Faculty News

Jim Welsh. Greetings. When I wrote last spring we had not yet received the formal document concerning the external review. I am happy to report that overall the review went well, and that no serious concerns were raised. The document gives us some things to think about as we plan for the future, but the future is still more or less on hold until we get though the hiring process.

On that note I am happy to report that we hired Dr. Laura Triplett as the replacement for Ben Laabs. We actually hired Laura last spring as a temporary replacement for Ben. We were obviously very pleased with her work, and are happy that she rose to the top of our candidate pool. Laura’s hiring changes the direction of our “geomorphology” position from our tradition of a glacial geology focus (as developed by Mark Johnson and furthered by Ben Laabs) to a more environmental focus. Laura recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where she studied post-settlement sedimentation patterns in Lake St. Croix and Lake Pepin. Her research interests are timely especially with the recent environmental focus on erosion and sediment transport of the Minnesota River and its contribution of sediment load to the Mississippi River system. Laura’s hiring also addresses a concern for “more applied” course material that was raised by some of you in the questionnaire that we sent (to more recent alumni) in regard to the external review. Laura’s addition should also strengthen our ties to the environmental studies program. Although we could potentially have tried to hire new faculty to replace both Russell Shapiro and Ben Laabs we decided to do one hire this year, and one next. This ultimately allows for another person to be involved in planning for the longer range future of the department. Although we had initially planned to search for the paleontology/sedimentology position, it turns out that the Geography Department was planning to hire a physical geographer. Because of potential overlap between our “geomorphology” position we felt it was wiser to try to coordinate the two searches. We thus plan to be searching for a person to replace Russell Shapiro in the fall. We will be beginning graduate study at the U of M. Peter and Jill are planning to attend field camp this summer. Jessica will be beginning an environmental teaching internship at Wolf Ridge in the fall. There will be seven in next year’s senior class. Not much to report on the personal side. I did travel to Denver to GSA, and was happy to see a few of you there. I don’t have any major plans for travel this summer, though that could change. I did spend a few days last week with Russell Shapiro on the Iron Range, and am hoping to be able to collaborate with him on work that he is doing. Best wishes to everyone.

Joe Carlson Class of ’60 and Emeritus Professor. It’s been a quiet year in St. Peter. Since I have been lurking around Gustavus Geology for about 40 years, I do recall something about most of the responders to my news request. Once in a while I am stumped by someone who doesn’t include a last name or who has changed names. But compiling this document really is fun and interesting for me, and I thank all of you who have taken the time to write a note. You have been so prolific this year that the paper version grew to 25 pages—hard to fit in an envelope. So I widened the margins, eliminated your formatting, scrunched your addresses, etc. Sorry about that! I have been bumbling along in retirement mode. We suffered through a rotten winter and cold nasty spring, but the lilacs and crabapples are blooming beautifully on campus in time for finals, my garden is planted, the walleyes are biting—all’s right with the world. Just to show how uneventful my year was, the geologic highlight was a drive to the loess hills of western Iowa! Somehow I had missed out on these during my years at Ames. Anyway, for topographically challenged Iowa, this long line of dissected, wind-blown-silt hills paralleling the Missouri River are a tourist attraction. Well, this is the best I can do for excitement. I’ll try harder next year. Thanks again for your notes.

Laura Triplett I am thrilled to have been hired at Gustavus, and I had a fun first year last year. Although, it was very busy! As Jim said in his note, I defended my Ph.D. in September, which was unfortunate timing since it overlapped with the beginning of classes. My graduate research was focused on how human activities are changing biogeochemical cycles in rivers, lakes, and on a global scale. I have spent many years studying the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and am excited to add the Minnesota River to my list. I had fun teaching geomorph last fall, since it gave me many opportunities to get out and explore southern Minnesota, and teaching hydrogeology and global climate change together in the spring really filled out my teaching capabilities! In my non-work life, my husband and I have just purchased a house in the countryside south of Belle Plaine, so I look...
forward to far less time commuting this year. My three-year old daughter Amelie has made a few appearances on campus; she already loves rocks and being outside, and I'm taking her to the mountains in August for a first attempt at a (very short!) backpacking trip.

I would love to hear from any of you previous faculty and students. If you have favorite fieldtrips or lab activities that you think current students would appreciate, let me know! If you are in the area and would be willing to come speak to one of my classes or to the geo majors in general, please send me a note and I'll be thrilled to have you! Also, if you have advice for me or students as to how best prepare for them for geoscience careers, pass it along or even send me your phone number and I'll call you for a chat. Happy summer-

Ben Laabs  
Greetings from upstate New York! It’s hard to believe that I’ve been away from Gustavus for almost one full year, but then again, we all learn sooner or later that life changes pretty fast. Nancy and I are very happy here, but we also miss Minnesota a lot. We have already planned two trips to Minnesota this summer, and are greatly looking forward to them. The past year has been filled with many life changes, in addition to moving out east. Nancy and I got married in September 2007, and bought our first new home in April. The house is great, but pretty old, so I have been learning the arts of home improvement from my father-in-law. I wish I could say that I’m getting good at it. As for geology, I’m still doing many of the things I did at Gustavus. Teaching has been a little different – many of the same classes, and a few new ones. Research is still focused on the glacial geology of mountain ranges near Lake Bonneville, in addition to studying the historical record of ice retreat in Glacier National Park. Ellie Bash (class of 2007) and I presented our research on the timing and climate of the Pinedale Glaciation in the Wasatch Mountains at the AGU meeting in December 2007, and plan to publish these results in the new future. I also published two papers on Uinta Mountain glacial geology and geochronology in the last year, one in Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research, and another in Quaternary Research with Kurt Refsnider. This summer, I will spend about four weeks in the field in northern Nevada studying glacial and lacustrine records near the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains, and in the Uinta Mountains surveying moraines with a colleague at Penn State. I wish everyone at Gustavus all the best, especially the class of 2008!

Mark Johnson  
Greetings from Sweden. Nice to hear from you. Spring has finally burst its seams here and everyone is happy, once again reminded that there is some other reality than one which is gray, cold, and wet. I spent the weekend putting in the foundation for the greenhouse that we are building. The climate as well as an invasion of Spanish 'murder slugs' have forced us to fortify our gardening efforts with a greenhouse. One of the great aspects of being married is being 'forced' into doing these projects Kacka wants, beginning them begrudgingly, and then discovering that it's much more fun to build a deck or a greenhouse than to fret about the origin of push moraines in western Sweden. But I do that too. Ellen is 6 and headstrong--learning to swim and to ride horses, which many young girls do here in Hemlandet. We realize that she is spending a lot of her energy testing boundaries, which hopefully makes it seem more positive when we 'lose it' and set some. Boundaries, that is. She is proud of her English abilities and other kids are impressed. She is way into Melodifestivalen, which is this surprisingly kitchy, hokey European song contest. As a liberal American academic, we always 'knew' that everything in Europe (except for the world wars, of course) was more sophisticated and refined than Hicksville, USA, but one discovers that there can exist a widespread lack of taste here, too, and the Eurovision Song Contest is a wonderful example of that. But I have to admit, after been astonished at its character the first year I was here, I have slowly been won over and now follow the ESC faithfully and avidly. But Ellen loves it, and to hear her sing these songs in the car on the way to daycare in the morning is a poignant treat that only a parent can truly appreciate. My research is going very well, but that writing part is always a problem--for the last three years, my springs were going to be characterized by intensive and productive article writing. But those articles have yet to appear (I have some outlines done!). Varves, push moraines, and catastrophic sediment from the drainage of the Baltic Ice Lake are what I am into, privy to a drill rig and some new highway exposures that our allowing this returning Swedish-American Swede to study topics dear to the heart of Swedish Quaternary geology. The International Geological Congress is in Oslo this summer and I and a student will be presenting. What else to say--our house is great, and we actually have had some visits. We can always use more! Any alum is free to give us a call, and perhaps you will be able to taste some tomato sauce from tomatoes out of our new greenhouse.

Mark D. Johnson  Assistant Professor  Geovetarcentrum  Earth Science Institute  University of Gothenburg  
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**Russell Shapiro** (faculty 2002-2006)  California continues to soften my steel and I am getting used to the local rocks. The girls continue to grow and are a blast. I am hoping to bring Ella and Clara back to the North Star state this fall. The field computer business is doing well and we have moved into GIS programming. Fortunately, I still am making time for field work and will be back on the Range this summer--hopefully with Jim and some Gustavus students. I recently ran into Julia Anderson at GSA and Ellie Bash surprised us with a visit. We welcome all to Chico!

Russell Shapiro, Ph.D.  CSU Chico  Blog: [www.ruggedbits.com](http://www.ruggedbits.com)

**Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten**  Taught at Gustavus for the 98-99 school year.  
I work at the New York State Museum, in Albany New York. I’ve been here since 2000, a year after my one year position at Gustavus was over. I keep busy; my work combines geological research and informal education via programs, exhibits, and sometimes involves interesting travels (like Siberia, Germany and Belgium, and the western U.S.). My long-time research on Devonian strata in New York and the east is now expanding to compare Lower Devonian sea level history of eastern U.S. with Nevada. This may be followed in next two years by similar field studies in the Czech Republic and Spain. My research on volcanic ash deposition examines the potential for preserving airfall ash layers in various subaqueous sedimentary environments (epicontinental seas, large and small lakes, deep ocean). This has taken me out of the Devonian (and out of the east), into Cenozoic (Green River and Florissant Formations, WY, CO). And I continue to serve on the international Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy, with about 100 Devonian researchers from about 35 countries – last year’s meeting was held in Nevada, with 8 days of field trips and 3 days of meetings (the meeting I attended while at Gustavus was in Morocco). The great time I had at Gustavus more clearly showed how much I enjoy teaching. And though different, working at a museum provides many opportunities to be involved in education. I organize and give many public talks and field trips, last year was a part of four different K-12 teachers’ workshops (including the Museum’s two day Evolution and weeklong Earth Science Teachers’ Workshops). In addition, the museum is organizing a large, permanent Natural History exhibit, involving geology, paleontology, biology and some anthropology. I’m the lead geo-paleo person, which has kept me very engaged the last 5 months, and will for a while longer. Meantime, I live in the hills outside of Albany in the forest (with many porcupines about) with my wife, Nancy. She’s director of a nature center at a nearby state park (which is a classic North American geological site). Having gotten married two years ago, I’ve officially become a grandpa (thanks to Nancy’s daughter). And continue to work at the music. Well, all, I hope you’re doing well. My year at Gustavus easily puts a smile on my face when I think of it. I enjoyed all of you, and my time there, a lot. Thank you all.  
Address: New York State Museum  The State Education Dept.  Albany, NY  12230  (518) 486-2004  
Email address: [cverstra@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:cverstra@mail.nysed.gov)

**Heyo Van Iten**  Thanks for staying in touch. My dad and I spent the week of February 24 in Bundenbach, Germany, where we examined spectacular pyritized fossils, including conulariids, trilobites, echinoderms, and fishes, from the Lower Devonian Hunsruck Slate. Our host and I are working on a slab of 19 conulariids with probable pyritized soft parts. Next fall it’s a sabbatical leave in China (research on Early Cambrian faunas) and then, in the summer of 2009, it’s off to British Columbia for the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Middle Cambrian Burgess Shale Biota.  Hope all of you are well and happy. Heyo & Tatiana Van Iten

**Carol Hogsett** - GAC Geology Department 1992-1993  I am still employed with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, New Mexico. I am currently the recruiter and student liaison for the High Performance Computing Division and the Computing and Telecommunications Divisions. I have the great opportunity to interact with college students all across the US by traveling to campuses and recruiting the best and brightest in Computer Science. I manage a summer internship program for undergraduates and graduates - about 60 students for summer 2008. All of the students have an assigned mentor and I develop the educational aspect of their summer - tours, talks, and the opportunity for the students to present their summer research in posters session or technical talk. I really enjoy my job!  
And I also get to do some geology on the side. I lead multiple geology field trips through the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico for students and teachers. My husband Vic and I enjoy going on mineral and fossil collecting trips all across the state of NM. Finally made it to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show this February - now that's a show to see! Take plenty of time and money.  
We just returned from a vacation trip to Vietnam!  Pretty exotic for sure, and what a wonderful place to visit. Vietnam is really flourishing and the food and beer is fantastic! We visited Ho Chi Min City, Hoi An, Hue, Hanoi,
and Ha Long Bay. It was an excellent opportunity that presented itself and we learned so much about the country. I have many fond memories of my one year at GAC (92-93) and still keep in contact with several folks, including Heyo VanIten (Geology Instructor now at Hanover College). Heyo visits the Ghost Ranch almost annually so we meet and go fossil hunting in the Pennsylvanian Limestones of northern NM. Hope to read about some of you from 92-93~

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Alumni News

James Swenson ’50 Lives in Miltona, Minnesota. He had his 50th anniversary from the U of Minnesota Dental School this year. 3089 S. Lake Miltona Drive NE, Miltona, MN  563564 ersweny@msn.com

Kay Rezanka Hello Joe! It is always a treat to hear from you with geology news. I hope this note finds you well and enjoying the beginning of spring (and looking forward to summer fishing trips!!) All is well at my end here in Pequot Lakes. I continue to teach biology at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. It has been a very challenging academic year for me, but the end is in sight. This year I'm teaching courses at both of CLC's campuses (Brainerd and the smaller Staples campus where many technical programs are offered). The nursing program is expanding rapidly at Staples, so we are slowly offering more biology courses there to meet the needs of those students. I bounce between there and Brainerd during the week, so I do a lot of driving and a lot of hauling of equipment and resources back and forth as we build up the new lab (I'm the lone biology faculty at Staples and have no lab assistants). I'll be doing more of the same next year. Two of my courses this year are new to me besides, so I'm creating everything from scratch. I'm looking forward to having the framework there for next year so I can make improvements and hopefully have a bit more free time in the evenings and weekends! We'll see... I'm not teaching any summer courses, so I'm looking forward to being home to enjoy the lake. As usual, that will include many fishing trips, gardening, and general maintenance projects around the house. I also keep very busy volunteering with our lake association (WAPOA). Two years ago, I initiated a volunteer watercraft inspection program to help educate boaters at public accesses about ways to prevent the spread of invasive species in the Whitefish Chain and surrounding area. Last year, WAPOA was awarded the lake association of the year award by Minnesota Waters. I am honored to be a member of the team of leaders of such a great organization. Unfortunately, there is far more work to be done than we have people to do it, but we're doing our best. My fiance (Michael) and I still haven't gotten married, but hope to as soon as he returns to MN. He is an engineering project manager for Siemens and is currently working on the operation control center for the NY City subway system. He moved to NY in the fall of '05 for what was to be a 3-month stint, only to end up there for 2.5 years and counting. He is hoping to be back in MN this May for good. Thankfully, Siemens pays for his Manhattan apartment and flights to Brainerd every 2 weeks or so, so it's worked out pretty well for us. He still has his house in Plymouth and will likely work in the Mpls. office for a while once he returns from NY. We're hopeful he will soon be able to move up to Pequot permanently but continue to travel when necessary in his next project. Somewhere in there, we'll have a wedding! While it's certainly not an exotic adventure, over spring break (last week), I visited Michael in NY City again and thought about geology on so many occasions. We spent part of a day exploring Central Park, and I made sure we visited as many gneiss and/or schist (I think!) outcrops as possible to look for evidence of glacial activity. It was great fun. Each time I visit, I always find a new building to admire for its stonework. I'm not as good as I used to be at identify rocks in buildings, but I try! Visiting cemeteries with weathered Revolutionary War-era headstones was so interesting as well. One weekend when Michael was home this winter, we watched a program on PBS or Discovery which included a segment on the Burgess shale fossils. This made such an impression on me in your Paleontology class--I found it so fascinating (and still do). I reminded Michael that we got to see some of these fossils on display at the Museum of Natural History in D.C. several years ago (which, of course, I was absolutely thrilled about--I never dreamed I'd get to see them when we learned about them in class). While I don't get to include much geology in my courses (which are mostly Human A&P and Microbiology these days), it is still a part of my daily life! I am so glad I had the opportunity to learn from you, Jim, and Mark. Even though I am a mere biology major (but with a geology minor!), you're welcome to share whatever seems somewhat interesting for the next newsletter (I'm a '93 grad).

Brian Goldner Hi Joe, I have some news. I will be getting married on Sept 20 2006 to a fellow UMD grad student I met at field camp. We are both finishing up this spring and will be working for Kennecott Exploration near
McGregor MN.
In addition to that, I was chosen to go to Chile as part of the SEGf IOCG trip. There I learned about these IOCG deposits and collected some fantastic samples. I also have some pretty good pictures from the trip. There were only 2 students from the US, other countries represented were Chile, Peru, Columbia, Canada, England, Turkey, Spain, Italy, South Africa and Cameroon.

Brooke Norsted (formerly Swanson) ’00 Checking in from the UW Geology Museum... We just installed a new mineral case in the museum, threw a huge party for the donor and are now setting our sights on the annual open house and tour season. In a typical year we give 14,000 people one hour long guided tours of the museum and the bulk of those are in the spring. On the family front, Brandon and I have added another dog to our ranks - Eddie the Brittany Spaniel. He and Cooper, our sheepdog, have been keeping us warm this snowy winter. Madison broke 100" of snow this year - whew! Eddie even learned how to skijour (pull us around on our skis) this winter.

Sheryl Filby Williams ’98 My husband Jim and I had a baby boy on March 21, 2008, Jasper Filby Williams. I am still working as a hydrogeologist with Barr Engineering Company in Duluth, though am currently on maternity leave.
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Susie Swanson ’89 Good to hear from you! Thanks for continuing your work with the newsletter. I do enjoy reading it each year. Makes me feel guilty that I dropped the ball when I was a senior and never completed the letter that year. But I guess a little Swedish guilt isn't such a bad thing. Was that the year you decided to take the task away from students? :-( News: I spent the fall semester in Tanzania directing the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Studies in Human Evolution and Ecology Program. There were 18 students on the program this year - it was lots of work, but very rewarding. We spent most of our time at the University of Dar es Salaam, but also enjoyed five weeks in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area. I'm currently enjoying my sabbatical, but look forward to teaching again in the fall.
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Amy Moe-Hoffman Howdy, y'all! I am, for the moment, still unemployed and living in Costa Rica, but that is all about to change! My husband and I both got positions at Mississippi State University and we will be moving there this fall. Why do I get the feeling that we won’t be getting as many visitors as we have had the past two years? Hmmm... Anyway, I will be administrating labs, managing their geology/paleontology collections, and (possibly) teaching distance learning courses for the Geosciences Department. I am really looking forward to returning to work and to being connected to the academic life again. In the mean time, I continue to work with InBio (National Institute of Biodiversity) to publish my children’s activity book about the animals of Costa Rica. The first printing should be out within the next few months! I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Peace, and take care.
Amy Moe-Hoffman moe.amy@gmail.com

John Skalbeck On the professional front, I was granted tenure at UW-Parkside in June 2007 so I have been promoted to Associate Professor of Geosciences. Over the past year I have helped create two environmental education community centers in partnership with the City of Racine and City of Kenosha. The Racine center is located on the Root River and the Kenosha center is located on Lake Michigan so each will have a strong emphasis on Great Lakes water resources. In November I was awarded a 1-year sabbatical leave to focus on preparing grant proposals for funding of the new centers. I am in the process of completing a study with two undergraduate students to work out the basement structure in central and southeastern Wisconsin by modeling gravity and aeromagnetic data and I have a manuscript in review on a wetlands study that is co-authored by GAC Alumni Randy Hunt. On the home front, Lucy is currently Director of Training and Development for North American Operations at Anixter International, Inc. in Glenview, IL. Fortunately she only makes the dreaded commute south into Chicagoland on average twice a week which saves on the nerves and gasoline bill. Eldest son Casey received his first varsity letter in hockey as a sophomore playing for Coach Steve Carson (Steve Hanson of the Slapshot movie). Middle son Sam (8th grade) also had a notable hockey season with his Bantam B team (coached by Dad) winning the State Championship. Youngest son Carson (Kindergarten) loves playing soccer and claims he wants to play basketball rather than hockey (likely to reaction to being dragged to rinks all his life). Aside from the hockey, the older boys are active in Boy Scouts, concert and marching band, cross-county (Casey), and drama (Sam) while Carson is active
in everything of interest to most 6 year olds. Lucy and I just try to keep up. The highlight of our past year was a trip to Spain to visit my sister Kris (’82) and her family who are stationed at the Naval Base in Rota, Spain. Kris gave us a wonderful tour of the beaches and mountain villages in southern Spain as well as the cultural landmarks in Madrid. I was thrilled to ride my first high-speed train from Madrid to Toledo which is a fantastic walled city known for its swords. The trip made a lasting impression on me and has created a longing for the next European adventure.

Kathy Bonnifield  ’94
I know that if I don’t respond right away I’ll forget to respond. Let’s see—Last year, I got married in my hometown (New Ulm) but I’m still living in Minneapolis and working as the international program administrator with the McKnight Foundation. And, I’m still volunteering to do election related stuff both in here and in other countries. I’m on my second year of graduate school (I’m getting a MBA with a focus on nonprofit management). I hope to graduate next year but I’m really not sure what I’m going to do next. Please share my email address with other alum. It’s bonnkathy@hotmail.com

Wm Beslock ’73-- afternoon Dr. Carlson -- with three kids, of various ages (21, 17, and 3.5), I don't get around as much as I used to. I always enjoyed my minor in earth science (and taking in the local geology, geography, economics, and climate of various areas). I fondly remember my years out in Minnesota (in the early to mid-seventies). Today (on CNN), I was just noticing an article on that large mass of glacial ice (about the size of Connecticut). They were also saying that it was close to being dislodged, from the Antarctic ice shelf, --- and whether or not it would have any significant global consequences. I first realized the concept of geologic time in one of your classes. Sometimes, I don't think the concept of global warming takes in the vastness of geologic time. However, coming out of one of the worst winters I've experienced (or maybe it's my age catching up with me), I'm not so sure how much effect man is having on the weather (or whether man is even speeding up geologic time). However, I'm sure we'll all never live to learn the true facts of it all. Hope you're doing well in St. Peter. I've enjoyed the Newsletter ---

Jacki (Lundberg) Rose 1986 (I don’t feel old. This date must be wrong.) It’s spring break time, we have lots of sun, and I’m anxiously awaiting warmer temperatures. I’m still working in Anchorage for an environmental consulting firm in which I’m a shareholder. Last year we expanded with an office in Oregon. My oldest son Cameron is a high school junior in Homer, Alaska. My son Forrest is in second grade and daughter Sophia is in kindergarten at a Christian school in Anchorage. This year I’m coordinating the science fair at their school. It’s a lot of fun! They are both in scouts, Sunday School and soccer. They were both in t-ball last year, but I’m letting Sophia take a break because last summer she spent her outfield time picking flowers. Next summer we’ll try again. She’s going to go to princess ballet camp instead. Forrest has graduated to baseball. It’s very exciting. I’ll be in Minnesota in early August to visit family. We’re going to take a road trip to western South Dakota to visit dinosaur and mammoth sites because Forrest wants to be a paleontologist. I hope everyone is doing well at Nobel. Jacki Rose 3401 Minnesota Dr., Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99503 jrose@hoeflernet.com

Brian Kraatz Well, I've come to look forward to these newsletters very much, thanks for doing them. I've got quite a lot to report this year. First, and most importantly, Ilsa (Lund, ’95) and I had our first child in September, Gustav. He came just in time for me to make a mad dash to finish my dissertation, which I filed in December. After a holiday stay in Minnesota, we're settled into NY as I started a postdoctoral fellowship at the American Museum of Natural History at the first of the year. I'm mostly continuing the sort of things I did for my dissertation at Berkeley. I'm studying some exceptional fossils from Mongolia that represent the best preserved early rabbit or rodent. It's very exciting material. I'm sifting through other projects and trying to get scraps of my dissertation off for publication, but mostly, really enjoying the freedom my post-doc allows me. I'll be heading back to Mongolia for about 5 weeks to continue my field work this summer. In the fall, Ilsa, Gus, and I will head to Beijing so I can do some museum work and then go through New Zealand to visit my brother. We're very excited about all of these changes, but we think most excited to see if Gus gets a little miniature passport or the full-sized version.

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Ali Cordie  ’05 I am currently enrolled in a MS degree program for natural resources and environmental education at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Luckily, I am able to use my geology "skills" often when I am teaching EE.
Nat Hemstad (96’ geology minor). You probably have a much better memory of my brother Chris (93’ geology grad). I took your evolution of the earth class and went on the virgin island trip with you (maybe you remember the euchre clinic that was put on…). I hope all is well with you and yours. Are you still researching amphibians? Here are the highlights from the last decade: 1998 MA in biology from St. Cloud. 2001 got married. 2006 first child, Ph.D. in water resources from the U of MN, caught 44 inch northern pike. 2002-2007 teaching biology courses at various institutions. 2008-now hired full time as biology instructor at Inver Hills Community College. One of my favorite memories of your course was the random insertion of fishing pictures. I have now stolen that idea; they show up regularly. If you’re interested in seeing some fish (including Chris’ 33 incher) my old home page is still active. http://faculty.inverhills.edu/nhemsta/

Ryan Erickson Hey Joe, The last year has been a good one. This fall I finished my Master's at UMD, I got married in New Hampshire, and in December I joined several other GAC geologists at Barr Engineering. Hope all is well in St. Peter.

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Erik Lindstrom 2000 Hi everyone! The big news this year is that we finally got out of California and back to the Midwest. I am now living near Chicago with my wife Sarah and daughter Annika. I still am spending most of my time coaching swimming [my team took 2nd at state this winter]. But I am also starting to look at the option of grad school at Northwestern next year [I know, half of you are laughing and the other half are scared or just don't know me]. Until then Annika and I are enjoying day trips out for field work just for fun. For a 2 year old she is probably more focused and studious than I was as a 22 year old.

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Andrew Nichols I'm re-married to a wonderful gal and now have 5 kids with one more due in about 5 weeks. The great part about the wedding was that we held the ceremony in the Valley of Fire State Park north of Las Vegas. This was the place I camped one night in January of 1991 during the Geology of the Southwest J-Term class with Mark Johnson. I've left highway engineering behind and have gone back to environmental. I'm now a Project Manager in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program.

Dave Davis I work for Cargill as a business analyst specializing in software system implementations. After proclaiming many times that I would never return to school, I started a part-time MBA program at the University of Minnesota last fall. Last but not least, I am getting married in June 2008.

Here is my contact information: Dave Davis 1426 Grand Ave. St. Paul, MN 55105 651-271-9493 david_davis@cargill.com

Laura Komai, class of 93

I've definitely been traveling a different path other than what I was on at Gustavus. Most recently, my sister and I opened a store in downtown Madison called Anthology. We sell works of local artists (including my quilts, photographs and collages), art supplies, paper products and books; we also host craft workshops and art demonstrations. That's the big news; I also enjoy spending time with my 6 month-old niece who comes to work with us. The closest I come to geology is watching the waves move the pebbles and sand on the beach on various vacations.

Laura T. Komai Madison, Wisconsin ltkomai@yahoo.com 608-698-9031 Anthology 608-204-2644

"This is a giant block of whatever is most difficult for you to carry & trust me on this, you'll carry it more times than you can count until you decide that's exactly what you want to do most & then it won't weigh a thing anymore."
StoryPeople by Brian Andreas

Nathan Suurmeyer 2004 It has been a busy year for myself and so I shall give you the main points: Got married to
Jessica Knapp (2003 GAC theater graduate) in May 06'.  
Finished MS degree at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.  Studied the sedimentation and tectonics of an extensional basin at the transition zone between the Colorado Plateau and the Basin and Range provinces.  
Started work with Shell Oil as a geologist with the unconventional resources group.  Shell has developed a technology that can crack oil shale.  It is wicked cool project and I'm excited to be a part of it.  If you would like to know more about the project go to www.shell.com/us/mahogany.  

Attempted to beat the world eating record for number of sticks of butter eaten in 5 minutes.  

Address: Houston Texas  nate.suurmeyer@yahoo.com

John Danchertson  I am living again in Tulsa, Oklahoma with my wife and 2 girls (8 and 11).  I am working for Magellan Midstream Partners an refined and crude oil transportation, storage and delivery company as a Safety Representative for the last two years.  
CELL PHONE:  918-633-9889

Evan Christianson In August my wife and I moved back to Minnesota.  I took a job at Barr Engineering in Edina working as a hydrogeologist.  While working I finished up my masters thesis and successfully defended in December with a degree in geology and environmental science.  I made a trip to Gustavus in April to give a talk to the hydrogeology class. I enjoyed talking with Jim, Laura and Gustie geology students.  

Randy Hunt  On a plane with the person in front of me reclining and putting my laptop at an odd angle - hmm, I believe it could be the only seat in this entire jumbo airliner that is reclined - such is life.  Off to Seattle for, get this, our final lock-in to write up our review panel's finding for the Dept of Interior!  I am still at the USGS in Middleton Wisconsin working on water issues- viruses in drinking water, modeling technologies, field instrumentation, etc.  We seem to be reaching a critical mass of Gusties in the field.  I've been fortunate to collaborate with a couple.  Mac Strand (biology major under Ham, now a prof at Northern Michigan) and I worked on a water-bug paper (attached).  John "Stubbo" Skalbeck and I are putting together a paper on wetlands in SE WI that is in the last throes of review for a special hydroecology issue I am guest editing with some Aussies.  And, my post-doc is Dr. Fienen's son - while he did graduate from Mac he took classes in the Dept and I'll lump him in here as well.  We'll have a couple of things coming out this year on applying his PhD work to some real field applications.  Been a lot of fun.  Cant remember what I put down last time so please edit out anything I might have listed before (let's keep my mental infirmities to ourselves shall we?).  Finished my 4th and last time teaching the Hydrogeology class at the University of Wisconsin-Madison last fall (how does anyone teach and do anything else?!).  Am chair of the UW-Systems Groundwater Research Advisory Committee and of the State of Wisconsin Joint Board of Hydrologist, Geologist, and Soil Scientist licensing.  But my "day job" is still related to groundwater-surface water investigations using modeling, ion and isotope geochemistry, and novel (like fiber optic cables for temperature) and sometime not so novel field instrumentation.  Kids are soon turning 5 and 7 - where did that time go (hmm, I am sure I put that in the previous update!  Hoho!).  Hope all is well with you and yours! - Randy

Paul Carlson  Hi from California!  Mary and I had a great trip last summer to the Canadian Rockies to see how much the glaciers have retreated - - lots of retreat!  There is no doubt in this geologist's mind that global warming is real, in spite of the political balderdash that has delayed action.  We visited the Drumheller, Alberta, area and saw the finest paleontological museum I had ever seen; it is SPECTACULAR!!!!  It is an out-of-the-way place on the prairie, but surely worth the trip from the more popular sightseeing in the mountains on the Icefield Highway between Banff and Jasper, where you could really see the retreat of the glaciers.  I retired from the USGS Marine Geology, Menlo Park, CA in Sept 2000, but remained in an emeritus status for 5 years during which time I was able to participate in a couple of additional cruises for work in Glacier Bay, AK.

Michelle Maley  I hope you're doing well.  It sounds it was a fun winter to be in Minnesota this year, if you like snow!  I guess I don't have any real news since I saw you at the Nobel Conference last fall.  I'm still enjoying my San Clemente loggerhead shrike release biologist position out on that island.  (The San Diego Zoo raises the captive shrikes, and then my crew takes pairs, individuals, and groups of juveniles and places them in ideal habitat (usually in the island's canyons) for soft-release.  We feed them and monitor their behavior while they are in our cages during the breeding season, and then we release them and supplementally feed them throughout the year.)  Have a great day!
Jeff Ford '02  Well, I haven't really done anything Geology related since I packed up the Auloporids in 2002. I worked in 401(k) management for awhile, and have been working in the research administration department for Walden University for the past 4 years. For fun I tried doing Strongman competitions for awhile, but all the lifting rocks and pulling semi trucks got a bit overwhelming, so I switch to the Scottish Highland Games, and have been a caber tosser for the past few years. I've also started competing in Track and Field, throwing the shot and hammer. I've been married for 2 1/2 years to another Gustie, Kristie Campana. She's finishing up her PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology this fall, and I'll be quitting my job to finish a 2nd bachelors in Mathematics, with plans to pursue a PhD in Math. We have a small house in St. Paul. No kids yet, but we do have 2 cats and 2 rabbits to keep us company.

Sabina Ylinen  My husband, Keith, and I live in Minneapolis and have two children Josh (a 7-year old future geologist) and Sophia (a 5-year old future rock star). I am a principal environmental, health & safety engineer for Medtronic in Shoreview, MN. As far as accomplishments go, I recently led Medtronic's first ISO 14001/OHSAS 18001 (international environmental, health & safety management system standards) dual certification at two sites here in Minnesota. It was a year long process and we just received the certifications this week, so I'm still basking in the glow of this success!

Principal Environmental, Health & Safety Engineer  Medtronic Global Business Solutions  3850 Victoria Street North|Mail Stop V230 | Shoreview, MN 55126  Phone: 763-514-2357 | Fax: 763-367-5764  email: sabina.k.ylinen@medtronic.com

Owen Anfinson 05  I just finished my masters thesis at Washington State University. My research concentrated on using detrital zircon to track glacial outburst flood provenance within the Channeled Scabland of Washington. I will continue to work on the Channeled Scabland at the University of Calgary next year for my PhD. That is all for now, hope everything is going great back at GAC.

Eleanor Bash  Class of ’07  I will begin a masters program at the University of Calgary in the fall. I will be working with Dr. Shawn Marshall and my focus will be modeling glacial dynamics in the Canadian Rockies.

Alec Nord: Will graduate from the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in May with a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a Concentration in Environmental Planning. Alec has been interning for the Community Growth Institute for the past year and will be taking a full time position as a Planner upon graduation. As a Planner Alec will work for the Community Growth Institute which is a private consulting firm that provides planning and administrative services to rural communities throughout Minnesota. Specifically, Alec writes and updates Comprehensive Plans, writes Ordinances, writes EAW and EIS, and acts as planning staff for our clients. Alec intends to begin working immediately on his AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) certification. Alec lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Alec's younger brother is attending Gustavus and will be taking 101 Geology in the fall of 2008, Alec is hoping his younger brother will enjoy Gustavus geology as much as he did!

Alec Nord  Masters in Urban and Regional Planning Student  H.H.H Institute, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  2151 Como ave. St. Paul MN, 55108  alecnord@hotmail.com  nord0342@umn.edu  651-246-5987

Dylan Blumentritt  Currently I am in the second year of working towards my PhD at the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) in the geology department. My advising staff is primarily made up of researchers at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, where I spend much of my time. The goal of my research is to determine the sources of suspended sediment in the Minnesota River. We are working on a fairly new and unexplored method of using fallout radioisotopes to do so. It's exciting for me because much of the work is done around the St. Peter area. One of the highlights of this past year was when Laura Triplett, an alum. of the UofM geology department and St. Croix Research Station, asked me to give a guest lecture in her geomorphology class at Gustavus. Not only was it great to be back in the Nobel Hall classrooms, but I made my younger sister join me and tour the campus. It must have made a good impression as she will be a freshman at Gustavus this fall.

Dylan  Department of Geology  University of Minnesota 310 Pillsbury Drive SE Minneapolis, MN 55455  blum0123@umn.edu

Aneka Swanson  When you sent out the first news request, I didn't have any news to speak of, but now I do!

recently started a new job at the MPCA in the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. My first day was just few days ago, so I can't say for sure what all of my duties will be, but I'm really enjoying it so far. I think all my years of consulting will serve me well here. Hello to everyone out there in newsletter-land. Feel free to contact me at my personal email account anekajs@hotmail.com if you feel so inclined.

--Aneka

Steve Emerson  Class of 67. Thanks for the reminder. As I have mentioned, in the past, I've retired from the investment banking Biz in 1999, and live in Fergus Falls where I keep busy with my hobbies, and traveling. I also, find great enjoyment out of subbing at the High School when they need help. The big change in my life, was my marriage to Kathy Marshall on Sept. 1, 2007. David Crowe, is my Nephew, GAC Biology Dept, small world. Same mailing address: 1641 Minnehuta Drive, Fergus Falls, MN. 56537

Bob Pesta – 78  Helena, MT  Elected President of Helena Mineral Society for second year in a row. www.helenamineralsociety.org  Most interesting speaker at club meetings in past year gave us an update on a potential diamond strike 100 miles from Billings.  Still employed by Montana Deparment of Justice. Quiet year otherwise. Take care

Susan Joy  Hello! It has been a busy year for me!  In September my husband and I welcomed our first child, a boy.  Harper Daniel Karalus was born September 18th at 3:43 am, weighing 10 lbs, 3 oz and 22 inches long. He was bigger than every other newborn in the Hospital!  He is a very happy and contented baby and has made the past year an amazing journey.  I can't bear to think of tuition to Gustavus in 2025.  In December my husband found out that his company wanted to send him to Europe.  I am writing this email from our flat in London, overlooking the Thames and the O2 Millennium) Dome.  We are here in London, technically (Greenwich) until May, then we are on to Basel, Switzerland until August 1st to fulfill the remainder of his work contract.  If anyone has favorite haunts in Switzerland or neighboring Germany and France, please feel free to email me with your suggestions at susan_joy@hotmail.com.  Dan and I would also be happy to host anyone passing through the area during our tenure there (May-August 2008).  So far I've really enjoyed London and the British countryside, a truly amazing country!  This fall we are moving to Flagstaff, Arizona so my husband can continue his education at Northern Arizona University.  He hopes to pursue his PhD in History.  I'll be trading some of my mommy duties for a job outside the home, and we both look forward to a few years of outdoor pursuits in the Southwest. The past year has been an adventure and I'm constantly amazed by the opportunities that come my way.  Our couch is always available to Gusties passing through, whether during our overseas adventure or our future lodgings in Flagstaff.

Cheers!  Susan Joy

Gary “Hawkeye” Anderson, P.G.  Class of 1968  I must first explain the Subject line of this email.  My wife says I am not a real geologist because she brings me a rock and says – what is this.  I say it is a black rock or a white rock – as appropriate.  Now, if you want to talk about sand; that is another story.  From a technical perspective I am a coastal geologist and from a business standpoint I am now an East Environmental Science Project Director with my firm – PBS&J.  Our employee-owned firm is group of scientists and engineers about 4,000 strong.  I specialize in coastal reconstruction, habitat restoration and disaster response and recovery.  I have designed, permitted and constructed beaches, tidal wetlands and complex coastal ecosystems in response to some of the downsides of human activity.  On a personal level, on May 6, 2008 I will have been married to the same person, Christine M. Plummer, for 30 years.  She is the assistant to the town manager of Kilmarnock, VA.  I have one son Erick from a previous relationship and two stepsons – Rob & Bill.  Bill attended Gustavus for two years before going off to be a ski bum for a few years in Colorado.  He was a Red – don’t hold that against him.  He eventually got a degree from SW Texas State in communications.  He is presently a video editor in California and is working on some significant shows – American Idol (whether you like it or not, it pays the bills).  Rob is a computer programmer for a college loan management firm.  He lives in Jacksonville Beach, FL.  He is also a licensed Captain for small vessel charter.  Erick lives in Salem, VA and is a computer systems manager and trouble shooter for a number of firms in the western part of Virginia.  He races cars – another story.  Chris & I have two grandsons – one on Rob’s ledger and one on Bill’s.  We have two dogs, one a rescue, and three cats – all rescue.  Kilmarnock is a town of about 1,400 people on the Northern Neck of Virginia.  I am a town council member.  We own property on the “Suffolk Scarp” – a test for your students to find and identify this coastal feature formed during the last high stand of sea level.  Over
the years I have travel extensively on jobs involving beaches, ports, harbors, oil spills, hurricane impacts and other coastal situations. I am still traveling – alas. I have on occasion thought about broaching the subject of giving a “lunch and learn” at Gustavus about coastal geology. With 10,000 plus lakes and a few rivers, Minnesota has many coasts and maybe your students might like a “day at the beach”. Anyway, enough of this blarney – I hope all is well with you and the Gusties. Hawk POB 241 – Mail 449 Keith Ave – FedEx Kilmarnock, VA 22482 804-435-0429 Home 804-450-8889 cell glanderson@pbsj.com

Jon Hyers here. Some of my news you cannot help but already know. 2007 was quite a year for me. For those of you who don't know me, I was a 1985 GAC grad, majoring in Geology and Geography, but I went into film and video. In 2007 I completed my first feature film, since making them at GAC as a student in the 1980's. My film, the Haunting of North 3rd Street, was a true docudrama about the Hyers family's (including Conrad Hyers, religion prof at GAC) first year in St. Peter, living in an old house that seems to have been haunted. I made the film for very little money, but given my 25 years of experience in the industry, I have learned to be very resourceful. The movie opened in St. Peter MN's theater for a solid week of showings!!!! I was invited to return in the future for another week. The movie has also had a few showings in St. Paul. In 2006, I completed a documentary film called, Alnwick Castle, the Real Hogwarts which has had a few showings. This movie is about the real castle school in England, which MOST resembles Hogwarts from Harry Potter. Summer of 2007 - Dec 2007, I was hired by a museum IN RUSSIA to produce a series of ghost effects and other virtual reality. My company, who is me pretty much alone, has been designing a new video projection process called, VIRTUAL 3D. The museum made use of a number of VR3D effects, such as flood water (talk about a Geologic Epic Effect), fire burning up a coffin, and Rats running on a bed! Mainly my business is just about, whatever I find to do. I had videotaped many college Graduations, including GAC since 1985-2006. I have since quit doing that in pursuit of more fun projects. I am also a solar energy buff, and plan to do some experiments on solar heat this year at my home in North St. Paul. If you want to read more about my Haunting of North 3rd Street, Google "Jon Hyers", and the the first page will come up with some stories on my film. Gosh, if anyone wants a copy of it, email me jon.hyers@comcast.net I'd love to share my movie with the Geology folks, so you can see what I have done. Personally I think this movie is my best work to date.
Jon Hyers Hyers Video Productions 651-704-0545 karen.hyers@comc

Kenny Emerton Hi Joe and all, Not much to report for the last year--spent all of last summer at my lake cabin in Wi. and grumbled through another winter. The high point was when I became a brand new Gt Grandpa in June of 06!!

Rick Arnseth Graduated from GAC in 1975 with BA in chemistry. Attended Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) for graduate school. MS in Geological Sciences (emphasis in geochemistry) in 1981 from NU. PhD in Geological Sciences (emphasis in geochemistry) in 1983 from NU. Assistant Professor in Dept. of Geological Sciences at University of Tennessee (Knoxville, TN) 1982-1988. Research Associate in Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Tennessee) 1983-1988. Senior Geochemist/Project Manager at Science Applications International Corp. (Oak Ridge, TN) 1988-1998. Senior Geochemist/Senior Project Manager at Tetra Tech, Inc. (Oak Ridge, TN) 1998 - present. Currently managing a $26Million environmental (groundwater, soil and surface water) remediation project at the active Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, IA (I often think about collecting brachiopods at Bird Hill (?) Iowa every time I go up for meetings). Married since 1982 with two sons (both Eagle Scouts). Oldest is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee (interested in environmental sciences) and the youngest is a junior in high school (interested in video games).

Rick Arnseth arnseth@charter.net Project Manager Tetra Tech | Complex World, Clear Solutions™ 800 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite A-500 | Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830 (google map) Direct Line: 865.220.4721 | Main Line: 865.220.4700 | Main FAX: 865.482.6052 Rick.Arnseth@tetratech.com | www.tetratech.com

Drew Tarara Class of '95 Good to know I'm still on the mailing list. Not too much new news to report. I am still employed at ENSR Corporation in St. Paul, MN. We merged with another environmental consulting company last year (RETEC) and they had an office much closer to home (Woodbury). My commute has been cut in half, so I have a little more time to spend with our growing young family. I am working as a Project Manager overseeing the remediation and assessment of former leaking underground storage tank sites. My clients are mainly from the petroleum industry and they manage to find a way to pay their bills even though they are only getting $100/barrel. I
have been here for almost nine years now and have had a very positive experience. We are always looking for young blood to join the ENSR AECOM empire, so feel free to pass along my name to future grads. I do miss the college days hanging out at Nobel pretending to study rocks, minerals, and the really old things (I think they were called fossils). I have very fond memories of the geology field trips. Especially the J-term trip to the Southwest. I hope somebody still puts that together. Jen and I added to our family on 1-31-08 with the birth of Laney Grace. She joins big brother Jake(4) and twins Natalie(2) and Sam(2) to make for quite a handful. If any of you out there have any parenting advice or tips to keep 4 little kids, a dog, and a wife happy at the same time...please pass them along.

Take Care, Drew

Bob Prueser

I received your letter requesting an update for the alumni newsletter back in May, but I was in the middle of moving and could not reply. Hopefully this is not too late to make it in somewhere. This has been a bit of a whirlwind year for my family. I am still employed as a geologist in the oil industry. For the last year and a half, I managed unconventional gas production in the Rockies (mainly Wyoming & Colorado). In June I moved to Lagos, Nigeria to oversee development of several offshore fields. My wife Megan and I have managed to make the move to Africa with our sanity mostly intact.

We even picked up a new dog here to help our aging border collie adjust. Things in Africa are truly unique and we are looking forward to checking out more of the continent later this year. I'm trying to figure out how I can wrangle away a few days in S. Africa to check out the Bushveld complex that I remember from Jim Welsh's economic geology class. Take care, Bob Prueser

John Zager '79

I have not sent anything in for a while, so I thought that I would touch base even though there have been no dramatic developments since in the last couple of years. I continue to serve as the General Manager for Chevron in Alaska. It has been a very exciting time at work as we have grown dramatically in Alaska, we now have over 500 people working in the state. It is a very interesting time to be in the energy industry and I would encourage all of the GAC geology majors to consider a career in petroleum geology. As the large group of us who are 50+ retire in the next ten years there should be a lot of openings for those just entering the profession. On a personal note, things are great here in Alaska. It is hard to believe that Sue, the girls, and I have been here for seven years. My oldest daughter Katie, is a senior at Service High and has just enrolled at Macalester College for next fall. I don't know where I went wrong! My younger daughter Annie is a junior at Service High and I still hold out hope for GAC, although she seems to have somewhere warmer in mind.

Sharon Ringsven Class 1988

Aloha Joe! I think your letter came nearly a month ago...and it got buried under everything else. In straightening up prior to leaving in under 12 hours, I ran across it again and thought I'd drop a short note. I depart tonite for Flagstaff and by Tuesday I will be on the Colorado River. I am doing a 3 week private raft trip down the Colorado through Grand Canyon. As the token geologist...my assignment was to brush up on my Canyon geology. Time never seemed to come so will have to do a crash course when I arrive! >From the trip I did with Jim & Mark back oh...January 1987 I think, I remember Vishnu schist, Mukuntuweap, Bright Angel Shale and a few others. I dug up my map from our trip there, but I think our "trip" guide that Mark made up is sitting in storage in Minnesota. I continue to do a lot of scientific diving helping out Univ. Hawaii friends. I've been working on herbivore studies as well as seaweed studies. Biggest diving thrill this winter was swimming with a whale shark--amazing! Hope all is well there...back to packing for the river.

Kate Lawson


Jim Miller

I am back working my business, and having a great time. I am volunteering at the Juvenile center teaching Bible studies twice a week, I am also the Sunday School coordinator at my church. Been doing both of these for 3-4 years...The battle continues to open the another local mine… miners vs environmentalist…and we Still haven’t got a road out of Juneau yet… the battle continues on that! My family is well, my daughters are 17,15 and 10. Jim Miller Juneau Rubber Stamp - Awards, Trophies and Engravings 907-789-7267

Andrew Leaf '05

Right now I'm rounding the corner on the first year of my master's at UW-Madison. My project involves an Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) operation at Oak Creek, WI (south of Milwaukee), where the local water utility is testing the feasibility of injecting Lake Michigan water into the Cambrian/Ordovician aquifer, and
I've run into some chemical problems. This spring I put Russell's paleo class to good use while teaching labs for Geol 107 - Life of the Past. In the last few months, I've also added a degree in Water Resources Management. As part of that, I'm working on a student-run wetland restoration project in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, and will be down there for 5 weeks this summer. Also enjoying life in Madison! Address: 1324 Spaight St. Madison, WI 53703  andrew.t.leaf@gmail.com

Brett Haukedahl,
So the quick version for me is that I worked in mineral exploration in Montana last summer for an individual geologist. I found out that it is not the type of thing that I like, but the geology side of it was cool. To try something different I moved to St. Anton, Austria to ski for another season. With that finishing up here I will travel around Europe for a while. I don't know exactly where it will take me, but the current plan is to head back towards the states in the fall. Who knows what will happen from there.
Brett

Laurice <ande5001@metnet.edu>  ok, so now I feel guilty (not!) After GAC, I married, divorced, had a kid (now a Sophomore at GAC), then became a licensed teacher in Biology, and am now pursuing a Masters in Biology, specializing in Lichens. I know, not too Geological, but maybe someday I'll see a connection. In the meantime, hoping to hear from y'all.

Dave Ellingson  Hey Joe, Great to hear from ya……hope things are well at GAC. I think things are pretty much the same for me since I last wrote. Living in Jackson Hole, WY, own and operate a consulting company, chase kids, ski, climb, and get into the mtns as much as possible. We get back to MN every summer but have yet to venture down to St. Peter…..maybe one of these years. Daughter Quinn is 6, son Tate is 4.

Cheers! Dave  David Ellingson Northstar Solutions LLC 307.413.0389 dave@north-starsolutions.com www.north-starsolutions.com

Deb Nelson Brauchle, class of 1980  Last July, I went to Greece and Turkey. The geology was very interesting. The island of Santorini is a volcano - still active and steaming. The center of the crater is the bay that the cruise ships park. You take a shuttle boat to shore and then a bus ride up a very steep road to the top of the crater edge to where the city is and people live. To get down, you take a tram or ride a donkey. As you come up on the island, it is beautiful. You can see the rock formations. Another place of interest was Meteora, Greece. There are monasteries built on top of huge, very steep rocks. One of the monasteries was featured in one of the James bond movies, For Your Eyes Only (Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) Monastery). The Scenery was great - I just looked at it and wondered how this was created. These are places I would definitely recommend visiting.  Deb Brauchle <kittensrus_2000@yahoo.com

Lari Knochenmus  I think that I have already informed you that I moved from Florida to Nevada with the USGS in 2006. Six months ago I was promoted into a management position and I am now the Deputy Director for the Nevada Water Science Center (what used to be districts). It is very challenging and a totally new direction from research. I also married, about 1.5 years ago, a long time significant other--Dann Yobbi who retired as the USGS ground-water specialist in Florida. My daughter, Alexandra Lassi (also the child of Greg Lassi), has finished her first year at the University of South Florida. lari
Lari Knochenmus Deputy Center Director USGS--Nevada Water Science Center 2730 N. Deer Run Road Carson City, NV 89701 775-887-7613 775-887-7629 FAX lari@usgs.gov

Ron Michelson. Keith, or is it Joe? This still confuses me. I received your e-mail requesting interesting stuff for the Newsletter. Sorry, the attachment is not for that purpose, but is just an easy way to convey to you, personally, what I have been up to for all these many years since I last saw you at ISU. About 47 years ago, I think. From the quarterly, and contact with Chet over the years, I know that you have done great things in the Geology Department at Gustavus. I visited the campus and the Department a few years back (maybe five or six). It was in the summer and things were kind of quiet but it was obvious that we have come a long way since the basement of Old Main.

Andy McGrath 1995 Greetings Joe, Another year under our belts! I believe 2008 marks the 6th year of my Graduate program at St. Thomas (M.S. Software Engineering) and here I sit listening to R.E.M and working on about 4 overdue assignments that need to be completed by next Thursday for my final class of the semester --
somethings feel like they never change! I still work for Wells Fargo (downtown Minneapolis) in an area of technology that supports two call centers -- Mortgage and Insurance. Chances are if you ever call Wells Fargo seeking one or both of those products, your information is being gathered on an application I helped create. This is my 8th year at Wells Fargo and overall I am pretty happy working here. While I am not collecting stromatolite samples from road-cuts or theorizing about the karst topography of Southeastern MN, the problem solving challenges of software development are equally rewarding -- you are just not as dirty and less of a tan. Finally with a little warmer weather it is time to start thinking about shaking off the dust (and the accumulated winter-weight gain) and get outdoors again. My kids (Tyler and Sydney) are now just past the 2-year mark and continue to surprise us with new words and spectacular demonstrations of free-will. They continue to be my life highlight! As always it is great to hear from you!

Andy
Address:  5418 Bryant Ave S  Minneapolis, MN 55419 andy.mn@gmail.com

Kris Addis  Hi Joe. I can't remember the last time I updated everyone on where I am, so here it is in a nut shell. I am living in the Seattle area and I am working as a geologist in the environmental field at Environmental Partners, Inc. in Issaquah, Washington. Seattle is a great place to live once you adjust to the rainy season (October thru May). Not much else to report... Hope you are well. Kris Addis

Monica Gowan "Monica is about to start collecting data on her University of Canterbury PhD project, examining motivators for disaster preparedness in Wellington, New Zealand, a city with significant earthquake and tsunami risk. She continues to go back and forth between New Zealand and Minnesota, where she maintains a research collaborator appointment at Mayo Clinic in the Department of Health Sciences Research, interspersed with lucky side trips to Colorado for GSA meetings. She still loves nothing more than being on an alpine snowfield in view of glaciers (she managed to get in a glissade on Mt. Rainier on May 17 and make the pilgrimage to Mt. St. Helens on May 18 for the anniversary of the 1980 eruption), and taking naps in the high country after lunch. Best wishes to all GAC geofolks."