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Geology Newsletter- 1979

Department of Geology

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



December 1979

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Time has quickly passed, and it was a year ago last Spring that the last Newsletter was distributed, so I am long overdue in bringing you abreast of the events that have occurred in the Department since the Spring of 1978. The past year and a half have been very busy for myself and members of the faculty. The passing of Dr. Kuenzi last August was a very sad and difficult time for the Department. Expressions of shock and loss have been received from many of Dave's students. A Memorial Service, Dedication, and Memorial Lecture were held on October 22nd with attendance of nearly 100 of Dave's former students, friends, and colleagues. The W. David Kuenzi Sedimentology Laboratory was dedicated by Dean Clarke of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Alan Scott of the University of Texas presented a special lecture on "Relation of Tectonics and Sedimentation in an Active Subsiding Basin".

The W. David Kuenzi Memorial Fund was established to honor Dave's memory as a geologist, teacher, and friend. Proceeds from the Fund will be used to make awards to deserving students for research projects. Contributions can be made on the enclosed forms directly to Western's Annual Fund Office or to the Department of Geology.

The Department has grown to nine full-time faculty, and the newest members of the staff are Dr. Christopher Schmidt and Dr. William Sauck. Chris joined us in August of 1978 after having been on the faculty at Albion College. Chris is noted for his work in structural geology and geophysics in Montana. Joining the Department is Chris' wife Carolyn Rutland. Carolyn has an M.S. degree in geology from the University of Texas and has been on the staff as a sabbatical replacement for 1978-79 and during the Fall of 1979.

Bill Sauck arrived in August of 1979 from Brazil where he served as a Visiting Professor of Geophysics. Coming to Kalamazoo with Bill is his wife Elen who is a hydrologist and has entered a Ph.D. program at Western. Bill replaces Caspar Cronk as our geophysicist since Caspar has joined the staff of Phillips Petroleum Company and is now located in England.

The Department now offers a B.S. in geophysics which consists of concentrations in geology-geophysics, physics, and mathematics. Several new courses in resistivity, seismic methods, and gravity are pending approval. We are quite excited about this new major and the interest shown in it.

The Geology Department was one of three from the University that was selected for a review of its programs. Much energy has been spent during the past ten months preparing the report that was recently submitted. As part of the review process, Dr. Aureal Cross from Michigan State University was selected as the outside evaluator. Recently Dr. Cross spent two days in the Department interviewing faculty and students. This review is rapidly reaching its conclusion, and I hope to be able to share with you some of the recommendations at my next writing.

Last October EPA awarded Passero, Straw and Schmaltz a large (\$374,000) grant to assess the aquifers in the State of Michigan as part of the U. S. Government Underground Injection Control Program. This grant allows for the employment of a sizeable number of graduate and undergraduate students thereby providing them with valuable experience. Drs. Passero and Straw will be released full-time during the Winter Semester to work on the grant.

Other exciting news includes the award of an NSF Grant to Ron Chase and his colleague, Pat Bickford, of the University of Kansas. They are continuing their study of the petrology and age relationships of the Idaho Batholith.

Tom Straw spent the 1978-79 academic year on sabbatical leave in Montana. Tom is involved in a number of projects with the Montana Bureau of Mines covering the hydrology of coal in Montana. He returned just in time to work on the EPA proposal and grant.

Dick Passero is as busy as ever serving on Governor Milliken's Environmental Review Board and the Toxic Waste Committee. Also, Dick spent much of last summer in a study of ground-water pollution problems, Kalamazoo County's landfill site, and the investigation of a potential new site on the Ft. Custer property. Dick had to give a presentation before Congressman Wolpe and the Army in Washington D.C. on this problem.

Bill Harrison continues his study of the Upper Ordovician rocks around Cincinnati, and has also extended his interests to include a study, "Analysis of Selected Heavy Metals in Kalamazoo Lakes".

John Grace finally did it! He went and tied the knot. He married Kelly Avery last summer and has helped Kelly open her new paint and interior decorating business.

Bob Havira was on professional leave last year learning all about camera repair and electronics. We are happy to have Bob back. Kathy Redmond very efficiently runs the Department office, and the good news is Kathy is expecting, with arrival predicted for next April. Fortunately for the Department, Kathy plans to return to work after her leave.

Betty Garrett has been away for the past year and a half completing her research at Arizona State. Betty will be back in Kalamazoo about Christmas time.

With funds from the Geology Development Fund and matching dollars from the Dean, the Department was able to present an excellent series of seminar speakers during 1978-79. Guest speakers were:

Dr. William Cambray, Michigan State University
"Middle Precambrian Plate Tectonics of Michigan's Upper Peninsula"

Jeffrey Evans and Arthur S. Hunnewell, Woodward and Clyde Consultants
"Geology and Geotechnical Engineering"

Dr. James Fisher, Michigan State University
"Oil and Natural Gas in Michigan"

Dr. William Hinze, Purdue University
"Midcontinent Tectonism and Geophysics of the New Madrid Fault Zone"

Dr. Frank Simpson, University of Windsor
"Linear Basement Features, Solution-Generated Collapse Structures, and
Depositional Systems in the Northern Williston Basin Region"

Dr. Aureal Cross, Michigan State University
"Origin of Coal and Depositional Environments of Coal in the Colorado Plateau"

Dr. Thomas Robyn (W.M.U. Grad.), Anaconda Copper Company
"Miocene Calc-Alkaline Vulcanism Unassociated with Subduction, Northeast Oregon"

Dr. Peter J. Wyllie, University of Chicago
"Igneous Petrology and Plate Tectonics" and "Kimberlites, Carbonatites, and
the Upper Mantle"

Dr. Pat Bickford, University of Kansas
"Evolution of the St. Francis Mountains, Volcanic-Plutonic Complex, Missouri"

Dr. Norman Sleep, Northwestern University
"Physical Processes at Plate Boundaries"

Faculty and students are indebted to the contributors of the Development Fund
who make possible the guest speakers program.

Dr. William Dickinson, Stanford University, was a Visiting Scholar for 1978-79,
and during a three-day visit presented a lecture and informal discussions on plate
tectonics and sedimentation.

While at the A.A.P.G. meeting in Houston last April, Bill Harrison and I met
with a sizeable number of our former students. It was good fun meeting with some
of our graduates and finding out what many are doing in the oil business.

During the Winter Semester 1979 the Department offered a Petroleum Technology
course which consisted of a series of invited speakers from the petroleum industry.
Each speaker gave a technical presentation on exploration, production, logging, or
regulation.

Interest among oil companies in recruiting in the Department is on the increase.
Alumni working for industry (oil, mining, engineering) are invited to encourage their
firms to consider the Department in their recruiting efforts. Firms recruiting on
campus so far this year are: Exploration Logging, Inc., Amoco (Geophysics Branch),
Amoco (Geology) by Brian Shaw, a W.M.U. grad., Chevron Oil Company, and Conoco, Inc.

All alumni are invited to keep the Department informed of their current addresses
and of their activities. Often we receive inquiries for addresses of friends and
former classmates. At the next writing I will try to provide a more complete report
on alumni.

It is still possible for supporters of the Department to make a contribution to
the Geology Development Fund or the W. David Kuenzi Memorial Fund as a 1979 tax
deduction. Michigan residents have an exceptional opportunity to maximize their
deduction by using the special credit allowable for gifts to Western on their State
of Michigan Tax Form. Also, please inquire if your employer provides a matching
contribution. All gifts to the Department should be designated for the particular
Geology Department Fund of your choice. A form is enclosed.

That's all I have to report for now. I'll try and get the next letter out
sooner. For the students, staff, and faculty I extend best wishes for a happy
holiday season.

Sincerely,



Lloyd J. Schmaltz
Chairman

Enclosure

