

Pitt-Johnstown Geology Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND EARTH RESOURCES AT PITT-JOHNSTOWN

Illegitimi non carborundum

Summer 2023

Special points of interest:

- Dr. Chris Coughenour receives **tenure and promotion to Associate Professor** as well as the 22-23 Division of Natural Sciences Vizzini **Educator of the Year Award**
- Dr. Ryan Kerrigan receives **Fulbright Scholar Award, Pitt-Momentum Fund Grant**, and the 22-23 Mountain Cat Award for **Outstanding Faculty Advisor** for a Student Club (Geology Club)
- Geology Club goes to **Iceland!**
- Alumni News!



2022 Structural Geology Class Field Trip at the Whaleback, Shamokin, PA

L-R: Olivia Weaver, Drew Scarbro, Colin Nesbella, Nick Scelsi, and Courtney Roxby

Greetings!

We have survived the era of remote teaching and we are all happy to be back in the classroom and in the field!

Things are going well at Krebs Hall! We are still in the basement and maintaining a solid level of majors. The university is currently down in enrollment but appears to be on the upswing. We currently have 18 majors in the program which has been pretty stable throughout the dip in university enrollment. In 2018 we revamped our curriculum and now we offer an environmental science track and an energy (standard geology) track. The university has assembled their Strategic Plan for the coming years and a renovation of the Geology Labs is one of the top priorities. After many years of watching other facilities get renovated, and other buildings get constructed, finally the Geology basement is receiving the attention it definitely needs. Those renovations are only in the planning stages but we are excited to share more news about this in the coming years!

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Faculty News



Dr. Ryan Kerrigan

Dr. Ryan Kerrigan is a graduate of Bridgewater State University (B.S. Geology, B.A. Chemistry), University of Minnesota (M.S. Mineralogy/Petrology), and University of Maryland (Ph.D. Experimental Petrology). After his Ph.D., Dr. Kerrigan spent four years in the private sector completing environmental assessment/remediation projects in the Pacific Northwest. He joined us in 2014, received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2019, and became Chair in 2021.

Dr. Kerrigan will be on sabbatical for the fall semester of 2023 at the University of Lisbon studying the rocks of Northern Portugal. To support this research, Dr. Kerrigan has received a **Fulbright Scholar Award** and the **Pitt-Momentum Grant**. The Fulbright will cover much of the living expense for the Kerrigan family while in Portugal. The Pitt-Momentum fund will provide funding for this research and, also, includes funding for two Pitt-Johnstown geology undergraduates for some of the field work.

His sabbatical project is titled: *Examining islands of rock to understand how mountains are built: Braganca & Morais Massifs, Portugal* which aims to investigate the Braganca and Morais Massifs of northeast Portugal through geologic sampling and geochemical testing. Understanding the geochemistry will allow for the determination of the source and processes endured by the rocks and correlate these units across northwest Iberia. Knowledge of the petrology and geochemistry will allow for the testing of competing hypotheses about the region and test existing geodynamic models of regional orogenic evolution.

Dr. Kerrigan loves travelling and organizes the annual Spring Break Trip for the Geology Club (see pages 6-10). For his efforts, Dr. Kerrigan was awarded the 2022-23 **Mountain Cat Award for Outstanding Faculty Advisor for a Student Club**. Dr. Kerrigan is resident of Richland with his family: wife, Jessica, sons Jack (9) and Grant (7), and dog Stella (11). When he is not doing geology, he loves hiking, travelling, and coaching youth sports (football, wrestling, and baseball).



Dr. Chris Coughenour

Dr. Chris Coughenour is a graduate of Drexel University with a B.S. in Physics (Pennoni Honors College) and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science with an emphasis on the stratigraphy and hydrologic controls on sedimentation in tidally-influenced streams (primarily in Cook Inlet, Alaska). Analyzing ancient cyclic tidal deposits to calculate long-term changes in the Moon's orbital distance and period has also been a recurring theme in his research. Fun fact: The Moon is receding from Earth at 3.8 cm/year (data from lunar ranging facilitated by the Apollo 11 mission).

Following completion of graduate studies, Dr. Coughenour served as a faculty member at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA for three years. He found his way to Pitt-Johnstown in 2013 and served as **EER Department Chair from 2014-2020**. Sedimentology, surface hydrology, and stratigraphy are continued interests at UPJ, with emphasis now on Johnstown-area sites and geoscience education. In September, the culmination of a 5-year project studying the Little Conemaugh watershed was published with colleague/alum Neil Coleman and alum Anthony Taylor (who was a student researcher). Somehow, this was the first **peer-reviewed study of this historic flood-prone basin**. Aside from quantifying discharge recurrence, a long-term goal of the project is to highlight aging infrastructure and the continued peril that flooding poses to the region. The work also represents a continuation of 1889 flood research begun by the late Dr. Uldis Kaktins.

Dr. Coughenour is also pursuing a student-driven project on the petrology of the Loyahanna Limestone, a UPJ tradition! Is it marine or is it aeolian? Several students and alums have logged significant time collecting samples and performing literature reviews in preparation for grain size analysis from different regional localities, some with strong indicators of marine deposition (such as large brachiopods). This is a work in progress... Detailed clast size data in context can allow calculation of physical constraints on the transporting medium (air vs water), while analogs from modern systems in the literature can also help address the question.

Dr. Coughenour is the 2022-23 awardee of the **Division of Natural Sciences Edward A. Vizzini Educator of the year**. Dr. Coughenour lives in Somerset County with his wife and two children. He loves long walks on the beach (or anywhere there's interesting sediment), playing music, spending time with family and friends, and renovating an old house.

Steve Lindberg

Steve Lindberg is an adjunct instructor of geoscience in the Energy and Earth Resources Department, and began teaching at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown during the spring, 1997 semester. During the 2022-2023 fall and spring semesters Steve taught Physical Geology, Prehistoric Life, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Meteorology, and Geologic Field Methods. After retiring from public education in 2012, Steve was able to increase his course load at Pitt-Johnstown and spend more time pursuing his interests in geology; especially invertebrate paleontology and the regional geology of western Pennsylvania. Steve has been a member of the *National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)* since 1992; the same year he was awarded the eastern section's **Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for Pennsylvania** by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. Steve has twice served as president for the associations eastern section, and is currently the section president for 2023-2024. He organized the eastern section May, 2023 meeting held in Ithaca, New York and served as field trip leader for the three day conference. Steve will once again lead the spring, 2024 NAGT conference being held in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. He is a member of the *Geological Society of America* and attends the northeastern section meetings on a regular basis. Steve served as a field trip leader and speaker during the 2022 *Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists* field trips; and will do so again for the 2023 conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In November of 2023, the Pennsylvania chapter of the *Friends Of Mineralogy* will hold their annual symposium here at Pitt-Johnstown; Steve is assisting in the organization of the weekend event. As a geologist and geoscience educator; Steve maintains a strong commitment to bring geoscience education to both students and others. Steve routinely arranges field trips for Pennsylvania rock and mineral clubs to the New Paris Limestone Quarry in Bedford County, which serves as a geoscience educational site. Some of his more recent geologic excursions include assisting EER department chair Dr. Ryan Kerrigan on spring break field trips to Iceland (2016), Scotland (2018), and a March 2022 trip to Hawaii.



Deb Pietrantonio Donahue

Deborah Donahue is an adjunct instructor and teaches Physical Geology, lecture and lab at Pitt Johnstown. For the past several years she has also taught Integrated Science for the Education Department, a required class for all education majors. One of her goals in teaching this class is to instill in our future teachers an appreciation of science and especially geology. In the spring, she volunteers at workshops for local school districts teaching orienteering/map reading in an outdoor environment. These workshops are for both elementary and high school students and are sponsored by Brandywine Conservancy. She also volunteers in various capacities for the adult nights at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. Recently, she spent eight days exploring the glacial valleys and jagged cliffs of Ireland with her adult children.



Neil Coleman

Since retiring from the NRC in 2010, Neil has continued teach our geophysics course whenever it is offered, and has authored and co-authored a number of papers and abstracts on Mars hydrology and also on the present and historical hydrology of the Little Conemaugh River. He maintains his P.G status in Pennsylvania, attends the annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists, and serves as a peer reviewer for various geoscience journals. In 2019, Neil published a book on the Johnstown flood titled "**Johnstown's Flood of 1889 – Power Over Truth and the Science Behind the Disaster**" (Springer International). In June of 2023 he will represent our department at a GSA Penrose Conference on "The Role of Outburst Floods in Earth and Planetary Evolution."



Former Faculty News



Dr. Bill Brice

Professor Emeritus Dr. William R. (Bill) Brice, a Florida native, has degrees from the University of Florida (B.S. physics and mathematics, 1958); University of Tasmania (Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; Diploma of Education, 1965); and from Cornell University (M.S.T, 1968; Ph.D. 1971). He joined the faculty at UPJ in September of 1971. From 1976-2002 he was a member of the summer geology faculty at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. During a sabbatical in 1978 he served as a Visiting Lecturer at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education and was a Visiting Research Associate in the Geology Department at the University of Tasmania. In 1992 and 2001 he was a visiting lecturer and researcher at the State University at Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Brice received the **Dr. Edward A. Vizzini Teacher of the Year Award** from the Division of Natural Sciences in 2003 and **President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004**. The Fall Term of 2005, his last term of teaching before retirement, Dr. Brice taught on the Semester-at-Sea program with 28 other faculty and 700 students on a 100-day voyage around the world. He retired from UPJ in December 2005.

Since retirement, he has been active with the Petroleum History Institute and continues doing research in the history of the petroleum industry, especially in Pennsylvania. His biography of **Edwin Drake, Myth, Legend, Reality; Edwin Laurentine Drake and the Early Oil Industry** (2009), received two awards: The **John A. Mather Award** (2010) from the Friends of Drake Well, Titusville, Pennsylvania, and the first annual **Yellow Dog Award** (2011) for excellence in oil history from the Parkersburg Oil & Gas Museum, Parkersburg, West Virginia. In September 2013, Dr. Brice was one of only four invited speakers from the United States at the 2nd Annual Nobel Brothers' International Research-Innovative Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. He served as a consultant for the Baku Media Center in Azerbaijan in June 2018 for the film, *Heritage*, about the Nobel Brothers and their early oil empire in Azerbaijan and Europe.



Terry McConnell in Iceland standing above an earthquake fracture that opened up in a mall in southern Iceland.

Terry McConnell

Professor McConnell began work with the department when she was hired in April 1987 as stockroom supervisor for the Departments of Chemistry and Geology & Planetary Science. Prof. McConnell earned a B.S. in Geology at IUP and had done graduate work in petroleum geology at the University of Colorado. She also gained valuable experience working for five years as a wellsite geologist for Martin Oil Service in Boulder, Colorado before joining us at UPJ. Teresa has advised numerous students and taught many courses for the department, including Oceanography, Environmental Geology and the general geology classes. After the fall of 2021, Prof McConnell decided to retire from Pitt-Johnstown. While she is not teaching, she is still active amongst the rock rooms of Krebs Hall.

Note from Prof. McConnell: I was thrilled to be in Iceland this past March with the Geology Club Spring break trip. Even if it was a bit cold. I do miss my colleagues and the students. I've been staying busy in retirement working at Lost Valley Farm with my husband Bill. When I get a chance I go ice skating, hiking and/or biking and forever rockhounding.

In Memoriam: Sean Sherlock 1963-2020

UPJ Adjunct Professor 1998-2005



Sean graduated from Johnstown Vo-Tech School in 1981. He went on to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown where he earned his B.S. in Natural Sciences and Geology in 1984. He subsequently earned his M.S. in Geology from Northern Arizona University in 1986 and his Ph.D. in Geology from West Virginia University in 1997. From 1998 to 2005 Sean taught at Pitt-Johnstown as instructor of Structural Geology. He worked as a Professional Geologist in Environmental Consulting for well over 30 years, ultimately owning and operating his own consulting company, Allegheny Geosciences. Sean was an excellent geologist and wonderful person to be around, he will be greatly missed.

The Sherlock Collection

In the fall of 2019, Sean donated a over sixty pieces of mining equipment to the Pitt-Johnstown Department of Energy and Earth Resources. Most of the collection pieces are mining equipment that had been by his family for years, some of which had been used in the mines underlying the Pitt-Johnstown Campus. These items are used as teaching resources for several classes bringing great educational value.



Geology Club Trip To Iceland!!!!

Spring Break: March 4th - 12th, 2023

This year the Pitt-Johnstown spend eight days in Iceland for a great trip of geology, basalts, geysirs, waterfalls, basalts, hot springs, lava tubes, basalts, geothermal power plants, volcanoes, and more basalts! It was an amazing trip with a great group. Fourteen students attended, mostly geology majors, with a few non-majors (but hopefully we did a good job recruiting them!).



Our group on Day 1 Stop 1 at the Bridge between Two Continents. North American crust is on the right and European crust is on the left.



Dr. Kerrigan showing off beautiful pillow basalts at Valahnukamol cliffs



The group in front of Hallgrímskirkja in Reykjavik

Geology Club Trip To Iceland!!!!

Itinerary



Our club did this trip in 2016 and then attempted to do this trip in 2020. In 2020, the trip was cancelled two days before we were about to board the plane. It was such a disappointment as were many things during the Covid Era. Our 2023 trip roughly followed the same path as the 2016 trip. Dr. Kerrigan likes to assemble pretty extensive field guidebooks for the trips. If you're interested in learning more, visit Dr. Kerrigan website: https://rjkerrigan.com/geology_club.html

TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, March 4th, 2023 – Board flight

Day 2: Sunday, March 5th, 2023 – Reykjanes Peninsula

- STOP 2.1 - The Bridge between Two Continents
- STOP 2.2 - Valahnúkamöl Cliff
- STOP 2.3 - Gunnuhver Hot Spring
- STOP 2.4 - Grindavik
- STOP 2.5 - Fagradalsfjall Volcano

Day 3: Monday, March 6th, 2023 – Grindavik to Vestmannaeyjar

- STOP 3.1 - LAVA Centre
- STOP 3.2 – Vestmannaeyjar - Heimaey
- STOP 3.3 – Eldheimar Volcano Museum

Day 4: Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 – Heimaey to the Rift Valley

- STOP 4.1 – Elephant Rock
- STOP 4.2 – Pirate Cove & Storföldi
- STOP 4.3 – Eldfell Volcano

Day 5: Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 – Waterfalls, Glaciers, and Vik

- STOP 5.1 – Vik

STOP 5.2 – Renisfjara Beach

STOP 5.3 – Dyrholaey Viewpoint

STOP 5.4 – Sólheimajökulsvegur Glacier

STOP 5.5 – Skógafoss waterfall

STOP 5.6 – Seljalandsfoss waterfall

Day 6: Thursday, March 9th, 2023 – Rift, Waterfalls, & Geysirs

- STOP 6.1 – Þingvellir National Park
- STOP 6.2 – Geysir
- STOP 6.3 – Gulfoss
- STOP 6.4 – Secret Lagoon Hot Springs

Day 7: Friday, March 10th, 2023 – Lava Tube, Power Plant, and Reykjavik

- STOP 7.1 – Raufarhólshellir Lava Tube
- STOP 7.2 – Hellisheiði Power Plant
- STOP 7.3 - Reykjavik

Day 8: Saturday, March 11th, 2023 – Free Day in Reykjavik

Day 9: Sunday, March 12th, 2023 – Sky Lagoon, and return home

- STOP 9.1 – Sky Lagoon Geothermal Spa

Geology Club Trip To Iceland!!!!



Picture taken at Reynisfjara Beach, Southern Iceland in front of fantastic basaltic columnar jointing. At this beach we randomly ran into Pitt-Johnstown Alumna, Trish Garing '91 journalism and political science (front row, center) who was there vacationing with her family!

Back row – Avery Freed, Jessica Miller, Jade Smith, Olivia Weaver, Aleya Shreckengost, Holly Garrett, Nick Smith, Chris Howard, Tyler Smith. *Front Row* – Ryan Kerrigan, Ryan Kelly, Courtney Roxby, Trish Garing, Nick Scelsi, Ann Schaefer, KC Kohler, Ilia Galasso.



Geology Club Group in front of Sólheimajökulsvegur Glacier

Geology Club Trip To Iceland!!!!



We visited many waterfalls, here is some of our group in front of Seljalandsfoss waterfall



Our group took the ferry to the Vestmannaeyjar Isalnds to Hei-maey to see the destruction from the 1973 eruption of Eldfell



We visited many hot springs, here we are in front of the Gunnhver Hot Spring



We were able to visit the most recent 2021-22 eruption fields of the Fagradalsfall Volcano



We got a tour of the Raufarhólshellir Lava Tube



One of the highlights was the amazing views of the Aurora Borealis from the countryside in Iceland

Departmental Awards



April 22nd, 2023: Geology Banquet at the Boulevard Grill—Students presented pictures from the Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Iceland. It was a great gathering of colleagues, friends, and family to honor award winners and recent graduates. Alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Jonathan Lee Groft Memorial Scholarship Fund

Tyler Smith (pictured with Jason and Judy Groft) received this year's Jonathan Groft Award, given to a geology major that demonstrates a true passion for geology. Awarded in memory of Jonathan Groft who was taken from us too soon in 1996.



Dr. Uldis Kaktins Memorial Field Methods Scholarship Fund

Nick Scelsi (pictured with Nina Kaktins) received this year's Dr. Kaktins Field Scholarship which is given to a student that truly enthusiastic about field geology and field research. Given in the memory of late UPJ Geology Prof Uldis Kaktins.



Dr. William R. Brice Award for Excellence in Geology

Chris Howard (pictured with Dr. Bill Brice) received this year's Brice Award given to the junior geology student showing great promise and demonstrating excellence in their academics. Chris is involved with research and is a great student!



Department of Energy and Earth Resources College Scholar

Olivia Weaver (pictured with Dr. Kerrigan and Prof. Coleman) received this year's College Scholar Award given to the high performing senior geology student. Olivia has been a great student and we look forward to the great things she will do in her career.

Graduating Seniors



Drew Scarbro, Graduated Fall 22

Drew started off as an engineering student but quickly realized it was not what he was looking for and soon he found himself in geology! Drew took almost all the courses offered in geology and he was always a pleasure to have in class. He always made class fun with his witty comments and probing questions. While at Pitt-Johnstown, Drew interned at the PennDOT where he learned valuable surveying skills. Recently, Drew just started a job as a Field Geologist at AGES.

Tyler Bontrager, Graduated Spring 23

After starting his geology education at IUP, Tyler made the smart move of transferring to finish his geology degree at Pitt-Johnstown. Tyler completed his degree in Energy and Earth Resources with an Environmental Concentration. Tyler interned at Mountain Research in Altoona, where he gain valuable experience in environmental consulting, drilling, and environmental sampling. Tyler is an excellent drone operator and incorporated those skills into his senior project examining acid mine drainage remediation. Tyler hopes to get a job working in the environmental assessment and remediation field.



Olivia Weaver, Graduating Spring 23



Olivia has been one of our stand-out leaders and top-performers since joining our major. She has completed internships at the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and DNCR Bureau of State Parks. She has received just about every award you can get at Pitt-Johnstown including the Brice Award for Excellence in Geology, College Scholar, University Scholar, among others. Olivia's presence will be greatly missed, she always set the bar very high for her classmates. Her senior project on Acid Mine Drainage in the Portage Area, was one of the best senior projects we have had in a while. Olivia has accepted a position at Hedin Environmental where she will work on AMD remediation and recently earned her G.I.T.

Colin Nesbella, Graduating Fall 23

Colin comes from a non-traditional background where he worked in industry for several years earning various certificates in drafting, electrical work, and industrial motor control. He returned to university to find a career path that truly suited his interests. Colin is one of the hardest workers we have had in recent years, always making sure he understood the complex topics in front of him. Colin is a past recipient of the Groft and Kaktins Field Scholarships and he has been active in undergraduate research, working with Dr. Coughenour on sedimentary petrology of the Loyalhanna limestone.



Courtney Roxby, Graduating Fall 23



Courtney has been a great student! She will be graduating with an Energy (Geology) concentration, a Geography minor, and a certificate in Geographical Information Systems. For her senior project she completed an excellent climatic study of Glacier National Park and this summer she will be interning at El Cap Cave in Tongass National Forest outside of Juneau, Alaska. These opportunities have set her up well for a career in the National Park/Forest system, the career path she will be pursuing after graduation.

Alumni News

There are a lot of random pictures that have been kept within the department showing field trips, students studying and presenting, and general shenanigans. I figured I would add a few in here. Some are labelled with names, others are not. If you could help us fill in some of the missing names, that would be great.



1975 Geology Trip near Paria, Utah.

Standing (L-R) Paul Bucceri, Pat Buell, Jeff Mazur, Pat Sendlosky. *Seated (L-R)* Dennis Mehall, Merle Lauer (Instructor), Ed Fiffick, Linda Pearson, George Katrancha (wearing hat), Sharon Wilt, Jean Usnik (back), Sally Dick (M.D. – Adult Student), Shirley Sholtis, Betty Blasko, Dr. William Brice.

Joan Hawk '78

Joan has mapped the mined-out areas and remaining coal resources of Cambria County, PA, (Cambria County Mineral Assessment Office), explored and mapped coal reserves for the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company (formerly of Indiana, PA) and as an engineering geologist for L. Robert Kimball & Associates (Ebensburg, PA) and CME (Greensburg and Somerset, PA), she has investigated subsurface conditions for major transportation and large construction projects as well as landslide and deep-mine subsidence mitigation projects. After a career of exploring the subsurface, Joan and her husband Jerry, also a UPJ graduate, own Bedford Fine Art Gallery in Bedford, PA—exploring the wonderful world of 19th century art.

Michael Layton '79 (and UPJ Geology Adjunct '02-'08)

Recently retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission after nearly 30 years of service. I'm currently working part-time for Advanced Systems Technology and Management assisting with training and development for international nuclear regulators. My spare time is spent watching grandchildren and being the humble man-servant to my wife Jane, who is still working.

Ed Dobson '80 (1957-2022)



Edward A. Dobson, 65, Altoona, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2022. Ed was a graduate of Cumberland Valley High School and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown in 1980 as a geologist. In 1990, he married Pauline Beamer in Camp Hill, PA. After college he worked at Benetec Engineering in Camp Hill. He retired as the President of Mountain Research in 2012 after 24 years of service. Ed was a member of Altoona Sunrise Rotary, Altoona Corvette Club, New Mexico Geological Society, the Laurel Highlands American Wine Society and the Presidents Forum of Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Local Emergency Planning Committee and volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. Many of us will remember Ed from the Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists as he was a long-time attendee and supporter. He also made frequent appearances at the New Mexico Geological Society Fall Field Conference. Ed enjoyed traveling the world, rock hunting, playing with his Siberian Husky, Mishka, enjoying great wine with friends, and driving his corvette.

Pat Bowling '81

After 33 years, I retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in August 2020 having served as the State lead for source water protection since 2012. In 2021, I was appointed to the Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee, an advisory committee under the PA State Water Plan. Eileen and I still reside in historic Gettysburg and enjoy spending time with family (our younger son Noah Niedererr is a UPJ biology alum) and traveling to the Maryland shore. In my spare time, I assist with publicity for Eileen's traditional Irish folkband, Irishtown Road.

Glenn Johnson '82

Glenn has 39 years of varied international oil industry experience, working in South America, USA Gulf Coast, Europe, North and West Africa, Pakistan, Australia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Korea, and Malaysia. His work experience has primarily been in drilling operations as a senior Wellsite Exploration Geologist, Operations Geologist, MWD/FEWD engineer and Petroleum Geologist. Glenn has been assigned to the Southeast Asia region for the past 27 years and has experience of HPHT wells, Ultra-Deep-Water wells, down-hole logging while drilling technology, and experience with large MDT and Wireline programs. His MDT experiences included preparing MDT pre-test and sampling programs for HPHT wells with temperatures more than 450 degrees Fahrenheit and formation pressures more than 19,000-psia. The MDT programs also included using conventional sampling, low-shock sampling techniques, and dual probe sampling techniques with Quick-Silver and Extra-Large Diameter probes and mini-DST using dual packers. Glenn has 23 years of extensive experience in hydrocarbon evaluation and fracture identification within the Igneous Basement reservoirs of Vietnam and he has worked on most of the Basement plays in Vietnam. Glenn is happily retired and living in Singapore.

George Klug '82

Studied under the leadership of Dr William R Brice, Dr Harold Fry and Dr Uldis Kaktins. Currently residing in Green Valley AZ with wife Courtney. Career shift in 2020 to Behavioral health in case management serving others with mental health and substance abuse treatment. UPJ years were the best in my life!!



1983-84 Geology Club

Back Row (L-R) Sam Baughman, Jeff Kelly, Barry Beatty, Beverly Behrenberg, Leslie Skibinski, Thomas Mastrorocco. Front Row (L-R) Sean Sherlock, Jeff Ciocco, John Hawk, Rus Devan, Paul Barsoum.

Alumni News (cont.)

Roger Fairbank '83

Currently lives in Irwin, PA (outside Pittsburgh). Working for AWK Consulting Engineers, Inc. in Turtle Creek, PA for the past 31 years as a project manager specializing in geotechnical design projects. Professional Geologist licensed in Pennsylvania. Married, father of 6 adult kids, and grandfather of 7. Hobbies include hiking, camping, and enjoying everything outdoors.

Aaron Keno '83

UPJ Geology graduate in 1983 and married to fellow UPJ business graduate Margie Harris. We have two grown children and five grandchildren. Our son is a civil engineer and daughter is a board-certified behavioral analyst (BCBA). Aaron worked in OK, PA, WV, OH, and Virginia on land development, utility, and storm-water projects and eventually focused in water supply, dams, hydraulics, and pumping systems. Aaron retired in 2020 with 30 years of service as a VP and owner with Gannett Fleming, Inc. (based in Harrisburg, PA) and an international AEC Design Consulting company and Top 10 ENR ranked firms in dams. He is a registered Professional Engineer in several states.

Anne Veeger '83

Married to Patrick Craft, also UPJ class of 1983, and we live in RI. Although I still work at the University of Rhode Island, I'm no longer in a faculty position, but now work as Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Initiatives. I miss teaching geology, but do not miss the grading!

Sam Baughman '85

I have been consulting in the Lancaster area for almost 15 years, mostly stormwater infiltration, karst evaluations, sinkhole remediation, and hydrogeology. Since leaving UPJ, I have worked many EPA Superfund sites, large dams, PennDOT projects and received my master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. UPJ geology gave me the foundation for a career of diverse experience.

Tom Mastrococco '85

Tom is alive and well living in Jeannette, PA and happily working toward retirement at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, (USDOJ-OSMRE) in Pittsburgh. He's been with "OSM" for 25 years this year! Prior to that he served as GIS Coordinator for Dare County, NC, and as a mapping requirements analyst for the Defense Mapping Agency, (USDOD-DMA), currently known as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He's worked in GIS since 1995, and for many years now has worked on projects involving Acid Mine Drainage remediation of abandoned underground coal mines across the coalfields of the Eastern US. He specializes in underground mine map interpretation in the context of the hydro-dynamic nature of mine pools (flooded abandoned mines).

Scott Gallaher '86

Scott Gallaher, PG, presently employed by TRC Companies as a SR Vice President, responsible for national and international management of TRC practices of Construction Management, Construction Engineering & Inspection, Construction Inspection Materials (Steel & Concrete), and Geotechnical Drilling, with offices across the United States, and in Shanghai China. When I am not on the road, I reside in Somerset County PA. I am an Avid Deer Hunter, Motorcyclist, and snow skier — got 50 days in this year across 8 resorts from VT to CO. I can be located on LinkedIn.

Mark Hajas '86

For the past 24 years, I've been employed as a Geologist for the Maryland Dept. of the Environment (MDE). Since 2007, I've worked in the Mining Program at the Frostburg Bureau of Mines Field Office reviewing coal permit applications, conducting water supply investigations to evaluate alleged or actual mining impacts to wells, springs, and streams, and preparing Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment Reports evaluating whether or not proposed surface or deep coal mining operations may result in hydrologic impacts, preparing other related technical reports from data collection, information tracking and GIS mapping, and having communication with the coal industry, private consultants, and other federal and state agencies on a regular basis. From 1999-2006, I worked in the MDE Water Supply Program at the Baltimore Main Office, where I



1990-91 Geology Club

Back Row (L-R) Doug Lehman, Martin Picklo, Bill Tinsmith, Dave Zwastetzky, Brian Beltz, Chuck Rhine, Bob Kulp, Dr. Uldis Kaktins, Aaron Neff, Matt Brindle. Front Row (L-R) Ron Strushensky, Jocelyn Lewis, Becky Gibson, Kate White

prepared Source Water Assessment Reports for various public water systems throughout MD, reviewed and evaluated Water Appropriation & Use applications, and approved well siting locations for various public water systems throughout MD. After graduating from UPJ in 1986, I worked as a Geologist/Technician in the Geotechnical Engineering Field at various MD & PA consulting firms for 7 years and as a Research Technician at the Johns Hopkins University for 6 years, where I also attended evening school advancing my degree in Environmental Sciences. I got married in 2000, and in my free time, I play league softball, pickleball, and trumpet in the Potomac Concert Band and at various churches in Frostburg, MD, Donegal, and Latrobe, PA where I'm originally from.

Ron Musser '87

Ron is Vice-President and Chief Hydrogeologist at Musser Engineering in Central City, PA with over 35 years of experience in the environmental consulting field. He is past President and Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Mining Professionals, a Statewide organization comprised of scientific professional who often act as liaisons between government officials and the mining community. He is also serving as a Member of the Ohio Basin Regional Water Resources Committee under appointment by the Governor's Office. Personally, I am married with a son and daughter and one grandson. When not working, I enjoy fishing, kayaking and spending time at our cabin on High Point Lake.

Tracy Barnhart (Buck) '90

I was born and raised in Johnstown and graduated from UPJ in 1990. I started working full-time immediately after graduation at AASHTO re:source (formerly AMRL) in Gaithersburg, MD as a Laboratory Assessor. As an Assessor, I had the opportunity to travel all over the United States and Canada to perform audits at construction materials testing laboratories. I have been to every state for work except Alabama and Mississippi! I still work at AASHTO re:source, 33 years later, and have been the Quality Manager there since 2006. Our office is now located in Frederick, MD. My husband, Jimmy, and I have been married for almost 16 years and currently live in Clear Spring, MD. We own and operate two small businesses in Hancock, MD - Barnhart's Lawn & Garden and C&O Bicycle. I have actually run into a few UPJ Geology alumni at the bike shop over the years!

Alumni News (cont.)

Robert Kulp '91

After degrees from MCCC, UPJ (BS), WCU (MS) I ended up as a Cider Press Operator at Bauman Family LLC. I published 8 abstracts and presented poster sessions at various National GSA meetings. I researched my family history, my ancestors were wheelwrights for 5 generations, circa 1765 to 1929. I also learned the wheelwright trade with my twin brother. I am in the final stages of my research into the igneous and contact metamorphic rocks of the Gettysburg and Newark Basins of Pennsylvania. I did geochemistry on 87 samples of the igneous rocks. This research is based on 5 of my 8 GSA abstracts. I have found several unmapped ultramafic bodies in Chester County. I am currently exploring these areas.

David Miller '93

Currently residing in Rural Valley, PA. Working as Vice President of Operations/COO of Kerogen Resources LLC which is an oil and gas exploration and production company. Enjoying spending time traveling and with friends and family.

Erin Palko '93

I have been in the environmental consulting industry since 1999, and currently work for Integral Consulting Inc. located in Moorestown, New Jersey (never thought I would end up in in the Coastal Plain). Post UPJ, I spent 2 years in the AmeriCorps Program working to categorize and characterize mine drainage in the rural south east/south central counties. It was the best job ever. Following AmeriCorps, I headed to East Carolina University for my MS in Geology. I have had the privilege of being able to live out my geology travel dreams including digging up a dinosaur in Patagonia and visiting a lot of National Parks around the world. One of my most treasured possessions from UPJ is my copy of Groundwater and Wells that Dr. Kaktins gifted to me on one of my visits back to campus.

Matt Brindle '94

I'm living in Carlisle, PA with wife and three kids, teaching middle school science. I'm the State Coordinator for Reel Recovery, an international non-profit that provides fly fishing retreats for men battling cancer. Fly fishing, backpacking, and climbing in my spare time.

Aaron Neff '94

I am starting a new job at Hurlburt field Florida but I'm aircraft maintenance. I don't do geology anymore. I've been doing aircraft maintenance since I was in the air force in 1995.

Robert Podgorney '94

Dr. Robert Podgorney serves as a senior advisor and fellow in the advanced scientific computing division at the Idaho National Laboratory, leading a diverse team of scientists and engineers focused on developing computational tools and frameworks for energy related applications. His personal research interests center on energy and water related issues, focusing on investigations of fluid flow, heat transport, and mechanics in fractures and fracture networks and the development of massively parallel simulators for describing these systems. He has a doctorate in geology (multiphase fluid flow, computational fluid dynamics) from the University of Idaho, and serves as Chair for Numerical Modeling Working Group of the International Partnership for Geothermal Technology, a multinational coordination effort focused on advancing geothermal energy.

Dennis Ritko '94

Been working in Environmental Safety and Occupational Health consulting/contracting since graduation (1994). Started out at IT Corporation in Pittsburgh, then a couple other positions, until landing at Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) in Johnstown in 2006, now a Technical Manager on various US DoD contracts. Three kids, ages 25, 23 and 15. Wife Jackie and I will be celebrating our 28th year wedding anniversary this June. Started a small rock and mineral lapidary shop in my basement in early 2020 (pandemic project), and it's going well.

Sherry Stafford '95

I have been working for ExxonMobil for the last 17 1/2 years with a focus on Exploration and Research. In April, I moved to Bangalore, India to take a role as Geoscience Supervisor for the Reservoir Modeling and Unconventional Teams. I look forward to exploring a whole new set of rocks in Asia.



1997 Geomorphology Class Trip to Watkins Glenn

Back Row (L-R): Deb Meritt, Jeff Harmening, ???, ???, Chris Harasty?, Jason Floyd, Steve Ritenour, Geoffrey Jablonski, Brendan O'Donnell, Scott Poborsky, Todd Secala, Sam Baughman?. *Front Row (L-R):* Jackie Hockenberry, Laura Place (or DiCello?), Chris Brochey, Jen Jones, ???.

Lisa McCune-Noll '96

So my career, from the beginning, has been in the GIS and Photogrammetry industries, from digitizing flood zones and doing flood certs for clients at FZDS, to stereocompilation around the world and digitizing hydrologic features for the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) with BAE Systems, extraction of landcover features for The Multi-national Geospatial Co-production Program (MGCP) for Technographics, Inc, and now as a Senior Quality Analyst and Cartographer for the tech startup RoadBotics, Inc. As of last year, RoadBotics was acquired by the tire company Michelin for the Michelin Mobility Intelligence (MMI) division, and the integration is going amazingly! My husband and I are about to move to a 4+ acre homestead in Mercer County, PA and we're planning on baby goats in our future!

Jessica Ritenour (Bogle) '97

After graduating, I completed my Masters in Hydrogeology and then worked for a few years at a small environmental consulting firm in New Jersey. During that time, I got married to another UPJ alum and we moved to Northcentral PA in 2002 where I continued working in the environmental field. I have three children who are now 14, 15 and 19. I have worked for the last 20 years in the Environmental Cleanup Program at the Department of Environmental Protection and currently manage the Land Recycling Section.

Allision Scullo (Cabbage) '97

I live in West Deer, PA (just north of Pittsburgh). I'm married and have three boys (a 15 year old and 20 year old twins). I've worked in the robotics field for the last 20 years here in Pittsburgh as a project manager. I'm currently the director of PM at HEBI Robotics, a company that specializes in highly configurable, modular robots for testing and maintenance tasks, including for the oil and gas industry. When I'm not cooking, canning, or baking, you can find me in the woods foraging for all kinds of edible mushrooms or fishing with my boys.

Stephen Treschow '97

After graduating from UPJ in 1997, I began working for various environmental consulting firms in Pittsburgh. My work focused on environmental assessment/investigations, remediation, and water supply development. In 2001, I relocated to central Pennsylvania, got married, and started a new career path. My career focus shifted to surface mine permitting, acid mine drainage treatment, and storage tank removals/investigation/remediation/compliance for various consulting firms in Harrisburg, Altoona, and Philadelphia. I have a 10-year-old son, a chocolate lab, and an environmental consulting job that allows me to work from home in Hollidaysburg Pennsylvania. My current work is focused on PA Act II site cleanups, storage tank removals/compliance, and storage tank remediation.

Alumni News (cont.)



1999 Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology Field Trip

L-R: Steve Lindberg, Jeff Richards, Robert Kulp, Jeff Harmening, Michelle Mock, Dr. Brice (front), Ryan Portner (back), Alexander Mussio, Kerry Speelman, Nikolaus Hruska, Shane Huffman, Brad Huffman, Jason Floyd, and Sean Chelius

Jennifer (Davis) Jones '98

I'm a UPJ Geology alumni (December 1998). I am currently living in the DC metro area. I work for The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, in the Standards and Engineering Division. I am happy to have worked with other UPJ geology alumna throughout my career - starting at the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials and later at the American Petroleum Institute. You'll find UPJ Geology alumna currently working at both organizations.

Jason Floyd '99

I'm entering the 24th year of my environmental consulting career and my 18th year at Mountain Research where I'm the CEO / President / Chief Hydrogeologist. I'm also the 2024 president-elect and current board member of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists. My wife Angel and I started dating while we both were at UPJ, and we are now in our 24th year of marriage. Our oldest daughter Viktorya recently graduated from WVU and is starting her professional career in agricultural animal sciences in Chambersburg, and our youngest daughter Abygail is graduating high school in a few weeks and will enrolling at IUP in the fall for nursing. We are entering the world of empty nesters.

Jeff Harmening '99

I've been working for the American Petroleum Institute for the past 13 years, supporting their engine oil licensing program and helping industry to set performance standards for engine oils. Happily married with two high school aged daughters; one committed to WVU for Mathematics. My spare time is consumed by backpacking, mountain biking, fishing and any other excuse to be outdoors. Still collecting rocks (just not licking them as much), much to my family's chagrin.

Mike Hruska '99

I long for the days in labs and in the field! After a few years at NIST with a bunch of other Pitt grads, my brother Nik and I started a technology consulting and software engineering company (www.problemsolutions.net). We've been back in the Johnstown area since 2005 and build technology products and bespoke solutions for startups, F500 and government. I'm on the Advisory Board for Pitt Johnstown and remain Mountain Cat proud!

Jonathan Rihs '00

Currently working as a Senior Geologist/Project Manager with Hana Engineers and Consultants, LLC conducting environmental investigation/remediation work. The projects I work on are primarily with the U.S. Army



2003 Homecoming Parade - Geology Club

I don't know who any of these people are.... I just liked this one...

Corps of Engineers. I reside in Leesburg VA with my wife (also UPJ Alum) and three kids (one of which is an undergrad at Pitt).

Katey Shook '00

I am working as a Senior Project Manager/Geologist at Apex Companies, LLC. Working on a wide variety of environmental consulting and compliance projects. I am happily married and living in the woods of Armstrong County.

Tony Deluca '01

I have been working in the Geotechnical group for KU Resources for the last 4.5 years and really enjoy it. We are in Pittsburgh. That aside I've been pursuing other interests of endurance running, hiking, art, and music.

Renée (Farabaugh) Mazurek and John Mazurek '01

Renée and John live in Asheville, NC with their 8 chickens, 2 kids, and 1 cat. Renée previously taught geology at colleges and universities around Western North Carolina; currently she works for River Network, a national nonprofit, as the Resilient Communities Manager. John is a Hydrologic Technician for the U.S. Geological Survey - Water Mission Area, Asheville Field Office -- where he's worked for the last 15 years. They both enjoy being outside: being on or near the water, hiking/running the trails, and camping in the forests all around them.

Kevin Bogdan '04

I graduated with a M.Sc. in Geology from Auburn University in 2009. I spent my career in aggregate and industrial mineral mining both for industry and as a consultant. I joined the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in 2018 where I now serve as the Section Chief of the Mine Fire, Permitting, and Professional Services Section within the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. I live in Camp Hill, PA with my wife and our two children.

Eugene Cooney '04

I am currently living in Pittsburgh and I work for GAI Consultants, Inc. as a Senior Project Geologist. I work in the geotechnical group but also help the hydrogeology group out with fieldwork and reports. I am licensed as a PG in KY and PA, and planning to get licensure in other states in the future. I am doing great, just bought a house last year and have been busy with that.

Mike Crowe '05

I graduated from UPJ in 2005 with a B.S. in Geology and became a Licensed P.G. in 2011. After working for 14 years as a geologist and project manager for several env. consulting firms, I switched gears in 2019 and started a new career path in public service at the PADEP Cambria District Mining Office, Technical Section. In June 2023, I am very excited to be starting a new position with the PADEP Bureau of Abandoned Mines and Reclamation. Outside of work, I can be found spending time with my wife Heather and two daughters Emilia and Everly; helping coach softball with my daughters; or in the outdoors fishing and hunting. Each fall I continue to get my fill of the mountains by making the trek out west to hunt DIY archery elk in the backcountry.

Alumni News (cont.)

Patrick Connelly '06

After graduating from UPJ, I worked for the environmental consultant CDM Smith in Pittsburgh from 2006-2008, then in their New York City office from 2008-2016. I got married in 2016 and moved to Baltimore for my wife's job. I began working for the Maryland Department of the Environment in 2018, where I'm currently employed. I have a daughter, Sinéad, born in 2019.

Ryan Weller '06

Ryan Weller graduated UPJ in 2006 and started his career with various wellsite geology and consulting roles in Wyoming and Australia. In 2014 he returned to grad school at California State University Long Beach and completed an MS in silicious mudrock geochem and geomechanics. Now with Chevron, he's worked in operations geology, digital product management, and data science roles. He now lives with his wife in Houston, Texas where he enjoys coffee roasting, biking, and infrequent surfing opportunities.

Bill Snyder '07

I'm currently located in Brush Valley Twp. (Indiana County, PA). I've been working in consulting hydrogeology since 2006, currently as a Senior Hydrogeologist for ARM Group LLC. I primarily focus on Public Water Supply and Solid Waste permitting and compliance for our Water Resources practice area. In addition to working as a hydrogeologist, I own and operate our family's Scottish Highland beef cattle farm, also located in Brush Valley. When not consulting or farming I love spending time with my wife (Megan) and our two kids (Madison and Waylon).

Rayna Noel '08

I reside in Johnstown, PA with my husband and 3 kids. I am a resident folk artist at the Bottle Works where I teach. I work part time at The Write Cup coffee shop. I run my own small business, Simple Stitch, selling handmade items online and at local shops.

Aaron Yingling '08

I'm currently working in the Environmental/Engineering Consulting field as a Senior Project Geologist with KU Resources, Inc., based out of Duquesne, PA (Pittsburgh area). My work is primarily in site assessment and remediation, environmental due diligence, brownfield redevelopment, and regulatory compliance. I earned my PA PG License in 2014, and am also a licensed PG in Wisconsin, a Licensed Remediation Specialist (LRS) in West Virginia, and an FAA Certified Remote Pilot for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones). I have been married since 2015 to my wife Michelle, and we have a 4 year old son named Blaise. We currently live in Kennedy Township, PA (suburb of Pittsburgh).

Aaron Bierly '09

Aaron currently lives in Numidia, Pennsylvania and works for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Geological Survey. Recently published work include bedrock and surficial maps in a portion of the Triassic Newark basin in southern Bucks County. He is currently conducting fieldwork in the Catawissa Quadrangle located in north-central Pennsylvania. He will also be starting fieldwork this summer on the upper Devonian through Mississippian strata adjacent to the western edge of the Broadtop Coal Field. When not working Aaron enjoys fishing, geocaching, kayaking, and gardening.

Andrew Hutsky '09

I am an Associate Professor of Geology in the Biological and Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Mount Union. I was just promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure and serve as the lead of the Environmental Sciences program. I am also currently working on research with Aaron Bierly ('09) of the PA DCNR, focusing on the sedimentology, stratigraphy, and palynology of the Devonian Catskill Formation in north-central Pennsylvania.

Frank Kamanocky '10

After graduating from UPJ in 2010, I worked in environmental consulting for 3 years before returning to WVU to pursue a MS in Geology. While at WVU, I interned with Chevron in Midland, TX and joined full-time upon graduation in 2014. From 2014 to 2020 I was an Asset Development geologist drilling unconventional wells in the Permian Basin, where I got to use geophysics to look for karst! I felt like I was back in Neil Coleman's class. Then, in 2020, I moved to Houston, TX for a Gulf of Mexico Exploration Geologist role, and in a couple months I will be moving to our Egypt Exploration Team.

Katie Brust (Neff) '12

Currently working as a Project Geologic Specialist at American Geotechnical & Environmental Services Inc. in Canonsburg, PA. In charge of training all new employees to obtain their certificate as a PennDOT Test Boring Inspector. Will be celebrating 10 years at AGES INC in January 2023! Married Zac Brust in May 2019 and welcomed our first child, Blake Emerson Brust in August of 2022.

Kaitlyn Figure (Stuckert) '12

I've been working at The University of Pittsburgh since September 2012. My current role is Assistant Registrar overseeing course, class, and room scheduling for the university. This summer, I'm beginning a Master's program in Public Policy and Management through the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at Pitt. I live in Plum, PA with my husband Tom and two sons, Greyson (4) and Camden (1).

Kevin Claycomb '13

I am a 2013 graduate from UPJ. I currently am a professional geologist in the state of PA and work for New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co., Inc as a Mine Planning Geologist. My primary role is to calculate reserves and mine designs. I have been married for 10 years to my wife Olivia and we have 3 kids (Jack-8, Emelia-6, and Jameson-4). We currently live in Everett, PA

Samantha Holtzinger (Kephart) '15

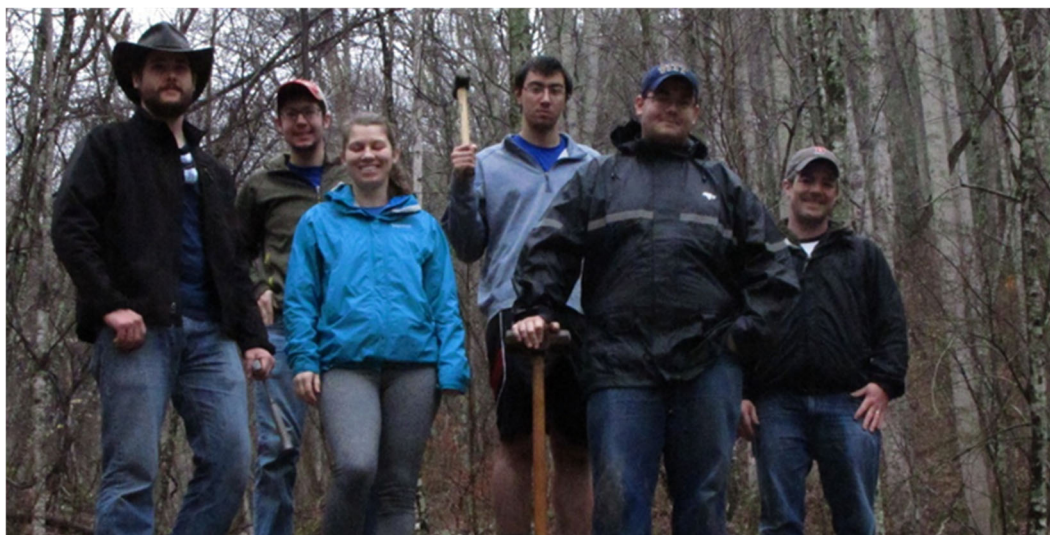
Sam is a Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Savannah District where she oversees the construction of federal civil works water infrastructure projects including the Tybee Island Coastal Protection Project, Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project. She is currently pursuing her Professional Geologist license and Project Management Professional certification. Samantha just recently celebrated 10-years of federal service supporting missions at the USGS, EPA, and USACE. She currently resides in Brunswick, Georgia with her husband Brian.

Matt Gerber '15

I am a Purchasing Manager for a steel distribution company, Glosser Steel, where I have been traveling the local area and across the country doing deals with large steel mills and larger distribution houses. On the personal side, I bought a house here in Johnstown, PA with my wife and fellow UPJ Alum Melissa. We spend our time working on and restoring cars and taking them to local car shows.

John Belinda '16

After graduating from Pitt Johnstown in 2016, I went on to Point Park University for my Master of Science in Environmental Studies. I got married in 2018 and have two little girls, Amelia (3 yrs old) and Isabelle (1 yr old). We reside in Clinton, PA in Beaver County. From 2016 to 2019, I was a materials testing inspector, construction observer, and engineering construction inspector. We did soil compaction, concrete and asphalt testing, and roadway inspections for PennDOT. Multiple certifications were needed to inspect and test materials for the state and certain construction projects. Currently, I am the Water and Wastewater Inspector for



2015 Geology Club Spring Break Trip to North Carolina Taken at Ray Pegmatite Mine, Spruce Pine, NC
L-R: Kris Miller, Luke Layton, Leah Marko, Andrew Barchowsky, Matt Gerber, and Ryan Kerrigan

Alumni News (cont.)



2019 Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Ecuador - Picture taken in front of ash flow from Mount Chimborazo
L-R: Jen Hlivko, Kyle Molnar, Ryan Kerrigan, Jessica Miller, Abby Wess, Alex Hockensmith, Susan Ma, Kyle Sarver, Jake Marsh, Tyler Newell, and Kim Waltermire

Moon Township Municipal Authority. I implement the regulations and specifications for the Authority. We are heavily involved with reporting to the DEP and EPA on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.

Matt Leger '17

I have been working as a Laboratory Technician at Conti Testing Labs for about a year and a half, and have not stopped learning new tests for coal, metallurgical coke, water, limestone, and a host of other materials. Since graduation I have married my fiance, now wife, Katrina, and very recently we closed on a house and moved in with our three cats: Birdie, Goose, and Benny. We have plans to travel to Japan soon, my love of volcanic islands has not waned!

Sam Louderback '17

Hey everybody, things have been interesting for me since getting out of UPJ. I have moved to the Williamsport area and am already dreading the August traffic for the LLWS. I am now with the Pennsylvania DEP in the Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields section. Kay and I are excited to announce that we will be getting married in September this year. Did everything a little backwards and got a house during the whole Covid strangeness followed by adopting a very dopey retired racing greyhound, formerly known as Penalty Box, now named Pendragon.

Tyler Norris '17

I am living in Columbus, Ohio. Since graduating with my M.S. in Geosciences from Western Michigan University in 2019, I have been working for the Ohio Geological Survey. I am involved mostly with surficial mapping and research work - ranging from using geophysics to model the subsurface to mapping and analyzing glacial deposits. Over the past several years I got married, adopted a dog, and bought a house!

Joe Ponticello '17

I have been working with Penn Environmental & Remediation, in the Philadelphia area since graduating. We are a very diverse environmental and engineering consulting firm. Since graduation I have a large amount of experience in the following type of projects: Remediation sites (Pump & Treat systems- design, install and operation), Geotechnical Drilling, Well Installs, Pump Tests, Bio and chemical remediation- injections, Act II Projects, Phase I&II, tank removals, spill response, Vapor Mitigation System design and installation among others. Being exposed to the types of work as listed above, my position has varied from project management and client relations to on-site construction and implementation of various field projects. Personally, I enjoy riding motorcycles, working out and playing ice hockey.

Lorin Simboli '17

After graduating from UPJ in 2017, I relocated to Georgia to pursue a career in Material Science as a Project Manager working for NAK Kiln Services. After 5 years at NAK, I began to miss geology. I recently passed the first ASBOG exam and I am looking for new opportunities to get back into geology. I am still happily living in Gainesville, GA, enjoying my time off before I start a new career in the north Georgia or southern Appalachian area.

Katie Roxby '18

I am currently living in Morgantown, WV. After UPJ I got my MS from Iowa State University and this past fall semester I decided to return to school at WVU for my PhD in Educational Theory and Practice with my focus being on Earth Science Education. This probably isn't surprising, but I still have one foot in the math world too. For the last year and a half, I have been working as a math tutor at a small tutoring business called Appleseed Tutoring. Personally, a lot has happened in the last year. I got married in March 2022 on Pi day (because I am truly a math nerd) and then a couple of months later in September my husband and I bought our house, which we are getting ready to start fixing up this summer. I've also gotten into rock climbing and caving since moving to WV and have been spending a lot of time exploring around the state.

Jen Hlivko '18

I am finishing my second year of graduate school working towards a masters degree in environmental studies and conservation biology at Antioch University New England in New Hampshire. My studies, while not geology, have had a geology focus several times. I even did a field course on coastal geoecology of Cape Cod which was amazing. Overall, I'm enjoying my studies and geology is still playing a role in my life, I still enjoy reading about geologic research and discoveries. Nonetheless, I can't wait to be done with my degree and hopefully find a job soon after!

Jake Marsh '19

After graduating in 2019 up until winter of 2022 I was involved with several different geology and environmental companies down south in Oklahoma and closer to home here in eastern PA. After trying out those opportunities, I decided to change career paths and get involved in the family business. I am currently managing commercial and residential rental properties. I have also recently started my own management business and purchased several properties here in the Richland area.

Anthony Taylor '19

I recently moved to Alaska with my girlfriend after finishing a contract in Utah (wow, what a drive!). I will start work in mineral exploration at a mining services company. Currently living in the Anchorage area and eventually would like to purchase a cabin in the northern part of the state. It is possible that I might work in Canada or other states at some point as well but for now Alaska has a lot of cool opportunities. As for personal, I have been enjoying a lot of hiking, kayaking, camping, snowboarding, road trips, and exploring national parks. Planning on getting a motorcycle license this summer as well.

Susan Ma '20

Currently, I am working at Lampire Biological Laboratory in Everett PA as Purification Production Supervisor. My current responsibilities include purifying animal serums, managing production schedules, and rewriting



2019 Structural Geology Field Trip - Picture taken at Laurel Creek Reservoir

From Left to right: Stone Lavrich, Joshua Landi, Brody Smay, Joshua Jones, Jonathon Cunningham, Derrick Hemminger, Abigail Chobany, Abigail Wess, and Olivia Toomey.

Alumni News (cont.)

SOPs. In my free time, I have been studying to get my CQIA (certified quality improvement associate) so I can eventually work towards getting into QA. Right now, my long term goal is to get into QA and become an auditor. As for my personal life I am trying to get into traveling more and was able to visit California and Las Vegas this year. Next year, I will be travelling to Japan.

Kyle Sarver '20

I'm currently still working at Keystone Environmental in Altoona as a Geologic Scientist or Technician, depending on the project. I plan to take, and hopefully pass, the P.G. exam this upcoming fall. After that, provided I pass, I'm slated to be a Project Manager. As far as my personal life goes, I bought a home in 2021 in Shawnee State Park, I've been in a steady relationship for about 2 years, and in my time off I've been traveling as much as I can. Only domestically lately though.

Abby Wess '20

Started working at Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. in Quakertown, PA as a Field Technician in the construction observation and testing department. I act as a third-party inspector/tester for clients to ensure compliance of the construction process according to plan specifications and test the density/compaction of structural backfill and asphalt, and I test concrete/grout in accordance with specifications. I recently started to help manage and calibrate our field equipment as well. Since starting with GTA, I have received my 10-hour OSHA, ACI, and PennDOT concrete and asphalt certs. In my spare time, I enjoy trying all the good restaurants in SEPA and getting out to Longwood Gardens, Lake Nockamixon, Green Lane, Wissahickon and Jim Thorpe.

Abby Chobany '21

I am currently teaching Earth Science and Physics at Portage Area High School, but not for long. I recently decided to attend the University of Nevada at Reno to pursue a doctoral degree in Geoscience! My research will begin this summer when I fly to Tibet for a month. When August comes, I will be moving to Nevada where my puppies and I are going to try to do as much hiking and exploring as possible. As much as I will miss my students and teaching in my hometown, I am excited for this amazing opportunity and can't wait to take this next big step!

Jon Rokicki '21

I'm in the Pittsburgh area working for Resource Environmental Solutions as a survey technician. The company focuses on restoring streams and wetlands across the US, but I mostly travel around PA, WV, and OH. I spend most of my work days outside collecting topographic data and the rest of the time processing the data on the computer for our stream designers. I plan on moving into the design department soon, which is more hydrology and sediment transport oriented.

Shane Sikora '22

I am doing very well at the moment. I still live locally in the Forest Hills area, but I am currently looking to buy a small starter house for myself somewhere nearby. I am actually currently working for the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) at SCI Somerset as a Corrections Officer! I just started this past December, and it is going very well so far. I am really liking it, and since I have a 4 year degree, it will allow me to go into many different avenues within the PADO. Other than work, I've been enjoying my usual hobbies of hunting and fishing. I've also been filming all of my hunts and posting them on YouTube to my channel "Backwoods Brothers", so that's also been keeping me busy between work and everything else. Overall, I've been doing very well and staying busy!

Rhianna Thomas '22

I currently work at EnviroTrac Ltd.'s Warrendale office as a Staff Scientist! I spend about half my time in the field doing groundwater sampling, Phase I and Phase II Investigations, well installations, geotechnical oversight, and UST closures. I travel a bit to surrounding states for different jobs as well. The other half, I work on getting reports out the door to our clients. Since graduation last year, I switched from a laboratory job at Eurofins to a field and office job, I moved closer to the city in an apartment, and am preparing to the FG exam this fall.

Thank you all for contributing and helping me assemble this Alumni Update Section. Please forward this newsletter to other UPJ Geology Alums and encourage them to contact us!

Also, if you have any group pictures from Field Trips, please forward them so we can include them on future newsletters!



UPJ Geology Alumni and Present Students at the 2022 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists

From Left to right: Tony Deluca, Pat Bowling, Mark Kiem, Mike Layton, Chris Coughenour, Aaron Bierly, Joan Hawk, Neil Coleman, Jocelyn Spencer, Jeff Ciocco, Jackie Hockenberry, Jim Marhefka, Colin Nesbella, Chris Howard, Nick Scelsi, and Tyler Smith

Keep us Updated!

When you have a moment please send Dr. Kerrigan (kerrigan@pitt.edu) the following information:

Name:

Year of Graduation:

Current Email:

Current Address:

Current Job (Company and Title):

Department History



Professor Neil Coleman has been meticulously cataloging the history of the Geology Department at Pitt-Johnstown. You can find his departmental history document at the website below:

<http://monsterquest.com/>

Lost but not Forgotten

We have had great luck tracking down many of you but there are still many we have lost touch with. If you know any of the following alumni could you have them contact Dr. Kerrigan? This is definitely not a complete list of graduates, we are working to complete all of the missing records. If you can see I am missing people, please let me know. It would be greatly appreciated and will strengthen our Alumni network. Thanks!

1974

Felbinger, John

1975

Ewing (Wilt), Sharon
Katrancha, George
Oldham, Dave
Pfeiffer (VanValkenberg), Anita
Sholtis, Shirley
Zielinski, Denis

1976

Fiffick, Ed
Gallo, David
Hagadorn (Knepper), Donna
Horne, Mark
Mazur, Jeff
Silko, Dave
Stern (Buell), Patricia
Usnik, Jean

1977

Laughrey, Chris
Ninesteel, John
Phillips, Gonzell
Pongrac, Tom
Sincak, Mike

1978

Gibson, Don
Lizanic, Ted
Sendlosky, Pat
Smithmeyer, John

1979

Boes, Chris
Cunningham, Ralph
Paresi, Bill
Peters, John
Slonka (Suboleski), Joan
Zubal, John

1980

Bachovchin, Tom
Borkowski, Rick
Bunk, Gregory
Miller, David
Pfahl, Dan
Shaw, Bruce
Wilcox, Rick
Wolfson, Rick

1981

Cairns, Tim
Conn, Greg
Hawk, Jon
Marsh, Roger
Mehall, James
Salay, Mark
Steele, Brian
Thomas, David
Vomero, Lisa

1982

Barlock, Denise
Hinich, Jo
Hockensmith, Brenda
Mourey, Thomas
Rys, Mark

1983

Bowers, Josh
Claycomb, Joan
Hawkins-Lint, Brenda
Kinback, Jerry

1984

Badowski, Tom
Baldassare, Alfred James
Beam, Rich
Carroll, Christine
Ciocco, Jeff
Hrapchak, Don
Hughes, Harry
Ledney, Charles
Lewellen, Ronald
Lydic, Allen
Manges, Eric
McLaughlin, Laura
Roberts, Scott
Strzempka, Chris

1985

Devan, Russ

1986

Beahr, Todd
Ford, Andrew

1987

Baumgardner, Steven

1988

Johnson, Sherri
Lehman, Richard

1989

Cole, Kathleen
Kennedy, Eric
Tua, Kenneth

1990

Ribblett, Todd
Schilling, Scott

1991

Haller, Michael
Rhine, Charles

1992

Byers, Doug
Wolfson, Rick

1993

Fondelier, Michele
Hirth, Dan

Mielecki, Jim
Schlotterer, David
Tinsmith, William
Zwastetzky, Dave

1994

Bear, Larry
Hargnett, William
Tompkins, Aaron
Wilson, John

1995

Elliot, William
Grasso, Rhonda
Long, Jeffrey
Pierce, Lou
Pistinanzi, Corey
Yothers, Aaron
Zeltner, Daniel

1996

Mikulsky, Craig
Miller, Tara
Moncak, Brian
Prohonic, James
Weir, Peter
Wissinger, Joseph

1997

Buterbaugh, Daniel
Ward, Suzanne

1998

Brochey, Chris
Custaney, Chris
Gelles, Michael
Jones, Jennifer
Kucharcik, Cindy
Place, Laura
Rensch, Cindy
Ritenour, Steve

1999

Bear, Christal
Chelius, Sean
Harmening, Jeffrey
Krug, Bruce
Meritt, Debra
Mussio, Alexander
Osborn, Robert
Poborsky, Scott

2000

Brown, Katey
Burnworth, Britton
Dillon-Kern, Beth
Govelovich, Alexander
Huffman, Shane
Moberg, Timothy
Rihs, Jonathan
Speelman, Kerry

2001

Ryba, Michael
Ryba, Michelle
Thomas, Laura

2002

Carosone, Brad

2003

Benedict, Amanda
Brantley, Nina
Constable, Jarod
Dodson, Elizabeth
Tomkosky, Darren

2004

Lash, Chris

2005

Stillman, Jonathan

2006

Gibson, Aaron
Heinze, Andrew
Rosenbaum, Nathan
Stephens, Robert
Straub, Kristen
Wilson, Phillip

2007

Lee, Jason
McDermott, Jacob
Mearkle, Joshua

2008

Andrie, Joe
Diorio, Lynette
Gallaher, Cody
Goblinger, Lynette
Holzapfel, Steven
McConville, Rayna
Plunkard, Tim

2009

Myers, Reed

2010

Jones, Ry
Petrowsky, Matthew
Shue, Bryant
Thomas, Jeremiah

2011

Malloy, Jordan
Towarnicki, Blake

2012

Atkins, Heather
Fusko, Cameron
Ryan, Meghan

2013

Buchta, Zeke
Pershun, Jenna
Spinosa, Tara

2014

Ashcom, Brian
Foust, Kevin
Matson, Tara
Wiederstein, Rob

2015

Azar, Benjamin
Calhoun, Evan
Chamberlain, Elliott
Finlay, Andrew
Keilman, Aaron
Lohr, Hunter
Shanley, Rachel

2016

Barchowsky, Andrew
Bert, Catherine

2017

Hunsinger, Courtney
Williamson-Rea, Jake
Zabrucky, Tyler
Zansavage (Wilt), Holli

2018

Cassidy, Jay
Heidler, Haley
Marra, Alexandra
Sehn, David
Shirley, Benjamin

2019

Hockensmith, Alex
Hornyak, Adam
Pastuch, Jonathan
Smay, Brody
Waltermire, Kimberly

2020

Hemminger, Derrick

2021

Cunningham, Jonathon
Landi, Joshua
Mason, Brett
Newell, Tyler
Raysich, Lauren

Pitt-Johnstown to Host Friends of Mineralogy (PA Chapter) Symposium Fall 2023



November 10-12, 2023 - Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts

Friday evening Nov. 10: Meet & Greet—bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 11: Hybrid Symposium—**ONLINE or IN PERSON**

8:30 am to 5:00 pm at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Talks by knowledgeable speaker on Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology

Expanded Sales by Select Dealers—Silent Auction—Give-away Table—Conversation

Professional Geologists: Five Professional Development Hour Credits available for full lecture attendance

Sunday Nov. 12: Field Trip to the New Paris Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants

For more details: www.rasloto.com/fm or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Division of Natural Sciences Alumni Reunion

The Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association is organizing a reunion weekend for the Division of Natural Sciences to mark 50 years of the Division of Natural Sciences. It should be a great event to meet-up with alumni, current students, and faculty (past and present). Please consider attending!



Event Details:

Friday, October 6, 2023:

Evening: Informal Mixer at a local bar/restaurant

Saturday, October 7, 2023

11:00-12:30: Brunch on Campus

12:30-2:00: Campus Tours

Cost will be about \$20 per person.

For more information:

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/alumni/alumni-events/division-50-year-reunions>

Or email Dave Janusek: DGJ7@pitt.edu



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Pittsburgh | Johnstown

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Stay in touch with Pitt-Johnstown Geology

Admittedly, we are not the best at social media, but we are trying to get better!

Follow us here:

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<https://www.facebook.com/pittjohnstown.geology>

LinkedIn Alumni Group:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8153558/>