with us as parents, James is now 5 and Johanna will be 3 in June. Not quite sure where that time went.

After a UW-Madison review, I am an adjunct professor now and am co-teaching a course a year for the next couple of years. Was appointed to the WI Professional Hydrology Board by the governor, and confirmed by the State Senate. Quite a process, from a confirmation hearing at the Capital to a day long training on ethics. USGS work continues to be fun, and have started arguing a side of an issue (complexity) I was in opposition to in the past. Seems that if I stay in a business long enough I can talk my way around 180 degrees of an issue! Hoho (I think)!

Randy Hunt

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<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/public/profpages/hunt.html>