

# Geology Department Newsletter



*"Educating students to shape their lives, their professions,  
and their societies"*

**January 2007**

## Letter from the Chair,

The past year has been a busy and productive one for our department, its students, staff, and faculty. We served over 2160 GVSU students this past year in general education and in our major/minor programs. Our total number of geology, earth science, and geochemistry majors rose to above 100 and the integrated science program now serves more than 250 pre-service teachers. We continue to graduate 15 to 20 students a year and about half go on to quality graduate schools and the other half find jobs in applied geology fields and in teaching.

We saw a change in faculty as Dr. Angela Hessler decided to take a position with Chevron in the San Francisco Bay area. We all wish Angela the best and will miss her greatly in our department. Laura Smart was hired as a visiting professor to pick up some of the load left by Angela's departure. Laura is currently finishing her Ph.D. at Western Michigan University in hydrogeology. We are currently searching to fill the geosciences education position and will be hiring a new faculty member in 2007.

Major challenges to the department continue to be updating our curriculum to meet the needs of our majors and general education students. We are currently finalizing an environmental geology emphasis and would especially like to hear from alumni working in environmental fields about what they see as needed for our students. A declining emphasis on earth science education in Michigan K-12 schools is something we must all fight. I encourage all of you to participate in your local K-12 schools by giving geological talks in classrooms, providing earth science related resources, and encourage local school boards, principals, and teachers to include more geology in their curriculum, not less. Without grass-roots understanding and support of Earth Science in both education and public policy we will become marginalized. We must all do more to look out for the future of our science and the people we serve.

Local rock collector and renowned sphere cutter, Norman Gibson, passed away this last summer and his family created a new scholarship in his name to support geology student research. This new scholarship fund is already a third of the way to that magical \$30,000 that triggers the creation of a spending account that we can draw scholarships from. The department used money from the Geology development endowment to purchase two new geodetic-grade GPS receivers to support student/faculty research in plate deformation and fault movement studies last summer. Money from the Miller mineral collection endowment purchased a spectacular *mesosaurus* fossil and *glossopteris* for our Pangea display. The field studies endowment was vested last year and we'll be helping support our first batch students going to field



Geology students examining exposed cross-bedding and buried soils exposed in a coastal dune (P. Colgan).

camp with it this spring. Please consider giving generously to our department endowed funds. In this era of declining state funding for higher education, your support is critical to providing field research opportunities, scholarships, and equipment to our students. The spring geology picnic will be at the Cole's house the last Sunday in April, 2007. The fall picnic is usually the Sunday after Labor Day in September. We hope to see you there!

Kevin Cole, Chair

## Geology Faculty and Staff

Kevin Cole – Chair, Associate Professor  
Jonathan Burr – Visiting Assistant Professor  
Patrick Colgan – Associate Professor  
Charles Bunker - Instructor  
Larry Fegel - Affiliate Faculty  
Kelly Heid – Instructor  
Steve Mattox – Associate Professor  
Figen Mekik – Associate Professor  
Ginny Peterson - Associate Professor  
Laura Smart – Visiting Assistant Professor  
Peter Riemersma – Associate Professor  
Patricia Videtich - Professor  
Peter Wampler – Assistant Professor  
John Weber – Associate Professor

Greg Wilson – Lab Supervisor  
Linda Noel – Academic Department Coordinator  
Janet Potgeter – Department Secretary

"Grand Valley State University is a public institution with a local, regional, and state commitment, and a global perspective. We are dedicated to providing our students with the highest quality undergraduate and graduate education. "

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## Faculty News

**Greg Wilson** "The highlight of my year was the field trip to Hawaii with Steve Mattox. This trip included over 20 GEO 201 students and my son **Luke**. I continue to teach GEO 111 and the Honors Program Geology Course. I am currently making plans for an HNR 241 field trip to the Yellowstone/Tetons region for next summer. I am working on adding more inquiry based labs to my courses and hope to use materials from a deep-sea core workshop from this years GSA meeting. My family is doing well and we enjoyed our first ski trip to Colorado last spring."

**John Weber** has been working in Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia on plate motion and neotectonic studies. He teaches structural geology, global tectonics, field methods, earth history, plate tectonics, and environmental geology.

**Peter Wampler** focuses on rivers and geomorphology, especially human modifications to river systems through restoration, dams, and diversions. Peter has been doing some excellent research with students on the campus ravines. Peter teaches environmental geology, oceanography, and an upper level class on rivers and watersheds.

**Pat Videtich** "I have been spending most of my time teaching Exploring the Earth, Sedimentology/Stratigraphy, and in fall '06 Geochemistry with a whopping four brave students! Alum **John Van Regenmorter**, Bill Neal, and I have been working on a revising a paper for the *Michigan Academician* on aquatic vertebrates from the gypsum mines. Of course I continue to work on that oh-so-elusive dolomite! On the home front, Colby Bear, my black, hairy beast of a dog is as brilliant as ever."

**Laura Smart** is a new visiting professor teaching environmental geology for our general education students. Laura is currently completing her Ph.D. in geophysics at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

**Peter Riemersma** is a groundwater hydrogeologist. He teaches Living with the Great Lakes, Exploring the Earth, and environmental geology. He also teaches hydrogeology every year now as part of our new environmental geology emphasis for geology majors.

**Ginny Peterson** "I continue to work on projects related to North Carolina geology. The fruit of a couple of years of planning with colleagues resulted in submission of an NSF-REU proposal last summer. If funded, it will support 36 undergraduate interns over 3 years to conduct research on mafic and ultramafic rocks in the southern Appalachian Blue Ridge. Our Virtual Geotrip to Grand Ledge is online and more virtual trips to Michigan's Upper Peninsula should be available soon. My husband, Jon Burr is completing his final year of teaching for the department and my daughter, **Casie** just turned 13.

**Steve Mattox** "My efforts are focused on Integrated and Earth science students. I encourage pre-service teachers to publish in peer reviewed journals and to present at conferences. Last September, I participated in the 4th International Geoscience Education conference in Germany. My efforts in fusing science and literacy will result in a book to be published in February. This year I hope to network with our Earth science alums to share successes and concerns (please drop me an email). My kids, **Tasman** and **Fei**, are thriving at North Park Montessori School and my wife **Tari** teaches at GRCC and started a small business."

**Figen Mekik** – "2006 brought many new experiences my way. I spent several months in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia preparing and analyzing deep sea samples for

evidence of carbonate dissolution. I also had a much cherished opportunity to go on a research cruise, three full weeks out in the stormy Pacific. Now I'm home enjoying a quiet semester of teaching fun courses."

**Angela Hessler** left the geology department in the summer to move to Berkley, California with her new spouse. Angela started a new job this fall with Chevron. Angela was a valued faculty member in our department and everyone in the department will miss her greatly.

**Kelly Heid** has been teaching Exploring the Earth labs as well as working in the Regional Math and Science Center on outreach to science teachers in Michigan.

**Larry Fegel** "This year has been a good year for continued teaching of GEO 100, 111, 202, and 203. One of the more exciting aspects of this year has been working on a field version of GEO 202. **Peter Riemersma** and I will lead a group of students throughout northern Michigan and portions of Ontario. The class is scheduled for two weeks in July and August. I am continuing with my outreach to the community by working with local schools, assisting at the Outdoor Discovery Center, and serving on an advisory board for Blandford Nature Center."

**Kevin Cole** is in his last year as unit head and continues to teach mineralogy and geophysics and lead summer field trips to the Canadian Rockies and to Canyon Lands National Park. Kevin will be on sabbatical during the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Pat Colgan** – "I teach geomorphology, glacial geology and Exploring the Earth. My research involves reconstructing Quaternary glacial geomorphology and history in Tibet and Michigan. I have also been involved in mapping glacial deposits in Michigan with GVSU undergraduates."

**Jon Burr** has been teaching 100 and 300-level Environmental Courses, and Exploring the Earth.

## Retired Faculty News

**Bill Neal** - "In retirement, I continue work on several projects. Watch for our new book *Atlantic Coast Beaches: A Guide to Ripples, Dunes, and Other Natural Features of the Seashore* from Mountain Press in spring of 2007. Also **John Van Regenmorter**, **Pat Videtich**, and I are wrapping up a paper on coprolites from the gypsum mine (*Michigan Academician*), and I'm trying to resurrect work on a Lake Michigan book."



Sed-Strat and Petrology students examine Paleozoic limestone exposed in Thorn Hill section north of Knoxville, Tennessee (G. Peterson).

## Student News

Currently there are 77 Geology majors, 6 minors, and 37 Earth Science majors and 33 minors. There are currently 256 students in the Integrated Science Program (pre-service teachers).

**Kat Barnard, Sydney Boos, Katie Conroy, Ted LaCrosse, Joe Root and Patrick Womble** attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this past October. They checked out talks, posters, and graduate schools. **Patrick** and **Ted** co-authored a poster with **Peter Wampler**.

## Departmental Field Trips 2006

This year **Pat Videtich** led about 100 students on gypsum mine tours for her various classes.

In March **Pat Colgan** and **Kelly Heid** led a day field trip in geomorphology to study west Michigan glacial and eolian history including stops at Green Mountain Beach, and Glen Shores, Michigan. Weather was cold but clear this year.

In April **Ginny Peterson** and **Pat Videtich** led a 5-day field trip for Petrology and Sedimentation and Stratigraphy classes (~30 participants). This was a new field trip so that now there are 2 distinct southern Appalachian field trips so that students who participate in the field trip in 2 successive years will have a different field experience. This year's trip visited the classic Thorn Hill Paleozoic section preserved north of Knoxville in eastern Tennessee, then visited impressive igneous and metamorphic rocks in southwestern North Carolina, ending with a foggy traverse of Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Along with learning some new geology, students displayed talents in opening a locked van, freeing a van that was deeply stuck in the mud, and collecting large samples. Despite significant rainfall on the trip, including an impressive front that spawned many tornadoes in Tennessee during one evening, the rain always managed to let up when we got out of the vans at the outcrop and start up again as soon as we were done (were we blessed or what?). Next year we will go to Pound Gap in Kentucky, the Mount Rogers area in Virginia, and northwestern North Carolina.



Towing the stuck van near Smoky Mountain (G. Peterson)

In May **John Weber** led geology students on a canoe trip to the Buffalo River of northern Arkansas.

In May **Angela Hessler** led an 8-day field trip to California for integrated science major. **Greg Wilson** and **Peter Riemersma** joined the trip.

In June **Steve Mattox** and **Greg Wilson** led 24 students on a trip to explore volcanic landscapes in Hawaii. The trip was aimed at pre- and in-service teachers. They were joined by two faculty and five students from University of Southern Indiana. The next Hawaii trip is June 2008



Hawaii field trip group at the summit of Mauna Kea (G. Wilson).

In July **Ginny Peterson** taught part of the YBRA field camp in Red Lodge Montana (~25 students).

In June/July **John Weber** taught part of the U Penn/YBRA field course in Red Lodge Montana.

In September **Kevin Cole** led the 24-student mineralogy class on a 4-day trip to Bancroft, Ontario. Awesome minerals were had by all.

**Larry Fegel** Holland 100 students went on a DJ Angus cruise, studied the Black River from canoes, visited water filtration and waste treatment plants, and studied sand dunes at Rosy Mound Natural Area. **Larry's** GEO 111 class visited Green Mountain dunes, went down in the gypsum mine, collected fossils and visited the sinkholes at Alpena.

In September and October **Peter Wampler** led 10 trips on the Angus research vessel for a total of 200 students in Geo 103 and 105.

In October **Larry Fegel**, and **Figen Mekik** led a one-day trip to the Alpena quarry for students in Geo 111, 112, and 201. Loads of fossils were collected including a few good trilobites.

In late October **John Weber** led students in Structural Geology class in a weekend exercise in the Baraboo Hills of Wisconsin.

In October **Pat Colgan** and **Kelly Heid** led a one-day and several half-day field trips in geomorphology to examine west Michigan Quaternary geology. Eolian crossbedding and paleosols were well exposed at Green Mountain Beach. Students also collected two 3-meter long vibracores from the ravines during the semester.

In November **John Weber** led the field methods students on a trip to the Saint Francis Mountains of southeastern Missouri.

In May 2007 **John Weber** and **Heather Brusnahan** will lead a trip for the Impact Field Studies Group, Annual trip to the Kentland, Indiana impact crater.

In June 2007 **John Weber** will be co-leading a field trip for the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago, 4th Geological Conference, Trip #3 (1 day), Northern Range: structures, metamorphism, and tectonic geomorphology.

## 2006 Geology Department Graduates

### B.S. Geology

Eric Baar  
Jennifer Deloge  
Kory Konsoer  
Jim Rinke

### B.S. Geology Minor

Richard Beaduin (Geography)  
Tammie Keck (Geography)

### B.S. Geochemistry

Brian Beach  
Lisa Raterink

### B.S. Earth Science

Dana Bereens  
Bridget Burns  
Samantha Hawkins  
Maria Nixon  
Kunkle, Nathan  
Caleb O'Boyle  
Lindsay Shepard  
Gary Van Ravensway

### Group Science - Geology

Sarah Jurewicz

## Undergraduate Research Projects 2006

**Kathryn Barnard** (geology major) is working with John Weber and Carl Campell on mikrotektites associated with the Cretaceous impact. Kat will present her research at next years Michigan Academy of Science meeting in March of 2007.

**Heather Brusnahan** (geology major), is working with John Weber on Shock-metamorphic effects in lattice structure of sphalerite (ZnS) in breccia of the Kentland Crater in Indiana. Heather will present her research at next years Michigan Academy of Science meeting.

**Nicole Kildau** (math/education/honors) is working with Steve Mattox on a math/geology paper predicting when and where the next submarine Hawaiian volcano will begin erupting.

**Eric Laney** (integrated science major) is working with Steve Mattox on modeling the movement of lahars. A manuscript was submitted to *Science Scope* this year.

**Rhiannon Mulligan** (earth science minor) is working with Pat Colgan on a vibrocore of alluvial sediments in the campus ravines to determine recent sedimentation rates (see picture at left). Rhiannon will present her research at next years Michigan Academy of Science meeting.

**Rhiannon Mulligan** (earth science minor) and Figen Mekik are working on figuring out if Fe/Ca ratios in planktonic foraminifer shells can be used as a sea surface water temperature indicator.

**Caitlin Wolfinger** (integrated science major) is working with Steve Mattox to revise a manuscript on gender and racial bias in children's Earth science trade books.

**Patrick Womble** (geology major) is working with Peter Wampler on runoff and human-induced changes to the campus ravines system. Patrick will present his research at next years Michigan Academy of Science meeting.

**Students from last winter's GEO 319 class**, Earth Science in Secondary Education are working with Steve Mattox to publish their research project on gender and racial bias in introductory Physical Geology textbooks. A manuscript has been submitted to Eos.

**Emily Temple** is working with Ginny Peterson on the petrology of amphibolite migmatites from the Willets area, western North Carolina.

**Steve Polkowski** and others are working with Ginny Peterson to develop a thin section making protocol for the department.



Sarah Nagorsen and Exploring the Earth students measure stream flow at Sand Creek (P. Colgan).

## Student Scholarship Awardees

### Edward Tremba Geology Scholarship

The Edward Tremba Geology Scholarship Fund is supported by your donations and goes to our outstanding Geology and Earth Science majors. Students must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher to be eligible for the award.

**Eric Baar**

**Kathryn Barnard**  
**Jennifer Deloge**  
**Patrick Womble**

**Kory Konsoer**

**Jill Kurek**  
**Matthew Kreuyer**

### Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club Award:

The Tulip City Award is provided by the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club and goes to majors who make significant contributions to the geology department.

**Nathan Noll**

**Keisha Durant**

In the future we hope to provide additional awards from The Geology Student Field Studies Fund to support student field activities, particularly support for students to attend field camp – we need your contributions. We are also attempting to start another student research fund with \$10,000 generously donated by the family of Norman Gibson. In 2005-2006 the Geology Department was honored for having the highest % of faculty and staff in any academic department giving to the GVSU Annual Fund (78%).

**Please consider a gift to one of these departmental scholarship funds. When giving to GVSU, please specify one of these funds or give to the Geology Development Endowment Fund which is used for special needs in the department such as matching funds for equipment or field trips.**

## Publications by Students and Faculty

**Bliss M. & Mattox S.R.**, 2006. Was that a Normal Winter? *Michigan Science Teachers Association Journal*, v. 51, p. 5-13.

**Coffey P. & Mattox S.R.**, 2006. Using a rock tumbler to promote critical thinking about weathering and erosion. *Science Scope*, v. 29, no. 6, p. 33-37.

**Colgan P.M.**, Munroe J.S. & Zhou S., 2006. Cosmogenic radionuclide evidence for the limited extent of last glacial maximum glaciers in the Tanggula Shan of the central Tibetan Plateau. *Quaternary Research*, v. 65, no. 1, p. 336-339.

**Colgan P.M.**, 2006. Evidence of glacier recession. In Elias, S. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Sciences*. Elsevier, p. 798-808.

**Colgan P.M. & Tort C.**, 2006. Quaternary Geology of the Sullivan 7.5 minute Quadrangle, Michigan. *Open File Report, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*, Map Scale 1:24,000.

Cruz L., Fayon A., Teyssier C. & **Weber J.**, accepted. Exhumation and deformation processes in transpressional orogens: The Venezuelan Paria Peninsula. *SE Caribbean-South American plate boundary, and the Southern Alps, New Zealand, GSA Special Paper on Exhumation and Wrench Tectonics*.

Lopez A.M., Stein S., Dixon T., Sella G., Calais E., Jansma P., **Weber J.** & LaFemina P., 2006. Is There A Northern Lesser Antilles Forearc Block? *Geophysical Research Letters*, v. 33, p. L07313.

**Mattox S.R., & King K.**, 2006. Perspectives on Water Usage in Michigan and the Geology of the Ice Mountain Site. *Michigan Science Teachers Association Journal*, v. 51, p. 51-60.

**Mattox S.R., & Zeeff C.**, 2006. The Great Quake of 1906, *Science and Children*, v. 44, no. 2, p. 14-16.

**Mekik A.F.**, & François R., in press. Tracing deep sea carbonate dissolution: Agreement between the *G. menardii* fragmentation index and elemental ratios [Mg/Ca and Mg/Sr] in planktonic foraminifers. *Paleoceanography*.

**Mekik A.F.**, Loubere P. & Richaud M., accepted. Rain Ratio Variation in the Tropical Ocean: Tests with Surface Sediments in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific. *Deep Sea Research II*.

**Peterson V.L.**, Lord M.L., & Vandervoort K.V., in press. Integrating investigation across the geology and physics curricula using the Cullowhee Creek Environmental Field Station: Implementation and Adaptation. *CUR How-to Book*.

**Peterson, V.**, Ryan, J.G., Yurkovich, S., **Burr, J.**, & Kruse, S., and the 1997-2001 REU Program Participants, 2006, The Petrogenesis and tectonic implications of Blue Ridge Mafic-Ultramafic Rocks: The Buck Creek and Carroll Knob complexes, and rocks of the Addie-Willeys region. In Labotka, T.C. & Hatcher, R.D., Jr. eds. *Geological Society of America 2006 Southeastern Section Meeting Field Trip Guidebook*, Field trip 5, p. 101-127.

**Van Regenmorter, J. Videtich, P.E.**, and **Neal, W.J.**, accepted, Coprolites, cololites, and fish remains in the Michigan Formation: Mississippian of western Michigan. *Michigan Academician*.

de Verteuil L., & **Weber J.**, 2006, *Trinidad Geological GIS, Module 1 – Surface Geology and Geography*, Latinum, Ltd., Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

**Wampler P.J.**, 2006. Temperature variability within a two mile reach below River Mill Dam, Clackamas River, Report for Portland General Electric Company, Portland, OR, 13 p.

**Wampler P.J. & Hales G.**, 2006. Coarse sediment resource evaluation near River Mill Dam, Report for Portland General Electric Company, Portland, OR, 13 p.

## Presentations by Students and Faculty

**Colgan P.M.**, Zhou S., Xu L., Douglass D., Refsnider K., Mickelson D.M., & Munroe J.S., 2006. Cosmogenic radionuclide <sup>10</sup>Be exposure ages for two glacial advances in the Boduizangbu and Palongzangbu valley of southeastern Tibet. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, v. 38, no. 7, p. 71.

**Colgan, P.M.** 2006. Field relationships between Lake Michigan lobe end moraines and Glacial Lake Chicago sediments in southern Muskegon County, Michigan. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters*.

**King, K., & Mattox, S.**, 2006, Exploring the geology of the Ice Mountain bottled-Water site. Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference Program, p. 38.

**Mattox, S.R.**, 2006, How gender and race of geologists are portrayed in physical geology textbooks. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geoscience Education, Bayruth, Germany.

Robinson P., Tucker R.D., Hollocher K., **Peterson V.L.**, Thompson P.J., Berry H.N. IV, Osberg P.H., Van Staal C.R., Roberts D., & Nordgulen Ø., 2006. Gondwanan - South American connections in Taconian, Acadian-Caledonian, and younger orogenic records in the northern Appalachians and Norwegian Caledonides (I) *Backbone of the Americas, Patagonia to Alaska Conference, Geological Society of America, Specialty Meeting*. no. 2, p. 71.

**Sullivan S., Bliss M., Kidwell K. & Mattox S.**, 2006. Engaging middle school students in analysis/evaluation of weather data. *Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference*, p. 31.

**Videtich, P.E. & Riemersma, P.E.**, 2006. In support of creative extra credit opportunities. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, v. 38, no. 7, p. 218.

**Wampler P.J.**, 2006. Clickers in the classroom: Rewards and regrets of using student response systems in a large enrollment geology class. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, v. 38, no. 7, p. 497.

**Womble P.J., Wampler, P.J. & Lacross, T.R.**, 2006. Urbanization induced changes to a ravine system and evaluation of land use and infrastructure sustainability at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, v. 38, no. 7, p. 231.

## Grants Awarded in 2006

**Ginny Peterson** submitted a REU proposal to support undergraduate student internships with colleagues at University of South Florida and Western Carolina University Ginny Peterson also received a grant to create virtual field trips for her classes.

**Peter Wampler** and **Patrick Womble** were awarded a Summer Student Scholar grant to study human induced storm water runoff and erosion in the campus ravines system. **Peter Wampler** was also awarded a grant from Robinson Township, for recreation plan assistance.

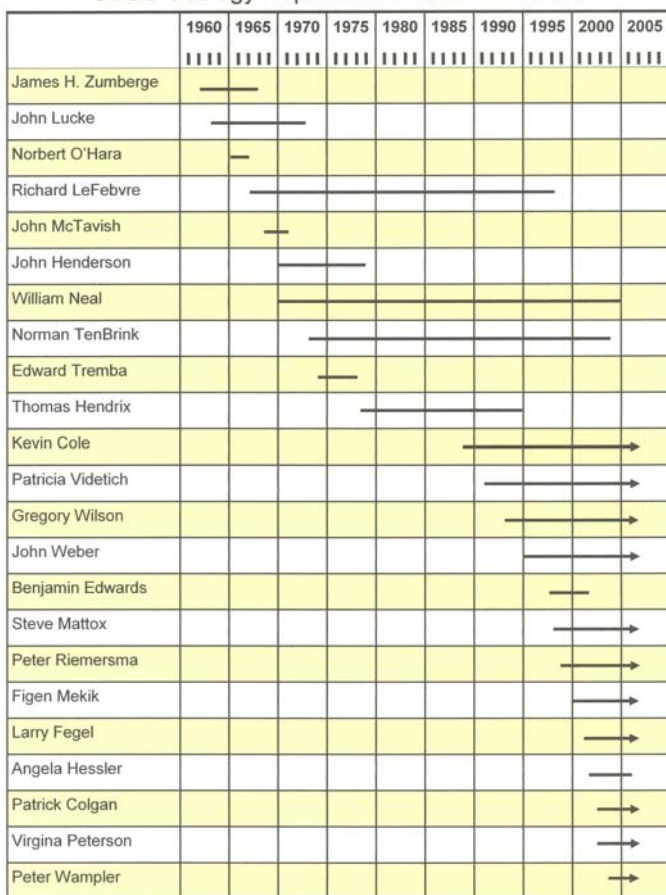
## A Call for Information and Stories on the Early History of the GVSC/GVSU Department of Geology

### Pat Videtich

I am in the process of writing the history of the Geology Department. The history to date will be published via the web, but below you can see the faculty timeline. I am counting on some of our emeritus faculty and older alumni to send information, pictures, and stories about the good old days, especially pictures and stories from the 1960's and 1970's. If anyone had Johnny Lucke, I'm sure you could come up with a story or two that should be included! Did anyone out there have Norbert O'Hara, John MacTavish, or John Warren? All who started out in Thomas Jefferson College or even graduated from TJC? William James anyone? Please send me whatever bit of information you might have, even if it only to say you had certain faculty in the early days aside from Lefebvre, Henderson, Hendrix, Neal, and TenBrink. You can respond to me by mail or by email ([videtich@gvsu.edu](mailto:videtich@gvsu.edu)).

Thank you very much!

The History of the Faculty at the GVSU Geology Department: 1962— Present.



(graph by Pat Videtich and Janet Potgeter)

## Alumni News

(News received since last newsletter in February 2005)

**Jim Walters (1970)** is head of the Department of Earth Science at University of Northern Iowa.

**Larry Austin (1974)** continues to run Aqua-Tech Environmental in Grand Rapids.

**Mark Bishop (1974)** is retired and lives in Hudsonville, Michigan.

**Steve Grodecki (1975)** is a franchise owner of H & R Block in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

**Jeffrey Spruit (1975)** is working for the Michigan DEQ and lives in Ostego, Michigan with his wife Diane. They have two children, Aaron and Carrie Anne in college now.

**Jack Hall (1977)** is head of environmental sciences program at University of North Carolina – Wilmington. We enjoyed visiting with Jack at GSA.

**Sheryl Lentini (1977)** is living with husband Mike in Vienna, Austria.

**John Vrona (1977)** is working for Wolverine Gas and Oil Corporation. He gave a great talk to our undergraduates in the fall on applying geology in a career.

**Ann Bykerk-Kauffmann (1980)** is an associate professor in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at Chico State University. She is living in Chico, California with her husband Mark and sons Alan and Benjamin. We enjoyed visiting with Ann at GSA.

**Ron Sheets (1982)** is a research fellow at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa.

**Dean Vander Meulen (1982)** is living in Grand Haven, Michigan.

**Ingrid Verhagen (1982)** is living in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Blaine Campell (1986)** is employed by ConocoPhillips in Alaska. Blaine has worked in the petroleum industry since 1988.

**Karen Like (1986)** is living with her husband in Bloomington Indiana and collects crinoids and geodes. She has three boys Alexander, Noah, and Thomas.

**Jason Hunter (1994)** after working in environmental consulting for six year Jason is now teaching earth science at Grand Haven High School.

**Molly Sherwood (1994)** is working as an environmental compliance manager for Kent County.

**Tim Feurstein (1995)** is teaching earth and physical science in Coopersville Junior High School, Michigan.

**Colin Plank (1997)** is working on a Ph.D at the University of Minnesota.

**Nicole Heller (1998)** is working at AMEC Earth & Environmental in Michigan.

**Alexandra de Jong (1998)** sent us a picture of herself and her daughter Pippa. She is living in Kentwood, Michigan

**Lorrie (Popma) Murray (1998)** is living in Hudsonville with husband Ryan and son Riley.

**Steve Beukema (1999)** stopped by the department and is finishing his Ph.D. in stable isotope geochemistry at Western Michigan University.

**Jason Conant (1999)** is living in Grand Haven, Michigan.

**Mike Buboltz (2000)** is teaching at Mona Shores Middle School and lives in Muskegon, Michigan with his wife Joanna.

**Eric Hanis (2000)** is currently employed by Burns & McDonnell in Downers Grove, Illinois. We enjoyed visiting with Eric at GSA.

**Andy McCarthy (2000)** is working on a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona.

**Angela Austin (2001)** is working at the Michigan DEQ.

**Beth Ter Haar (2001)** is somewhere on the other side of the lake?

**Emily Moelhoek (2002)** is finishing her M.S. degree in geology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her thesis is on "An 8 Ka record of vegetation cover, fire history and moisture from north-central Mongolia". We enjoyed visiting with Emily at GSA.

**Tina Poulos (2002)** recently completed her M.S. degree at SUNY Buffalo.

**Kurt Dalman (2003)** is working on a M.S. degree at Washington State University.

**Keith Lang (2003)** is teaching earth science, physical science, and physics at Sturgis High School in Michigan.

**Matt Zechmeister (2003)** is working on a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma.

**Julie Groenleer (2004)** is working on a M.S. degree at the University of Idaho.

**Nate Boersma (2004)** is working on a M.S. degree at the University of Idaho.

**Brent Ritchie (2004)** is finishing his M.S. degree in geophysics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His thesis is titled "An Examination of Glacier Dynamics Affecting the Advance of Hubbard Glacier, Alaska."

**John VanRegenmorter (2004)** is working on a M.S. degree in paleontology at Western Michigan University.

**Jon Stark (2004)** recently completed his M.S. degree at Ohio State University in glacial geomorphology. Jon is now working for GZA Environmental in Detroit, Michigan.

**Matt Weiss (2004)** is working on a M.S. in environmental geophysics at University of South Florida.

**JoAnn Webb-Franklin (2005)** – is teaching fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary in Grand Rapids.

**Jeremy Meyer (2005)** is working for an environmental consulting firm in Grand Rapids.

**Rachael Czechowskij (2005)** is working on a M.S. degree at University of Alabama. Some of us visited with Rachael at GSA where she presented a poster on her research.

**Paul Schmude (2005)** is looking for oil in Michigan.

**Curran Kemp (2005)** has been back to the department since being in Australia last year.

**Eric Baar (2006)** is working on a M.S. degree in sedimentary geology at Western Washington University. Eric came and talked to our majors about graduate school in the Fall.

**Brian Beach (2006)** is working at ERM in Holland Michigan.

**Jennifer Deloge (2006)** is working on a M.S. degree at Michigan State University.

**Kory Konsoer (2006)** is working on a M.S. degree in at West Virginia University.

**Samantha Hawkins (2006)** is working for the West Virginia Geology Survey.

**Lisa Raterink (2006)** is working on a M.S. degree at Wright State.

## New Department Equipment

During the summer of 2005 the department received funding to purchase some major field equipment. We bought a system for projecting 3D images of topography and maps in classes. The **Geowall System** consists of a computer, two digital projectors, and the software for creating and manipulating 3D images. Kevin Cole has been using the system for public outreach (Schools and Science Olympics) as well as in some of our introductory classes.

We also obtained funds to build our own **vibracoring system** to collect sediment cores for geomorphology and sedimentology class projects and student research. Kevin Cole built the tripod and hoist system with some fancy aluminum welding, Pat Colgan and Peter Wampler worked with Kevin to make the system operational and so far the equipment has been used to collect two 3 meter cores in the ravines as part of a student research project.

Finally, we also purchased a **laser rangefinder** for creating detailed topographic maps and mapping outcrops in detail. It can also be used to create detailed 3D maps of body and trace fossils in samples that are difficult to photograph.

Major equipment needs include replacing our old XRD system for undergraduate and faculty research and obtaining new equipment for paleomagnetic studies, and geochemical analysis.



Geology students collect a sediment core using the vibracoring method in the ravines during geomorphology class (P. Colgan).

## From the Geology Archives

Reflections of John B. Lucke  
(Received January, 1976)

I had met Jim (Dr. James H.) Zumberge at GSA meetings and exchanged notes on geomorphology with him in correspondence through the 1950's. We liked and respected each other. At the 1963 GSA meeting in New York City (when Grand Valley was only a few months old), he invited me to apply for the post of professor of geology in order to "begin to build the best small geology department in the country". I flew out for a visitation in December, meeting especially George Potter, Art Hills, Harry Jellema and the Zumberges, both on and off campus. I recall our luncheon at Schulers in Grand Haven (when they served full course lunches, not snacks); there were over 30 inches of snow at the lake shore but only 5-6 inches at Grand Rapids. There were several other candidates considered that winter, one of which was the Pennsylvania State Geologist. I was strongly backed by John Frye and George Maxey of Urbana. On 24 April I received notification that the Board of Control had approved my appointment (\$12,000 for nine months). I was immediately asked to submit a list of bare minimal lab equipment for Geology (Physical and Historical) so as to be "ready" next September, 1964. The "geology baby" was housed in the middle of Lake Superior Hall, as part of the Science Division, whose secretary and sparkplug was Mrs. Marie Klotz. I've never had a better one anywhere, full or part-time.

Partly to keep me "busy" and partly (so it was said) to "sell" Grand Valley to southwestern Michigan, I was asked to present a TV series as part of an established local feature – TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR. The logistics and moral support were supplied by Nancy (Seidman) Dempsey, then in charge of what is now called College Relations. This series ran for thirty minutes per week, for twelve weeks. I believe I got Jim Zumberge to take one, but I had all the others, including all the props. I called my series (borrowing Cloos) – CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EARTH. I have no way of knowing how it went over, but the few personal comments I received were favorable. It was a chore, especially culling the props, maps, slides, and the specimens to be used (mostly from my own personal collections). I hope it did the College some good.

On April 20, 1966 I was appointed Professor of Geology with tenure.

In May of 1966, an all-college holiday was declared to dedicate the Loutit Hall of Science. I was privileged to introduce the guest speaker (fellow shipmate on the RV ATLANTIS in 1948), Dr. Frank Press, Chairman, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the largest lecture room then available on campus, 132 Lake Huron.

On September 28, 1966 I was appointed Chairman of Geology Department.

In the next academic year, Grand Valley College was formerly granted a club charter in the Society of Sigma Xi, at ceremonies in the Peninsula Club. As instigator and ramrod of the application, I was elected president in the charter year of the club.

On a visit to Michigan State early in 1966, Dr. Zumberge met Norbert O'Hara, a graduate student in geophysics, who was just beginning his dissertation on the geology of the bottom of Lake Superior. He was quite impressed with O'Hara, an Air Force reserve pilot, and hired him to go to the Antarctic to assist in one of his ongoing research projects, and thereafter, to assume duties

as Instructor of Geology for the 1966-67 academic year. Norbert O'Hara was with Grand Valley only one year.

I pursued the search for a new number 2 personally at the 1966 GSA meeting in Atlantic City, as well as by mail to trusted opposite numbers. One of the latter, Dr. Arthur Howland of Northwestern University, suggested Dr. Richard Lefebvre, then Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia. He accepted the post of Assistant Professor after the usual visitation and paper work. The modern Grand Valley State College Geology Department began with his arrival in September 1967. Almost immediately we began a search for number 3, preferably a paleontologist-stratigrapher, to complete a minimum solid nucleus for a geology major. In September of 1968 John MacTavish arrived from Case Western Reserve University as Assistant Professor, with paleontology and stratigraphy as specialties. In 1970, John moved to the new WJC.

From 1 January to 15 June, 1971, I requested and was granted a leave-of-absence to take a South Pacific cruise on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Captain Cook's first voyage in the Pacific on the ENDEAVOUR. The college granted me \$500 carte blanche to cover the costs of collecting suites or rocks, corals, shell, etc.

### Please send the following information about yourself in one of three ways:

Email to Linda Noel [geodept@gvsu.edu](mailto:geodept@gvsu.edu)  
or to Janet Potgeter [potgeter@gvsu.edu](mailto:potgeter@gvsu.edu)

Mail it to us @ Geology Department, GVSU, Allendale, MI 49401

We hope to have an online form in the near future for direct submission (<http://www.gvsu.edu/geology/>)

Name: (If your name has changed since you were a student here, let us know your previous name also)

Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment/Life status or changes:

Contact information\* (address, email, phone)

- note that we will not post contact information on the web site apart from your city of residence – please let us know if you do not want us to share your contact information with alumni or friends who request it.



Students explore a lava tube in Hawaii (G. Wilson).