

1983

ALUMNI UPDATE

There were several replies to last year's questionnaire --

L.T.M.V. (alias Lisa Vomero) writes that there's really nothing new under the sun in Tempe, Arizona, except that the sun is very nice in Arizona at this time of year. This summer she worked on an exploration crew (what kind of exploration, Lisa?) for N. L. Industries out of Elko, Nevada.

Joan (Suboleski) Slonka is working for Virginia Electric and Power Company and living in Richmond, Virginia. She's trying to get into a geology graduate program down there.

Jeff Mazur and his wife, Sue, recently had a baby boy, Alan Michael, born on April 20, 1982. Jeff works for General Refractories Company of Pittsburgh as a marketing manager for refractories used in the rock product industries (cement, lime, etc.).

Sharon (Wilt) Ewing is teaching mathematics at the Richland Middle School. Once a year her sixth graders go out for a geology field trip at the Gee Bee outcrop (that of fond sed-strat memories). Last spring Roger Fairbank found a sizeable shark's tooth out there that nobody at Penn State or Pitt has been able to identify. Seems there weren't supposed to have been very large sharks (this was estimated to be about six feet long) at that time (Pennsylvanian). Maybe Sharon's students can find some more.

Patty (Buell) Stern is working hard at home, raising her son, Adam, born March 22, 1981. In her spare time she still works part-time as a lapidary, and does custom silverwork and repairs.

Speaking of gemstones, Merle Lauer has obviously taught an amazing number of geology students about the lapidary arts, and several of us still pursue them on a part or full-time basis. Nancy and Don Cutler still own Kwon's Jewelry, at the Richland Mall, and Anita (Von Valkenburg) Pfeiffer has moved from Ruppenthal America, in New York, to Germany to manage one of her husband's family's jewelry shops. One of Merle's recent students, Carole Gesselman, is now doing custom silverwork and setting stones out of her home. There are many more Johnstownners involved in gem-cutting and collecting -- and donating to UPJ -- as perusal of the latest additions to the Eric Fluck Memorial Collection later in the Record will show.

Donna (Knepper) Hagadorn wrote that she will graduate in May 1983 from a nursing program at the Phoenixville Hospital, Phoenixville, PA. We're not sure how that translates from an interest in geology to kidney stones, maybe?

Danny Pfahl is working in San Jose, California for MSA Communication Sciences as a cartographer. Now that we know where Dan is, there may be a flood of Chilly Johnstownners to visit him -- his address is in the listing at the back of the Record!

Don Gibson and family (Aaron, 3½, Dawn, 2) moved back to Johnstown recently and he is working for the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat.

Dave Miller has just completed his first term toward a Master's Degree at Colorado State University and says he and Michelle, who's working for CORE Labs, are doing fine. He'll be T.A.ing Mineralogy next term.

Dave Silko has returned to the area to recover from some sort of medical peculiarity that sent his blood pressure sky-high, shut down his kidneys, and (temporarily) nearly blinded him. With at least four doctors still arguing (and disagreeing) about what caused what and what should be done, Dave is nicely recovering by himself (thank-you) and has sworn off both doctors and beer for the foreseeable future. He started a hydrologic study under Dr. Kaktins with flow data on the Stoney Creek, Conemaugh, and Little Conemaugh Rivers dating from the early 1900s. The idea was to correlate increased urbanization with increased "flashiness" and decreasing base flows.

Ed Dobson has been taking advanced hydro courses in Harrisburg and Chris Boes and John Peters are both taking graduate courses at Main Campus Pitt. Chris Laughery should be finishing up there very shortly. J. P. and his wife, Michelle, have just had a new addition to their family. Dave Wilcox is finishing his Master's from WVU and this past January he gave a seminar at UPJ on his research. Not only has Dave excelled in academic pursuits, but it seems he has not neglected the social aspects of life either -- this fall Dave got married. Congratulations! We may soon have the first Whoopie-J Ph.D. ...Rick Borkowski has started work on his Ph.D. at Penn State in Mineral Economics (he is also putting the finishing touches on his M.S. thesis for Texas A&M).

The Guatemala Kid (Glenn Johnson) has just become "Our Man in Venezuela" and is rapidly learning about all aspects of life in the Venezuelan equivalent of the Outback. He shed twenty pounds one week when he discovered that his latest job site was twelve hours from the nearest food -- at 80 mph in a pickup. Seems they'd neglected to tell anyone about this, and it was three days before anyone could take the time off to go get some. At that, it cost \$25 for a bowl of chicken bone soup, a plate of rice, beef stew, and two Pepsi's. For those prices, Glenn decided he'd rather not eat -- it's a good thing the job ended quickly. Stories like this are rapidly becoming commonplace from one of the ex-local farmhands...

Greg Bunk is still in Houston and has been promoted to Exploration Geophysicist for the Appalachian Region. Mike Layton will soon complete his training program at Mobil and he is now a geophysicist for Field Operations. Mike came back to Johnstown for a quick visit last month and issued an open invitation for UPJ-types passing through Dallas to stop at his place. Jim Mehall also stopped by and gave our present students a sobering talk about the present day employment opportunities in geology. Jo Hinish was back in the area for Christmas -- she's taken up karate to fill the time...karate??

Gary Hill and Denise Barlock went to Sul Ross Field Camp this summer and did very well -- they've settled in Vail for the winter -- Denise convinced one of the local firms that they had to have a geologist and was recently made a full-time employee! She's doing seismic log interpretation and mapping.

Neil Coleman presented a paper at a conference this fall in Houston dealing with some of the work from his M.S. thesis (see publications).

Congratulations to Kathy Bensko, recently married to David Pebley; they have moved to Tampa, Florida, where Kathy is looking for a job in geology.

Brenda Hockensmith is alive and well at Wright State University. She's working toward a Master's Degree and is in her second term. Jon Hawk is working on his M.S. in Petroleum Engineering at Main Campus Pitt.

Speaking of alive and well; we've lost track of several people and need help locatint them:

<u>Most Wanted List:</u>	S. Anastos	S. Parker
	J. Klochak	J. Rushin
	G. Klug	J. Trocano
	R. Marsh	

Anyone with the pertinent info would be most helpful if they would send it in on the questionnaire form.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS BY UPJ GRADS

Chris Laughrey (1976), 1981, High potential gas production and fracture-controlled porosity in the Upper Devonian Kane Sandstone [abs.]; American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 68, no. 9, p. 1666.

_____, 1982, High-potential gas production and fracture-controlled porosity in Upper Devonian Kane "Sand," central-western Pennsylvania; American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 66, no. 4, p. 477-482.

_____, 1982, Subsurface faulting in McKean County - a "textbook" example; Pennsylvania Geology, v. 13, no. 3, pp. 11-13.

Neil Coleman (1977), 1982, Basement structure in northwest peninsular Florida; Transactions, Gulf Coast Association of Geol. Soc., v. 23, pp. 153-156.

UNDERGRADS

Although we don't have a complete list of how the undergrads spent their summer, there are a few standouts:

Aaron Keno worked for PennDOT as an intern in their Materials Department and was a state inspector of road aggregate. The job involved overseeing road metal production (and occasionally stopping production if specifications were not met). The job took him to a number of Loyalhanna quarries and at least one deep mine.

Anne Veeger decided to have another look at the French Alps and brush up on her French before field camp -- so she caught the first puddle-hopper to the Riveria and roughed it on a yacht. While there, she bumped into a Saudi ambassador at dinner one night and did some translating for him in her spare

time. She was unfortunately unsuccessful in persuading the gentleman to endow UPJ's Geology Department with another faculty chair, though.

The DER internship in Ebensburg has been filled recently by Joe Trocano (winter 82), Kathleen Bensko (summer 82), Roger Fairbank (fall 82) and Kim (Jones) Matthews, is presently working under George Katrancha.

This year's Division Scholars in geology were Anne Veeger and Brenda Lint.

FIELD TRIPS

Last spring we hosted field trips to our area by the University of Massachusetts - Boston, and Westchester State. This fall we returned the University of Massachusetts' visit by joining up with them for a four-day trip to Boston and Maine. We were treated to many interesting sights, the chief among them being glacial deposits below the marine limit of coastal Maine, and the pegmatite mines of south-central Maine. We hope to have other joint ventures in the future.

GEOLOGY CLUB FOOTNOTES

In brief: this year's officers -- President: Anne Veeger ('83), Vice President: Aaron Keno ('83), Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Strzempka ('84).

This year the club once again sponsored the Gem and Gemstones class taught by Merle Lauer. The funds raised through the class are going to be used to start a field camp scholarship fund. The club has also held a number of social events and outings. In October, Teri Kaktins' brother, Ned Smith, took several groups of students flying over the Appalachian Plateau and east to the Allegheny Front. In November, in an attempt to alleviate the "NFL strike Sunday afternoon blues" we held "The First Annual Turkey Bowl" at the Kaktins' estate. Events included upperclassmen against lowerclassmen football and volleyball. Later in the evening a pie throwing contest was supposed to involve students buying pies to toss at our three illustrious professors. However, Dr. Kaktins was the only one left so we dispensed with the sale and contented ourselves with a surprise attack. Jack Brice not only provided some excellent live entertainment with his band, but also stood in bravely for his father during the pie-throwing. Bill said he really was ill that day! That was really above and beyond the call of duty. All in all it was a Sunday to remember. This coming term the club has planned trips to Laurel Caverns in Uniontown and to the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.

DONATIONS

The Eric Fluck Memorial Collection received numerous additions recently:

-- Dr. and Mrs. William Frank of Davidsville, PA donated many fine samples including material from Bancroft, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Mt. Mica, Maine.

- Mrs. Francis Evans of Clermont, Florida gave some beautiful apatite crystals as well as other specimens from her late husband's collection.
- David Burney, of Amex Lead Company (via Dr. Frank), donated a collection of bladed galena crystals.
- Mrs. Jane Straton of Globe, Arizona sent us (by way of Merle Lauer) a large piece of basalt with sizeable pockets of olivene crystals.
- Jim Singer of Johnstown donated a sample of dinosaur bone, and Pat Bowling, late of UPJ and now at New Mexico Tech, brought some very nice Smithsonite.
- Mrs. Raymond Frye of Aston, PA gave samples of gold ore, rhodenite, and native copper from Colorado.
- Mr. John Fluder of Windber, PA recently donated an excellently preserved Sigillaria approximately one foot in diameter. This fine fossil will be added to the collection and displayed in the main entrance to Krebs Hall with the other Pennsylvanian Period plant fossils and the mural painted by Cynthia Slatcoff.

We are deeply appreciative of the fine specimen donations; especially since our tight budget precludes us from adding many display quality specimens to our collection. We also would like to announce the start of a fund drive to help us obtain teaching materials and equipment that we need very much but cannot afford. Examples would be:

- Microcomputer (\$3,000-5,000).
- Missing volumes ('78, '79, '80) of the Index and Bibliography of Geology -- they cost \$750 each.
- Petrographic scopes (\$2,000-3,000 each).
- Water stage recorder (about \$500) which was stolen last year from its field site at the chapel.
- Field trip fund.
- Fund for field camp scholarship.

We realize that the economic situation is dismal all around, but if you and/or your employer still need some tax deductions, send your donations to:

UPJ Annual Giving
Office of Public Affairs
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Johnstown, PA 15904

(Please specify that your donation is to be used for Geology.)

Mike Layton became the first of our graduates to donate to the Geology Alumni Fund (becoming a member of the UPJ Century Club at the same time). In addition, Mobil Oil will match his donation 2 to 1. Ask your company if they have such a matching policy. Your donations may be worth more than you think. By the way, cash is not the only way that you could contribute to the department; anything from lectures in your specialty to used equipment would be deeply appreciated. Also, just keeping in touch is a contribution in itself.

FACULTY UPDATE

Bill Brice had a full schedule this year with the following events, activities and what-nots: The Eastern Section meeting of the NAGT was held in Williamsburg, VA from May 21-23, then Bill was off to Cornell for teaching from June 22 to August 15. He attended the GSA meeting in New Orleans from October 16-21 where he presented a poster session entitled "Tradition in Glacial Geology at Cornell University." Then on November 12 and 13, the National Science Teachers Association's Annual Fall Meeting was held in Baltimore, MD. Bill also just received word that a paper he coauthored (Pyrokene-Carbonate Reactions in the Upper Mantle: G. Brey, W. Brice, D. Ellis, D. H. Green, K. Harris and I. Ryabchikov) has been accepted by the Earth and Planetary Science Letters and will come out soon. The Office of Faculty Development in Pittsburgh has awarded Bill and Brenda Lint a small grant to cover the cost of color prints for the ongoing project to produce a new petrographic manual -- their second grant for this project. This March, Bill will present two papers, R. S. Tan and the Arctic at an Arctic Workshop meeting at Amherst, Massachusetts, and Humor of the 19th Century and Geological Education in the 20th Century at the Northeast/GSA Meeting at Kiamesha Lake, NY. Bill's television course, Geology and Johnstown is being aired on WJNL this winter and is also being offered as a one-credit independent study.

Hal Fry attended the annual Pennsylvania Field Conference this fall and the Northeast Section GSA meeting in Washington, D.C. last March.

Both Teri and I also attended the Northeast Section meeting last spring. I had a busy winter term when I foolishly accepted an invitation to take over Norm Flint's geomorphology class at the Oakland campus. Commuting to Pittsburgh for an evening class in the winter is a definite drag! Then this fall, in another moment of madness, I tried to "chaperone" a group of UPJ's best while they ran amuck in the wilds of Maine. Unfortunately some of the more interesting stories from this venture are not fit for publication. This fall Teri went back to Penn State for two more courses toward her M.S., and I played "house-daddy" in between teaching classes. Last month I gave lectures for the Pittsburgh Geological Society on Urbanization and the 1977 Johnstown Flood.

CONCLUSION

Inevitably, we've missed someone, some news, or written something inaccurately. We hope you write to keep us updated and each newsletter from now on will update the address list we've included as well as news. We hope that alumni will not only use the Record to keep up with old classmates, but also

to keep them informed on your specialty, company, geographic location or whatever. We use this to advise juniors and seniors since none of us has the money, time, or energy to keep current in all the fields available to the graduates. Being able to steer students toward good companies and schools as well as away from bad ones can save them a lot of frustration and money. So your failures are just as valuable as the successes!

It would be helpful if alumni with any job leads would contact us. We can guarantee some good people who definitely want to work! Also, any alumni looking for work should contact us. Perhaps we can serve as sort of a clearing house for info.

It must be amazing to the "older" alumni how the number of students in the department has grown from the "Old Days" -- 1974-79! -- when perhaps four or five students graduated, to an 80 student department. Believe us, it was amazing to walk into Intro classes that had averaged 20 students and find 45 bright faces -- standing room only. There was (gulp) some quick thinking and the rebirth of the multiple-guess exam style for intro courses, after it took three weeks of steady work to correct one set of essay exams! Now even the advanced courses are running 30-40 students. We have a chemistry and geology "person" (Sue Brett) who helps with the added load, and last term started giving Student Assistants (Anne Veeger last term, Brenda Lint and Aaron Keno this term) two credits for lab assisting and correcting exams and labs. They get teaching experience -- hopefully valuable and occasionally boring -- and it alleviates the labor shortage! Since the budget for equipment has remained the same or gotten smaller, the students are being forced to buy a lot more of the pens, drafting equipment, etc. that the department supplied before. Hope this is tugging at your heartstrings -- and purse-strings?! Of course, donations are tax-deductible, earn you a receipt and thank-you letter, publicity (unless requested anonymity) and give you a warm feeling in the right place (to say nothing of the undying gratitude of the recipients). And you're welcome to specify that the money be spent on what you want to subsidize! The three profs can identify special areas of need or degrees of desperation and delapidation.

It might be a point of pride to the alumni that when we look around to other schools and their recent grads, ours have had better luck getting and keeping jobs in spite of the recession, and once grad schools get acquainted with one of our people, they're always eager for more -- the University of Southern Florida and Wright State University are cases in point, as well as Main Campus Pitt and recently, an invasion of the hallowed (?) halls of Penn State. We're doing remarkably well for a three-man department (personal but informed opinion of writer - T.K.).

There's been a lot of cooperation gathering together the scattered info needed for these first two newsletters -- the faculty, Sue Brett, Anne Veeger, and others -- they all deserve thanks. We'll try to get one Record out per term, and hope you've enjoyed them and keep in touch!

(Editor's Note: a special thanks to Teri for putting most of this together.)

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UPJ GEOLOGY SHIRTS

Yes sir, be the first in your neck of the swamp to sport genuine UPJ Geology shirts and hats (sorry, no panties available as of yet!). Send in your order and support the Geology Club.

Desired

Sport Shirts (pick and hammer logo and "illegitimi non carborundum" beneath it). Colors: blue, green, red: \$12 each.

T-Shirts (front: "UPJ Geology" with pick and hammer logo; back: "Support your Local Orogeny"). Colors: red, blue, green: \$6.50 each.

Hats ("UPJ Geology" with pick and hammer logo). Colors: blue, red: \$5 each.

Please include \$2 shipping and handling cost per order of up to three items. Make checks payable to "UPJ Geology Club" and send together with order form to UPJ Geology Club, c/o Dr. W. R. Brice, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Johnstown, PA 15904.



WHAT-YOU'VE-BEEN-UP-TO-LATELY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Employer (if new or different from our records): _____

Recent Promotion/Change of Duties: _____

Home Address (and Phone Number): _____

News, Messages, Requests, Publications or Anything Not Asked for Above:

(Please send this information to U. Kaktins)

