

Pitt-Johnstown Geology Newsletter

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

Illegitimi non carborundum

Summer 2024

Special points of interest:

- **Change is coming!!** as we merge with our friends in Social Sciences
- Dr. Ryan Kerrigan had a great sabbatical in Portugal during the fall semester
- Undergraduate student researchers present several professional meetings including: the National Meeting of the Geological Society of America, the PA Chapter Meeting of the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Eastern Section Meeting of National Association of Geoscience Teachers
- Geology Club goes to **Portugal!**
- Alumni News!



2024 Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Portugal

UPJ Geology Club members standing on Praia do Telheiro Unconformity near Sagres, Portugal

Positive Changes are here!

We are happy to announce our merger with the faculty of Geography and Environmental Studies to become the Department of Geosciences and the Environment!

I know, I know... It has been great being a stand alone department, even if it was under the bizarre name of Energy and Earth Resources. This merger contains so many positive elements that it would have been irresponsible to pass up.

- We gain experienced, knowledgeable faculty while sharing our expertise to a broader audience
- We are no longer fighting for majors while offering similar curriculum
- We eliminate duplication amongst our courses, streamlining current offerings while introducing new and exciting courses
- This move will make our department more marketable to prospective students and better serve our current students
- The return of the Bachelor of Science in **Geology!**

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Welcome to the Department of Geosciences and the Environment

Yeah, it's sad not to be straight "Geology" but this merger is positive. We are bringing together some of the best faculty at Pitt-Johnstown to work on a common goal - to serve our students as best we can. Given the changes seen throughout academia, this merger only strengthens us as we plan to grow into the future. Here is the degree structure of the new department; there will be four different majors with a wide variety of pathways.

The **Bachelors of Science in Geology** would be roughly based on the current Energy and Earth Resources major – Energy concentration. The Geology major will have the following two concentrations:

Professional Geologist Concentration: This concentration is considered a standard geology track found throughout universities with specific attention paid to preparing students towards Professional Geologist licensure which is required of many geologic and environmental career paths.

Petroleum Geology Concentration: This concentration aims to prepare students for a career in petroleum product exploration and extraction while also providing a curriculum that will qualify the students to sit for the Professional Geologist licensure exam.

The **Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science** merges portions of the current Energy and Earth Resources major—specifically the Environmental concentration—with science-oriented courses in the Environmental Studies program, to form a new Environmental Science program. The major will have concentrations aimed to prepare students in fields such as environmental consulting, soil science, and surface water resources (wetlands and streams). These concentrations will qualify students to pursue certifications in their chosen fields.

Environmental Professional Concentration: This concentration will prepare students for a career in pollution assessment and remediation in the environmental consulting fields whether in the private sector or for a regulatory agency (e.g., PA DEP or US EPA). The curriculum will qualify students to sit for the Professional Geologist licensure exam.

Soil Science Concentration: This concentration will provide students with appropriate preparation for careers in soil science. Completed coursework will qualify students to pursue federal and state Soil Scientist positions and will satisfy requirements to sit for the Certified Professional Soil Scientists exam administered by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSE).

Surface Water Resources Concentration: This concentration will prepare students for careers related to delineation, restoration, and mitigation of wetlands and streams. The curriculum exposes students to an array of surface-process coursework (including hands-on, laboratory- and field-based studies) that clarify the relations between meteorology, soils, ecosystems, infiltration, groundwater migration, runoff dynamics, hydraulics, water quality/chemistry, and flood hazards.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sustainability** is based on the current interdisciplinary Environmental Studies major. This is especially important as the world is facing challenges such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, energy system transitions, and a growing and/or increasingly affluent population with accompanying food and resource needs. This major will prepare students for careers in sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem and land conservation, parks and recreation, environmental planning, and environmental pre-law.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Geography** program is the least affected of the existing programs as a result of the department merger. The major prepares students for careers in urban and regional planning, zoning and land use planning, transportation analysis, resource management, and most importantly in geospatial technologies such as cartography and geographic information systems.


We are excited to begin this new phase of geology at Pitt-Johnstown. How will this merger work? Well, we will pool resources with the Geography and Environmental Studies Department to have a greater impact on the students we serve. For too long our three departments have been competing for the same students and students were not efficiently finding their preferred pathway in the geosciences. This merger will provide more communication between faculty spawning collaboration to educate and serve UPJ students. Each department has very talented and ambitious faculty, together we will be stronger and we will ensure our survival well into the future.

Other Updates:

Geology is still graduating about five majors per year, this is lower than preferred, but we are doing better than some other departments... Enrollments at the university is beginning to bounce back, but it is still a far cry from enrollment of past years. We are hoping this uptick continues and we can grow and possibly expand this new department in the future. With university enrollments still lower than desired, nearly all large-scale renovation projects are on hold, this includes the Krebs Basement. We very excited for this renovation to commence, however, we'll have to wait until firmer ground is below us. Meanwhile, we can only help the university build enrollment and we think this merger offers an attractive path for prospective students to follow.

Coming Fall 2024

Geosciences and the Environment



Environmental
Science

Geology

Geography

Geographic
Information
Systems

Environmental Sustainability

Majors, Minors, and Certificates

Email geoenv@pitt.edu to learn more.

Faculty News

Ryan Kerrigan



This past year was great! Very busy, but the good kind of busy! Last August my family and I moved to Portugal for five months to spend the fall semester on sabbatical. My sabbatical was taken with the help of the Fulbright Program, a program of educational and intellectual exchange between nations around the world. As a Fulbright Scholar, I was able to focus on research, make new international collaboration connections, and share my research with colleagues in Portugal. My sabbatical project was titled: *Examining islands of rock to understand how mountains are built: Braganca & Morais Massifs, Portugal* which examined the Braganca and Morais Massifs of northeast Portugal through geologic sampling and geochemical testing.

Our first month was spent in Porto taking Portuguese lessons. After learning very little Portuguese, we headed off to Lisbon where I began a four month guest researcher position at the University of Lisbon. I met great colleagues and had unlimited access to state-of-the-art laboratories for rock preparation and geochemical analyses. For the sabbatical research, I was able to secure funding that brought two undergraduate researcher from Pitt-Johnstown for fieldwork.

While resident at the University of Lisbon, I was able to provide a seminar to the Geology Department. My talk, titled "From Acadia to Zion: A Geologic Tour of United States National Parks", was overview talk about the geology of the United States National Parks and was delivered to help satisfy the intellectual exchange duties as part of the Fulbright Program.

Upon departing Portugal in December, I shipped 170 lbs. of geologic samples back Pitt-Johnstown. Immediately upon arrival of the samples to Pitt-Johnstown, subsets of the samples were sent to different labs for thin section preparation and geochemical analyses. Examination and characterization of the samples is an ongoing project, and I will continue to collaborate with my colleagues at ULisbon well into the future. Right now, my students and I are preparing an abstract to present some of this preliminary research at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington DC in December.

Back in the United States other projects marched forward. For the past year or two, I have been conducting research at the New Paris Quarry in Bedford County, PA. You likely visited this old limestone quarry with Professor Lindberg during your time at UPJ! With the help of students, I have been examining the old (early Devonian) volcanic ash (bentonite) layers. In the fall of 2023, we received funding to examine the fluid inclusions that can be found in the purple fluorite veins found in the limestone. This should be a fun new branch of research that will tell us about the low-temperature epithermal veining episodes that are pervasive throughout the region.

For those of you that are interested in geoscience pedagogy, I was able to participate in *The Math You Need, When You Need It* (<https://serc.carleton.edu/mathyouneed/index.html>) workshop developing math tutorials that focus on providing basic math within geologic contexts. For anyone that is teaching Earth Science, these are a great resource to provide instruction and guidance for students all with geologic and environmental math examples. The workshop I attended focused on building new modules that will be rolled out on their website later this year.

My favorite work-related-thing each year is the annual Geology Club Spring Break Trip. This year's trip was to Portugal. Since I spent all fall there, it seemed appropriate to plan the trip for that area. More about the trip can be seen on pages **12-17**.

The Kerrigan Family is doing well! Jessica worked remotely while we were abroad and it went very well. Jack (10) and Grant (8) attended an international school while in Lisbon. The school was so-so, but the overall experience of our trip was an education in itself! Stella the dog (12) is doing great, she stay with a family friend while we were away. She is a bit slower and grayer, but who isn't....

Faculty News

Chris Coughenour

It has been an eventful year! I am looking forward to the Geo-Geo merger and pooling our resources together. It will also enable us eliminate teaching redundancies and offer more courses. For instance, I look forward to once again teaching surface hydrology and groundwater hydrology as dedicated, separate courses.

In the spirit of the collaboration, I was able to assist Dr. Mitzy Schaney (UPJ soils coach) with the UPJ soils judging team in September. The team had roughly a dozen students who had training in practice pits and then were thrown into the heat of the northeast regional soils judging competition (with the likes of Penn State, U. of Maryland, and about half a dozen other institutions). This was my first time seeing this unfold, but the competition involved two days of "pit practice" and then an intensive day of soil pit descriptions in Clearfield County (Penn State was this year's host). Under Dr. Schaney's guidance, the team performed well and had a great experience learning soils in the field.

Since Geological Society of America (GSA) held their national meeting in Pittsburgh in October, I gave session talk on watershed modeling and the 2021 remnants of Hurricane Ida as related to the Little Conemaugh basin (and Johnstown). The talk was "The remnants of Hurricane Ida: A case study of the use of unit hydrograph modeling for punctuated rainfall events in a flood-prone Appalachian watershed in western Pennsylvania." The work on understanding discharge return periods in this watershed is ongoing.

The PA Friends of Mineralogy Symposium was held at UPJ (November, 2023). I presented a talk there related to a recent College Research Council grant that I received to analyze conodonts in the Helderberg Group limestones at New Paris, PA. The talk was titled "Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian-Devonian inland sea at the New Paris quarry, Bedford County, Pennsylvania." I will also be presenting this and some more detailed stratigraphy at the Northern Alleghenies Geological Society (NAGS) "Dinner at the Outcrop" in June.

Last year I was elected to the board of the Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association (YBRA) in Red Lodge, MT. YBRA is a non-profit field camp facility that opened in 1937 and continues to host university and other groups exploring the geology and natural science around the Yellowstone region. I am also serving on the Operations Committee and helping with scheduling duties. This is a tremendous opportunity to give back, as I went through the camp as a student and have very fond memories of mapping the backcountry geology around camp.

Also, last summer I began collaboration with Biology faculty colleague Dr. Bruce Robart on studying the dispersal and biogeography of the alpine wildflower "Pedicularis". We planned and executed a 2.5-week collecting trip to Colorado, western Wyoming, and eastern Oregon in July, 2023. Dr. Robart has begun preliminary genetic analysis of the samples. We are currently working on a larger grant proposal to pursue more in-depth genetic analysis and spatial modeling to better understand the soil and other environmental conditions that the plant can tolerate. This may lead to better understanding of past environmental conditions related to glaciation in the Rocky Mountain region (we are currently working on the testable hypotheses as part of the larger proposal) and future habitats as climate changes.

On a personal note: In January, my wife and I welcomed our third child (Lillian) into the world. I appreciate my Spring semester students who were extra-patient with their occasionally sleep-deprived instructor.



Faculty News (cont.)



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 2023-2024 fall and spring semesters Steve taught Physical Geology, Prehistoric Life, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, and Meteorology. 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 association's eastern section, and was last year's section president. He organized the eastern section May, 2024 meeting held in Berkeley Springs, WV and served as field trip leader for the three-day conference. He is a member of the *Geological Society of America* and attends the northeastern section meetings on a regular basis. 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), Hawaii (2022), and Portugal (2024).



Deb Pietrantonio Donahue

Deborah Donahue is an adjunct instructor and teaches Physical Geology lecture and Physical Geology Lab at Pitt Johnstown. She also teaches a Natural Science course for the Education Department. Deb replaced Terry McConnell when she retired in 2021. Before coming to Pitt Johnstown, she taught Physics at Penn Highlands for two semesters and before that she spent most of her career in public education teaching Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, Physics, and Geometry among other subjects. She has been active doing water sampling in the AMD affected streams in Somerset County for the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. She is originally from Pittsburgh and has volunteered at the Carnegie Science Center for many years. She is a member of NAGT and recently attended the Eastern Section Conference in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. She is a member of the Somerset County chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma which is a professional society for women educators. In her spare time at home, she takes care of her many house plants, fish, chickens, cats, birds, her husband Bert and her dog Libby.

Neil Coleman

Since retiring from the NRC in 2010, Neil Coleman continues to teach geophysics and do research with colleagues at UPJ. In June of 2023 he attended and gave an oral talk at the GSA Penrose Conference in central Washington State. The conference included extensive field trips in the Channeled Scabland, including Grand Coulee, Steamboat Rock, Moses Coulee, Dry Falls and Three Devils cataract complexes, the Ephrata fan, and gigantic current bars in the Columbia River gorge. Key presenters included Vic Baker, Richard Waitt, James O'Connor, Greta Wells, Isaac Larsen, and a group of international geoscientists. Neil followed up the meeting with a 2024 paper on Martian geomorphology and megafloods in the Journal of Geophysical Research.



For the last 5 years Neil and colleague Chris Coughenour have published planetary papers during the Lunar & Planetary Science Conferences. The topics mostly dealt with the hydrology and geomorphology of Mars. For the 2024 course in geophysics, Neil plans to add material from his first job after graduating from UPJ in 1977 – as a USGS geologist involved in nuclear weapons testing in Nevada. He currently is researching geophysical aspects of climate warming.

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/>

New Faculty Joining Our Department!!



Ola Johansson

Ola Johansson is a Professor of Geography at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Lund University in Sweden, and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Johansson is a human geographer who teaches courses on urban planning, energy policy, economic geography, sustainable cities, population and demography, and resource management. He and his students have frequently been involved in community planning projects in the Johnstown area, working with the city, neighborhood groups, and Vision 2025. Much of Dr. Johansson's academic research involves music and he is the author of books such as *Songs from Sweden*; *Sound, Society and the Geography of Popular Music*; and *New Geographies of Music 1*. He is also the co-author of the textbook *World Regional Geography*. He has published articles on urban policy and processes, and he previously worked as a transportation analyst at the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dr. Johansson have been a guest scholar at Linnaeus University in Sweden and at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.



Mitzy Schaney

Dr. Mitzy Schaney is a graduate of Mercyhurst College with a B.S. in Archaeology, and West Virginia University with an M.S. in Geology focused on fluvial geomorphology and Ph.D. in Geology focused on soil geomorphology. After her undergraduate education, Dr. Schaney worked as an Archaeologist for two years throughout the eastern United States. Between her graduate degrees, Dr. Schaney taught Geology at Mercyhurst College, worked in the private sector as an Environmental Scientist for three years, and worked for the federal government for four years acting in two roles as both an Archaeologist and an Environmental Scientist. Her career as an Environmental Scientist spanned various tasks including wetlands, streams, ecosystems, soils, Phase I and II environmental assessments, and permitting among other things.

Dr. Schaney joined the Pitt-Johnstown Geography Department in 2017 as the Director of Environmental Studies and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2024. In 2019, Dr. Schaney founded the **Pitt-Johnstown Soil Judging Team** that competes annually in the Northeast Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Competition. She received the **William B. Kory Distinguished Mentor Award** from the Pennsylvania Geographical Society in 2023, and the **2024 College Research Council Summer Research Grant** for her peatlands research.

Introducing students to field research is a primary goal of Dr. Schaney as an educator, and she has begun research collaborations with agencies and institutions throughout the region for her student's participation. Her current research interests include pedology and pedomemory of peat soils, carbon stocks of regional peatlands, and monitoring ecosystem change from climate change and sea-level rise. Dr. Schaney enjoys consulting for Archaeological companies interpreting the soils and landforms (geomorphology and geoarchaeology) of archaeological sites.

Dr. Schaney resides in Greensburg with her husband Chris, their 8-year-old daughter Matilda, and pets. She enjoys travelling, hiking, camping, paddling, gardening, and gets excited whenever a soil profile is involved.

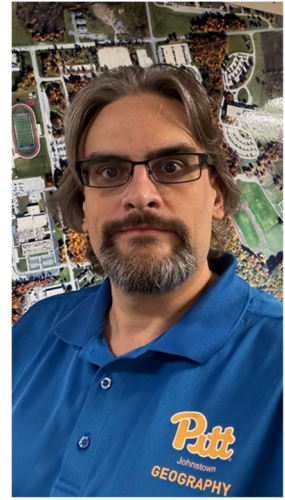
Matt Sernell

Matt Sernell is a lifelong member of the UPJ Community, having grown up on campus. He is a 2006 Graduate of UPJ with a Degree in Geography and a minor in Political Science. He also holds a Master of Business Administration with a focus on Homeland Security.

He began his teaching career in 2010 at the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College where, using lessons from Dr. William Kory and Dr. Bill Brice, he taught courses in both Astronomy and Geography. Eventually, Matt's duties were expanded to cover Computer Science and Business courses.

In 2020, he began teaching on the UPJ campus in the Geography Department and quickly moved to also provide instruction in the Business and Enterprise Division. Today, he teaches in both Divisions.

Outside of the classroom, Matt is the Co-President of the Pitt-Johnstown Alumni Association and the host of the UPJ Alumni Podcast – The Tuck Shop Podcast. He is also a founding member of the William Kory Foundation for Geography Education. He is also a recovering politician, having spent over a decade in local government and is a civilian member of Chapter 221 of the US Air and Space Forces Association.



Ahmad Massasati

Dr. Massasati is a geographer that specializes in geographic information systems, cartography, and drone applications. Dr. Massasati got his B.S. from the University of Aleppo, his M.S. from University of Missouri - Rolla, and his PhD from the University of Utah. Dr. Massasati teaches Cartography, Urban Development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Remote Sensing.



Geology Swag!

The university bookstore has prepared a line of apparel for Pitt-Johnstown Geology! They re very nice. We don't get a cut of the sale but it would be great to have our alumni out-and-about with Pitt-Johnstown Geology swag! They come in all sizes and there are options for men and women! Follow the link below!

<https://www.bkstr.com/johnstownbookstore/search/keyword/geology>



Former Faculty News

Dr. Bill Brice



This has been a quiet year, but an active one. The main project that was completed this year was the biography, "Cornell's First Geologist: Charles Frederick Hartt (1840-1878), Explorer Geologist in North and South America" which the two of us, William R. Brice and Silvia F. De M. Figueirôa (Faculdade de Educação-FE/UNICAMP; Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil) have been working on for many years. It will be published by the Paleontological Research Institution (Ithaca, New York) in the spring of 2024. On October 14, 2023, Dr. Renee Clary, (Professor at Mississippi State University and a fellow INHIGEO Member) and I were co-leaders of a fieldtrip to the Drake Well Museum and Park as part of the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And finally, in July of 2023 the Petroleum History Institute created a new award in my honor; The *William R. Brice Education Award* which recognizes excellence by an educator at any academic level with a focus on the history of the oil and gas industry. This award may also be granted to a student for a presentation during a PHI symposium or for a publication in *Oil-Industry History*.

Published Articles:

- BRICE, William R., 2023c, (Compiler), *Oil-Industry History* Index to volumes 1-23 (2000-2022): *Oil-Industry History*, v. 24, no. 1, p. 234-312.
- BRICE, William R., 2023b, Petroleum History Institute annual meeting and field trip; New Harmony, Indiana, May 11-13, 2023: *Oil-Industry History*, v. 24, no. 1, p. 1-12.
- BRICE, William R., 2023a, Twists of fate in the early oil fields: *Explorer*, AAPG, October, p. 16-17, 21.
- BRICE, William R., HYMAN, Christy, and CLARY, Renee, 2023, *Drake Well: Understanding the birthplace of the oil age and its historical human and environmental impacts*: Guidebook No. 406, Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, 14 October 2023, 77 p.
- BRICE, William R., SPENCER, Jeff A., and BLACK, Marilyn (Eds), 2023, *Program and Abstracts*: Petroleum History Institute Annual Oil History Symposium & Field Trip, New Harmony, Indiana, May 11-13, 30 p.

Professional Presentations:

- BRICE, William R., 2023, Pittsburgh's contribution to the history of oil and natural gas: Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 16, *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, Vol. 55, No. 6, 2023; doi: 10.1130/abs/2023AM-390333.

Books:

- BRICE, William R. and FIGUEIRÔA, Silvia F. de M., In Press, *Cornell's First Geologist: Charles Frederick Hartt (1840-1878): Explorer Geologist in North and South America*: Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, New York, 750 p (estimate).

Terry McConnell



Terry McConnell enjoying percebes in the Algarve of Portugal

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 Professor McConnell: I was thrilled to be in Portugal this past March with the Geology Club spring break trip. I very much miss my colleagues and the students. I've been staying busy in retirement and my latest endeavor was in purchasing a large rock saw. Plan to be making rock slabs soon. My favorite part of my new "Rock Haven" is Dr. Kaktins extremely large Pennsylvania geologic map and key which decorates my wall. Many alumni will recall that hanging above his desk in our office, 250 Krebs, for years. Good memories.

Blast from the Past

February 3, 1988

Volume 59, Issue #17

UPJ Advocate

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

University may declare Geology a major degree

Marsha Benjamin

"The preliminary planning proposal to change the classification for the study of geology from a concentration to a bachelor of science degree program has been reviewed by the educational policies committee of the Faculty Senate. The proposal will go to Academic Dean Dr. Richard Mead's office for his approval, after review by the full Senate," according to Dr. William Brice, associate professor.

"If the proposal is approved there will be no need for additional funds or allocations, nor will required courses or curriculum changes occur except those we deem necessary to improve the geology program under its present name," Brice reported.

Brice said that there are approximately thirty to thirty-five undergraduate, UPJ students studying under the geology program.

"Through donations from Cornell University, the Department of Geological Sciences and other library systems, in the last few years the UPJ library, geology holdings has exceeded 8,000 titles and is a great asset to students," Brice said.

He also explained that at one time the geology program was part of a major in the broad Natural Sciences' program which included biology and chemistry as well, but geology is the only one of the three that is not recognized as a major.

Brice said that if Dr. Frank Blackington III, president of UPJ, and Rudolph Weingartner, chief academic officer for Pitt-Oakland, approve the proposal then Associate Professors, Dr. Harold Fry, Dr. Uldis Kaktins and he will draw up a formal proposal consisting of twelve parts and resubmit it.

"The Division Curriculum Committee representing the Natural Science Department, the Educational Policy Committee for the Faculty Senate, Mead, Blackington and Weingartner must approve the formal proposal before the name change from geology concentration can be changed to geology major for perspective students," he added.

"Geology majors are still required to complete the University's distribution of studies (DOS) requirements.

Our department requires students to take courses in more areas of science than any other Natural Science program which includes courses in math, physics, chemistry and computer science," Brice elaborated.

Brice also mentioned that geology majors will still be expected to earn twenty-seven DOS credits, twenty-five required course credits, eight elective credits and twenty-seven to thirty-one related subject credits; 120 or more credits are needed in order to graduate.

Related story on page 4

I found this gem in the Geology Study room among the random files. and I thought some might be interested in it.

Interestingly enough, we are returning to two hydro-courses (Hydrology and Hydrogeology) with the new reorganization of our department.

University plans to extend Geology course

Marsha Benjamin

"We are planning to expand our hydrology course from a one-term to a two-term sequence to better prepare geology students," Dr. William Brice, associate professor, reported.

"I and others in the geology field know that hydrology is becoming an important aspect of the general field research performed by a geologist."

Brice explained that he, and associate professors, Dr. Harold Fry and Dr. Uldis Kaktins are trying to encourage students who elect to study geology and planetary science as a concentration within the Natural Science degree program to take the

hydrology course.

"Hydrology is the study of the effects of waterflow on the surface and subsurface.

Hydrologists analyze watershed, or runoff, flooding potential and surface water management; they try to predict how much, if any damage will occur because of water movements," Brice said.

"Students who take the hydrology course may find it beneficial and complementary on which natural science discipline they choose to place the most emphasis."

Brice did not specify the date the second term of hydrology will be available to students.

Geology Club Trip To Portugal!!!!

Spring Break: March 8th - 17th, 2024

Since Dr. Kerrigan spent the fall semester in Portugal, it seemed to make the most sense to have this year's Pitt-Johnstown Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Portugal. The trip was 8 days total, and our group was able to see A LOT of Portuguese geology. We flew in and out of Lisbon. Upon arrival, we immediately headed up north to Porto and the Douro River Valley. After Porto we did the central coast for a couple days. Next, we visited the Algarve along the south coast and then finished our trip with some relaxing days in Lisbon. It was an amazing trip with a great group. We had ten students and six "adults" attend, and I think everyone learned a lot of good geology on this trip!



TRIP ITINERARY

- Day 0: Friday, March 8, 2024 - Board Flight**
- Day 1: Saturday, March 9, 2024 - Lisbon to Porto**
Free afternoon and evening in Porto
- Day 2: Sunday, March 10, 2024 - Douro Valley & Porto**
Geologic tour of Port Winery
Granites and migmatites of the Foz do Douro
- Day 3: Monday, March 11, 2024 - Moel & Nazaré**
Salt diapirs & Tar Sand deposits
Nazaré Promontory
- Day 4: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - Peniche & Óbidos**
Peniche turbidites & Golden Spike!
Gypsum Mine
Óbidos Castle
- Day 5: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - Loulé & Albufeira**
Underground Salt Mine
Algarve coast
- Day 6: Thursday, March 14, 2024 - Sagres & the Algarve**
Praia do Telheiro Unconformity
Speedboat & coastal morphology
- Day 7: Friday, March 15, 2024 - Lisbon**
Basic tour of the city
- Day 8: Saturday, March 16, 2024 - Lisbon**
Free day of sight-seeing
- Day 9: Sunday, March 17, 2024 - Board Flight**

Dr. Kerrigan likes to assemble pretty extensive field guidebooks for the trips. If you're interested in learning more, visit Dr. Kerrigan website:

https://rikerrigan.com/geology_club.html

Geology Club in Portugal!



Day 1: Overlooking the Ribeira in Porto from the Ponte Luis Bridge



Day 2: Geology lecture during lunch at Quinta da Pacheca winery in the Douro River Valley



Day 2: The group standing on Variscan granites at a castle on the shore near the Foz do Douro



Day 3: Lectures on Praia de Parades on the edge of the São Pedro de Moel salt diapir near the Azeche tar sand mines



Day 3: The students at Praia de Concha on the upturned western flank of the São Pedro de Moel salt diapir

Geology Club in Portugal!



Day 3: Three pictures in Nazaré - Tyler Smith (UPJ Geology & Environmental Studies Major) above the Nazare wave; Legend of the surf stag at Nazaré; Our group at the lighthouse at the Nazaré Promontory.



Day 4: The group viewing amazing turbidite sequences on the tombolo peninsula of Peniche.



Day 4: Geology Club Group in front the Golden Spike at Ponta de Trovao

“Golden Spikes” or **Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP)** are internationally agreed upon reference points on a stratigraphic section which defines the lower boundary of a stage on the geologic time scale. As of 2024, 79 Golden Spikes have been designated globally. The Golden Spike at Ponta de Trovao in Peniche is the internationally accepted stratigraphic representation of the Toarcian Stage of the Lower Jurassic Period.

Geology Club in Portugal!



Day 4: The Avarela 21 Gypsum Mine in the caprock of the Caldas da Rainha-Óbidos salt diapir



Day 4: Óbidos Castle sits in the center of the Caldas da Rainha-Óbidos salt diapir upon limestone stringer present within the diapir

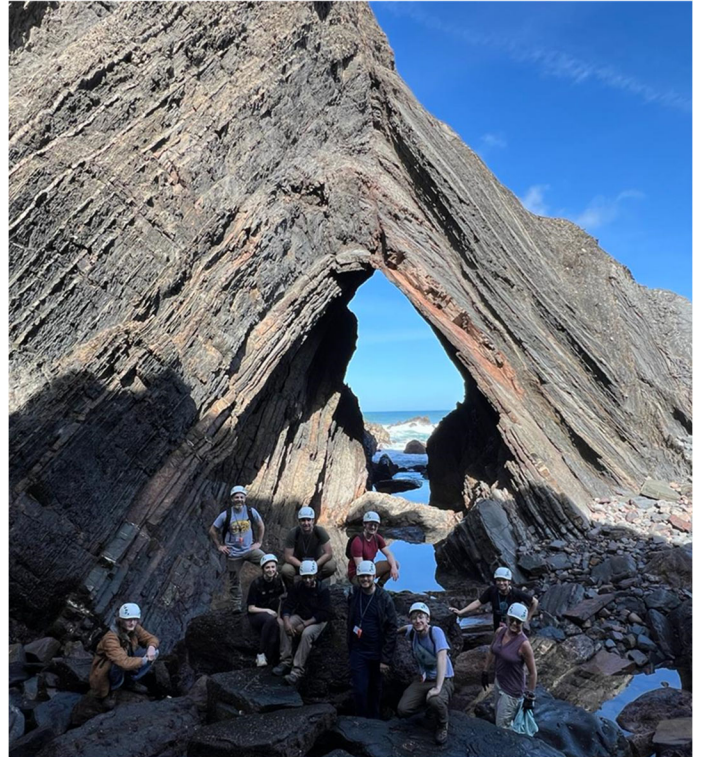


Day5: Loulé Salt Mine - Three picture from inside the Tech Salt Mine in Loulé. The mine active mine is ~500 ft below ground's surface in the center of the Loulé salt diapir. The mine is serviced by a very tight cage elevator on a cable that did not fill one with confidence. Inside the mine you could see clear flow patterns in the mine walls. We also got a demonstration of some of the mining techniques.

Geology Club in Portugal!



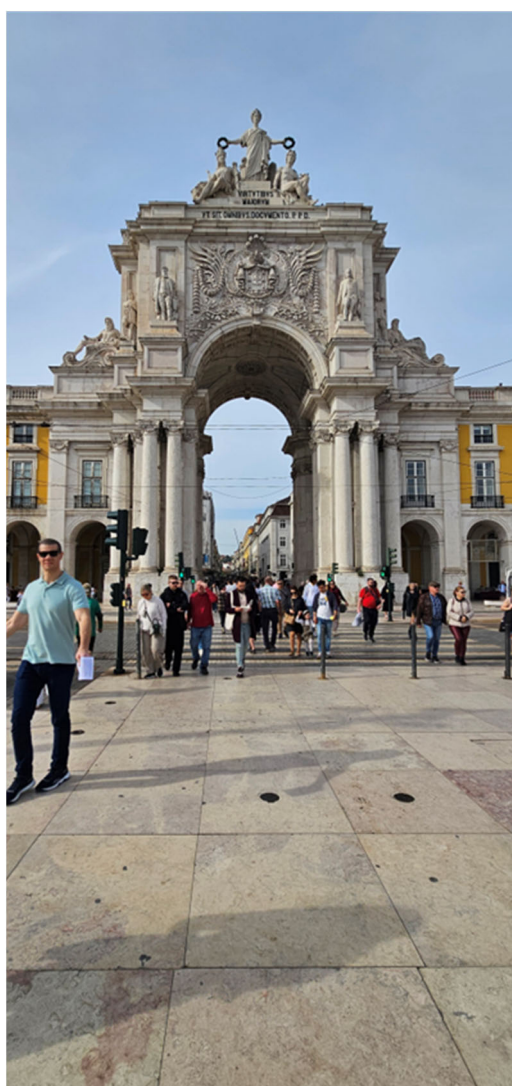
Day 6: Praia do Telheiro Unconformity - This was one of the higher highlights. What are you looking at here? Well, the lower units are Carboniferous flysch turbidites that were deformed into chevron folds during the Variscan Orogeny (contemporaneous with the Alleghenian Orogeny—late Paleozoic). Above is an angular unconformity where overlying units are late Triassic sandstones that are relatively flat lying. This cliff is at least 225 ft high, the bottom right image shows our group in the nose of one of the synclines for scale. The hike was not for the faint of heart and needed to be planned carefully to be careful about the tides!



Geology Club in Portugal!



Day 6: A trip on a speedboat along the Algarve coast. We saw lots of dolphins and sea caves in the Miocene bioclastic limestones



Day 7 & 8: Lisbon - We did one and half days in Lisbon. We had a quick introductory tour of the city and then we were let loose to see the city how we preferred. Some did museums and aquariums, others did some shopping, while others just walked the sights.

Departmental Awards



April 19th, 2024: Geology Banquet at the Boulevard Grill— Students presented pictures from the Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Portugal. It was a great gathering of colleagues, friends, and family to honor award winners and recent graduates. Alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Department of Energy and Earth Resources College Scholar

Isabelle Boyer (pictured with Dr. Kerri-gan) received this year's College Scholar Award given to the highest performing senior geology student. Isabelle has been a great student and we look forward to the great things she will do in her career.



Jonathan Lee Groft Memorial Scholarship



Dr. Uldis Kaktins Memorial Field Methods



American Institute of Professional Geologists National Scholarship

Chris Howard (pictured with Judy Groft and Jason Groft [left] and Dr. Ryan Kerrigan [center and right]) had a wonderful scholarship season this year. This year he earned three scholarships. The Jonathon Lee Groft Memorial Scholarship is awarded to the geology major that demonstrates a true passion for geology. The Dr. Uldis Kaktins Memorial Field Scholarship is awarded to a student who is enthusiast about field geology and field research. Chris has applied this scholarship to his attendance to the top-ranked Indiana University (IN) geologic field camp during the summer of 2024. In addition to departmental awards, Chris was one of ten awardees nationwide to receive the competitive American Institute of Professional Geologists National Scholarship (<https://aipg.org/news/673251/2024-AIPG-Undergraduate-Scholarship-Winners.htm>). Chris is great. He is involved with research locally at the New Paris Quarry in Bedford County and abroad working on the petrology Portuguese ophiolites. In 2023-24 Chris presented research at the following meetings: Geological Society of America, the PA Chapt. of the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Eastern Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. He is sure to make further impacts as he enters his final year at Pitt-Johnstown.

Graduating Seniors



Nick Scelsi, Graduated Spring 24

Nick is finishing off a great academic career at Pitt-Johnstown. Nick was particularly ambitious and took on a triple-major of Energy and Earth Resources (Geology), Geography, and Environmental Studies, as well as a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He is a past president of the Geology Club and joined us for trips to Hawaii, Iceland, and Portugal. In the fall of 2023, he successfully passed the Fundamentals of Geology exam and with his graduation he becomes a Geologist-in-Training and on his way toward geology licensure. After graduation, he joined the geotechnical team at WSP in the Pittsburgh area, where he is working on soil science, hydrogeology, and slope stability projects.

Isabelle Boyer, Graduating Fall 24

Isabelle started her academic career at University of Pittsburgh - Oakland; however, she felt the main campus was too big and impersonal so in 2021 she transferred Pitt-Johnstown to seek a more personalized educational experience. Since arriving at Pitt-Johnstown has been a top performer in every geology course she has taken. Isabelle is an extremely hard worker. Isabelle is this year's College Scholar awardee given to our top senior, this honor is well deserved. She is active in the campus community and serves as the Geology Club Activities Coordinator. After Pitt-Johnstown, Isabelle would like to attend graduate studies in mineralogy and petrology.



Aleya Shreckengost, Graduating Fall 24

Aleya started at Pitt-Johnstown in the biology department but soon learned that nursing wasn't the calling she thought it would be. Her love of the outdoors and science brought her to geology and we are glad she found us! Aleya has been a great student in the classroom and she has served as the Geology Club's secretary for the past 3 years. In 2023, to pursue her research interests, Aleya wrote a successful grant and received research funds from the Pitt-Johnstown Mentorship Fund. She has presented her research on the fluorites of the New Paris Quarry, Bedford, PA at the PA Chapter Meeting of the Friends of Mineralogy as well as the Northern Alleghenies Geological Society's Dinner at the Outcrop Field Symposium. In the fall of 2023, Aleya completed fieldwork in northeast Portugal for an ongoing petrology project she plans to present at AGU this fall in Washington DC. Aleya hopes to attend grad school after Pitt-Johnstown.



Donovan Stanley-Reeves, Graduating Fall 24

Donovan began his career at Pitt-Bradford in the civil engineering program. After two years at Bradford, he decided to change his major and change his campus. When Donovan arrived at Pitt-Johnstown, he had most of his general education credits satisfied, however, he had taken few geology courses. Right away at Johnstown he was drinking from the fire hose, taking many upper level geology courses to stay on track with graduation. He weathered the storm and has done well at Johnstown. He also took it upon himself to take field camp through the PASSHE Geology Field Experience. Donovan would like to enter the petroleum exploration field when he completes his degree this fall.



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.



1976 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists

Dr. Uldis Kaktins (left), Dr. Hal Fry (right), and Teresa Smith (back to camera). *Photo courtesy of Neil Coleman*

Josh Bowers '83

No, I haven't retired yet, but I have settled down some. I'm married with two kids in college. The last 40 years of working in environmental geology has been a blur. In that time, I've been a project manager doing earthen dam reconstruction and worked with horizontal drilling on gas pipelines. I started out mud logging first in the Gulf and then the northeast with my UPJ colleagues back in the 80s. Afterward, I moved to DC and found work as a geotechnical technician with other UPJ graduates. That led to performing groundwater/environmental work and geophysics. Along the way I figured out that you could use environmental geophysical devices to find unexploded ordnance (UXO) and land mines. Our group did the first geophysical mapping job to find UXO for the DoD in 94 at Fort Monroe, VA. UXO work had me travelling to Poland and Germany, South Africa, and Namibia and all across the USA. I did some system development with the DoD using geophysics with robotics and remotely operated underwater vehicles with stints doing environmental work in between. I finished up with UXO spending 2017 in the Kuwaiti desert with another UPJ graduate, Alex Mussio. Now, I'm working as an environmental consultant doing contract support for the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Mike Layton '83

Continuing to serve as the humble manservant to my wife Jane, as she still does the day job thing. We have a third grandchild to chase around. Continuing to work around the Stoystown place and keeping the bee hives happy.

Jeffrey Ciocco '84

I am a supervisory nuclear engineer working on the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations. Prior to that, I was a Chief Design Engineer for Northrop Grumman designing a mobile nuclear reactor for the DOD and components for the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Program. Before joining Northrop, I (briefly) retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2017. There I was a scientist, senior reactor engineer and program manager for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and for nuclear reactor designs. Before joining the NRC, I was an engineer and program manager for the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for the cleanup of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons complex in Golden, CO. My federal career began in 1988 at the Philadelphia Shipyard working for the Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Upon UPJ graduation in 1984, I was a mud-logger primarily in the Appalachian Basin, with many UPJ grads, which concluded logging 19,000+ ft wells in the Central Eastern Overthrust Belt of PA, long before Marcellus discoveries. I'm a runner and skier and a volunteer Blue & Gold Officer for the U.S. Naval Academy Office of Admissions. My wife is a 3rd grade schoolteacher in the Frederick County MD Public Schools. My son is a mechanical engineering graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy ('17) and a Lt. Submarine Warfare Officer at Kings Bay, GA. Most recently he became a father, and me a grandfather! My daughter Gina is a mathematics graduate of the University of Maryland College Park ('19) and a business manager for Northrop Grumman. I have Master of Science degrees in (Mechanical) Engineering and Applied and Computational Mathematics from Johns Hopkins University. I am a professional geologist and engineer. We live in Walkersville, MD.



1985 Fall - Geology Club

*Back Row (L-R) Sam Baughman, John Hanak, Brian McMullen, Andrew Ford, Russ Devan, Steve Baumgardener.
Front Row (L-R) David Statler, Troy Gallaher, Leslie Skibinski, Bev Behrenberg, Scott Gallaher.*

Alumni News (cont.)

Mark Hajas '86

For the past 25 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 proposed surface or deep coal mining operations may result in hydrologic impacts. From 1999-2006, I worked at the MDE Main Office in Baltimore for the Water Supply Program where I 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, 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. In my free time, I played league softball & now play pickleball & trumpet in the Potomac Concert Band and at various churches in MD & PA. My wife Sherry & I just returned from a weekend jaunt to NY within the "Zone of Totality" where we experienced the solar eclipse on my big 6-0 birthday!

Kenneth Tua '89

I am proud to be a UPJ alumni and owe my geology career to three men: Harold Fry, Uldis Kaktins and especially William Brice who spent a lot of extra time with me at the microscope. I have spent most of my career working for Michael Baker in Pittsburgh as a consultant to the U.S. Navy and FEMA, sandwiched between two brief stints with Moody & Associates. I currently working at the PA DEP in the Southwest Regional Office, having been there four years. Originally from Latrobe, I continue to live in Harmony, Pa. I lived a lifetime's worth in only 16 years with my late wife Amy, whom I lost in a traffic accident in 2013. I since then remarried in 2021 to Margaret, with whom I look forward to spending my upcoming early retirement in 2025. See you at a golf course or bike trail! H2P!!



1989-90 Geology Club

Back Row (L-R) Tracy Buck, Rick Hughes, Missy Schrock, Mark Lester, Dr. Uldis Kaktins; Middle Row (L-R) Dr. Bill Brice, Doug Gimera, Todd Ribblet, Rick Suhadoluik; Front Row (L-R) Ken Tua, Chuck Rhine, Bob Kulp

Richard Hughes III '92

It is great to see that UPJ geosciences are doing well, and that they are active. I am a full Professor of Geoscience at Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, Ca, which is part of the San Bernardino Community College District. I am the only full time tenured instructor, and teach mostly geology (including physical, historical, national parks, environmental as well as offering field classes all over southern Cal), although occasionally I do Physical Geography and Oceanography.

Barry Beatty '93

Out of College went to work as a Mud Logger for ESI for a couple years in the WV-PA-NY-OH region. I answered an ad "Geologist wanted-will train" from a Geotechnical firm (ironically E2SI) in Baltimore in 1986-took the job on the spot and moved to Baltimore that week thanks to a fellow alumnus who already worked at E2SI and he put us up for the first couple weeks until we got our first apartment. I married my wife Johanna (a UPJ grad and regular in the rock room study area) shortly after. I worked at this Geotechnical firm for 8 years doing Construction geotechnical evaluation inspection/testing, Geotechnical reports and Hydrogeologic study. I hired on at Dewberry & Davis A&E (Beavin Co. originally) in Baltimore office in 1994, where I did Civil Engineering, MEPA waste water application studies and became Head of the Construction Management department. In 2002 I Returned to my family farm and hometown (Home, Pa) with my wife and family to work at UpStreet Architects in Indiana, Pa, where I am presently an Architectural Project Manager for Design & Construction phase work specializing in affordable homing multifamily apartment industry. I work with Green Sustainable Design programs and became a LEEDs AP in 2004. I have one daughter (Sara), a Veterinarian Nurse, who lives on the farm with her husband and a son (Matthew) who lives in Washington DC & is the Head of Engineering in a Pittsburgh based software engineering Start Up firm. I enjoyed the Baltimore life but also love being back in Pa- hunting, fishing, traveling, gardening, wood working, photography & RVing/camping. We homestead on my family farm with horses, chickens, goats, gardening, and whitetail management practices. I still love rock hounding & pick up hand/s samples (defined by me, back in the day, as anything I could carry back to the van & put under the seats on UPJ Geology field trips)

Steve Ritenour '98

I had the pleasure of starting my career, with several other alumni, with AASHTO re:source (formerly AMRL). After seven years, I moved on to serve as the Technical Services Director for an engineering association (WACEL) in the Washington DC area. After having my son, my wife and I decided it was time to get out of the DC area and we relocated to Elizabethtown, PA. I am currently the Branch Manager for Intertek PSI in York, PA. The York office provides geotechnical engineering services and constructing materials testing services.



Year?
UPJ Geology Club Caving Trip?

*I don't know who anyone is, please email me if you can identify anyone in the photo or if you have any information about this trip.
Thanks!*

Alumni News (cont.)



2004? Trip to ???

I know nothing about this image - it is just a good group photo clearly from a field trip. If you know anything about the people or place surrounding this trip, please let me know! I'd like to fill in as much as I can! Also, I am running out of geology group pictures, if you have any please send them to me!

Sean Chelius '99

After 24 years of working in the private consulting world, I've joined the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as an Environmental Specialist.

Jason Floyd '99

Is the recently elected 2024 President of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists.

Tony Deluca '01

A friend and I will be setting out July 2nd to cover all 286 miles of the North Country Trail's passage through Pennsylvania. And we plan to do it on foot in 5-6 days! I'll be fundraising for the Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA as a part of it. We are currently planning and gathering a group of friends to provide support for the week out there.

Shawn McMullen '03

I am currently the Environmental Group Manager or Tech Chief at the PADEP District Mining office in Ebsburg. I have been in this position for a little over 4 months. Our office handles surface mining permits for 13 counties, in south central PA, which includes Cambria, Somerset, and Indiana counties locally.

Rayna Noel '08

Life update for me, I am the new assistant director at the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center here in Johnstown.

Cameron Fusko '12

I work with Katie Brust (Neff) at AGES, Inc. I graduated back in 2012, but finished my last semester at the Oakland campus since I only had 2 classes to finish my degree. I moved to Alabama for a year after graduating and couldn't find any work down there, so I moved back to western PA and landed the gig I still have today. I have 1 son, Ezra 6, and a 2nd boy on the way in September, so the fun continues! I mostly do field work, which is what I prefer, but when in the office I work on geotechnical reports. Thank you for doing all of this, it's nice to see the department growing and doing exciting things! I'll dig through some of my old photos and documents to see if I can scrounge up some old newsletters/ group photos.

Jordan Malloy '12

I'm Jordan Malloy, and I'm a UPJ Geology Alumni from 2012. All of the UPJ Geology professors were amazing during my time there, and I can only assume that they still are. For me, I was lucky to study at UPJ. Well, I have been married for 8 years now to my beautiful wife Marien Malloy and live in Irwin, PA. After college, I got a job as a cased-hole wireline engineer for Weatherford Intl. and worked there for about two years before starting at Horizontal Wireline Services at the end of 2014. I have been at Horizontal for nearly 10 years now and currently hold the position of a senior field engineer. This position has me calling the oil and gas industry, particularly in the fracturing technology operations, home. We perform multiple services for oil and gas wells including wellbore logging and perforating all around the US.

Tara Spinos '13

I have been working at Chevron for the last 5 years as a geoscience technologist in Houston, Texas. I owe my career success from my beginnings at UPJ, and the interdisciplinary education I received. I am also excited to announce my upcoming graduation from Penn State University with a M.S. in spatial data science on May 5th. This achievement marks another step forward in my professional development, and I look forward to applying my enhanced skills and insights to solving problems in the field of geology.

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 have two girls, Amelia, now 4 years old, and Isabelle, now 2 years old. Amelia is taking after her Dad! She loves rocks. Already finding fossils in the driveway. She has quite a collection! We still reside in Beaver County, PA. 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'm still working at the Moon Twp Municipal Authority. I'm the head inspector for the Authority. I'm in charge of all inspections that relate to sanitary sewers and waterlines. This includes all existing properties (residential and commercial) and new developments in Moon Twp, Crescent Twp, and South Heights Boro. I implement our regulations and specifications for the Authority.



Geology Class of 2010 at the Geology Banquet

Matt Petrowsky, Bryant Shue, Kristy Goughnour Botteicher, Frank Karmanocky, and Ry Jones.

Alumni News (cont.)

Tyler Norris '17

I am still mapping away at the Ohio Geological Survey. Last year I finalized a few county-wide maps, a geologic guide for Cedar Bog Nature Preserve, and a drilling report on the buried Teays River Valley. Last year I also started an "HVSR user group" to virtually gather people who work with the passive seismic geophysical method so we can learn from each other. If anyone happens to be interested in joining, contact me! I also won the 2023 employee of the year at OGS, which was a nice surprise. At home I am planting a lot and gardening, constantly working on home improvement projects, and making travel plans. Our dog Bearsy is doing great but is unfortunately very spoiled. I joined a bowling league and am getting into rock climbing again.

Lorin Simboli '17

Things have been good here. Baby geologist is my update for the year. I gave birth last month to a little boy we named Dimitri so I'm in my stay at home mom era. Me and my partner are still living in north Georgia and plan to stay here until further notice. I will say, dealing with a newborn is not easy, I think it may be even harder than being in your geology classes. But I'll be looking forward to taking lil this guy on adventures this summer.



2015 Structural Geology Field Trip

L-R: Tyler Norris, Eric Trevorrow, Tom Allendorfer, Aaron Keilman, Lorin Simboli, Ben Shirley, Joe Hoy, Adam Hornyak, John Belinda, Kris Miller, Jon Garber, Prof. Kerri-gan

2018 Geology Club Spring Break Trip to Scotland

(L-R) Prof. Kerrigan,
Jessica Miller, Prof.
McConnell, Prof.
Lindberg, Marilyn
Lindberg, Sam Loud-
erback, Jake Marsh,
Lauren Raysich, Kim
Waltermire, Kate
Roxby.



Kate Roxby '18

Hey everyone! I am still working on my PhD in math and science education. So far it is going well and I am about half way through it. My husband, Randy, and I are still working on our fixer-upper house we got last year. We are excited to wrap up a few projects this summer and finally get a few rooms completed. We also took a trip to Iceland recently and it was awesome! We went on some pretty cool hikes, saw some awesome waterfalls and glaciers, and snorkeled in the Silfra Fissure. Snorkeling in the fissure was definitely the highlight of the trip and worth braving the cold water for.

Abby Chobany '21

I've just finished my first year of graduate school at the University of Nevada, Reno. I am studying metamorphic petrology and my focus area is in Tibet. More specifically, I am researching how the collision of India and Asia evolved from a continental arc to a continent-continent collision. My advisor and I will be traveling to India this fall to collect some more rock samples! As for this summer, I will be non-stop camping in Nevada and Washington for some additional field work. I have loved living in Reno/Tahoe this past year and look forward to graduating with a PhD in a few years!

Shane Sikora '22

I hope everything is going well! I recently got hired with the PA DCNR at Keystone State Park as a Ranger. I just completed the Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy at Temple University (Ambler Campus) and will continue my journey in law enforcement at Keystone. Keystone State Park is located in Derry, PA, and it is known for its history in coal mining. It is named after the Keystone Coal and Coke Company, and we actually have a passive acid mine drainage system on the property that is maintained by the PA DEP. During my time at UPJ, I had an internship with the DEP in Ebensburg, PA, and I actually conducted maintenance on this system. Even though my profession now does not include geology, I still plan to use my knowledge that I gained while at UPJ to educate the public of the Park's rich coal mining history.

Alumni News (cont.)

Olivia Weaver '23

I am currently working at Hedin Environmental as a Field Technician. They specialize in AMD remediation, so most days, I am planning and performing watershed assessments to define the AMD impacts within the watershed. I am involved in a variety of projects throughout west central PA where I assist in studying the hydrology of mine pools, designing passive treatment systems, and developing a best management practices report for cleaning drainable limestone beds (DLB) commonly used to treat AMD. I co-presented on the DLB project at the 2023 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference. When I am not working, I like to hike to the best waterfalls throughout PA and practice my photography skills.



2024 Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology Field Trip

(L-R) Avery Freed, Aleya Shreckengost, Isabelle Boyer, Donovan Stanley-Reeves, and Chris Howard - checking out the magmatic epidote in the Ellicott City granodiorite

**Thank you all for contributing an Alumni Update!!!
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!**

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):

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

Claycomb, Joan
Hawkins-Lint, Brenda
Kinback, Jerry

1984

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

1985

Devan, Russ

1986

Behar, Todd
Ford, Andrew

1987

Baumgardner, Steven

1988

Johnson, Sherri
Lehman, Richard

1989

Cole, Kathleen
Kennedy, Eric

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

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
Kucharcik, Cindy
Place, Laura
Rensch, Cindy

1999

Bear, Christal
Krug, Bruce
Osborn, Robert
Poborsky, Scott

2000

Burnworth, Britton
Dillon-Kern, Beth
Govelovich, Alexander
Huffman, Shane
Moberg, Timothy
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
Gallagher, Cody
Goblinger, Lynette
Holzapfel, Steven
McConville, Rayna
Plunkard, Tim

2009

Myers, Reed

2010

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

2011

Towarnicki, Blake

2012

Atkins, Heather
Ryan, Meghan

2013

Pershun, Jenna

2014

Ashcom, Brian
Smay, Austin
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
Moore, Keith
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

Send Kerrigan an email so we can update your contact information!

Graduate Schools Attended by UPJ Geology Alumni



- Antioch University (NH)
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Ball State University
- California State University - Long Beach
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University
- Dalhousie University (Canada)
- Denver University
- Drexel University
- East Carolina University
- Idaho State University
- Indiana University
- Kent State University
- Lehigh University
- Northern Arizona University
- Ohio University
- Oklahoma State University
- Penn State University
- Point Park University
- San Jose State University
- Slippery Rock University
- Suffolk University
- Syracuse University
- Texas A & M University
- University of Arizona
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Idaho
- University of Maryland
- University of Montana
- University of Nevada at Reno
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Florida
- University of Southern Mississippi
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Washington State University
- West Chester University
- West Virginia University
- Wright State University

Let me know if I am missing any!

Pitt-Johnstown to Host PA Mining Professional Meetings



What: Lunch time meeting of the Pennsylvania Mining Professional where you will enjoy a nice meal, hear a good geology talk, and receive professional development hours.

Where: University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Living Learning Center

When: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 10:00AM

Sept 11th, 2024 Meeting Details:

Speaker: David Williams, P.E., P.L.S., mining engineer in the anthracite region of Eastern Pennsylvania for over 44 years and board member of the Anthracite Chapter of the Society of Mining Engineers, Schuylkill County Historical Society and Schuylkill County Tourist Bureau.

Talk Details: "The Battle of the Crater". - The incredible plan by the 48th. PA Regiment which was comprised of anthracite coal miners from Eastern Pennsylvania to develop a tunnel to blow up Confederate fortifications at Petersburg, Virginia that would have ended the Civil War. The discussion concentrates on the mining engineering skills and survey work that were used to develop a tunnel over 510 feet long. The project began without the support of higher command. The anthracite coal miners very cleverly learned how to use their resources to develop this tunnel when they were told that it would never work.

For more details please contact Jordan Rodgers (Jordan.rodgers@syndercos.com) or visit the following website: <https://www.paminingprofessionals.com/>

And join the Alumni Association!

PITT-JOHNSTOWN ALUMNI

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