The Year in Review
Fred Soster, Chair

Welcome to the 2018 edition of The Boulder RUNdown. This year marks the 21st annual edition of the newsletter, which was first published in 1997! A big shout out to Scott Wilkerson who has been the sole editor of the newsletter for all of these years. Thanks, Scott, for all of your hard work through the years.

The year began with an epic adventure to New Zealand led by Tim Cope and Jim Mills as part of their Winter Term project “Geology of New Zealand”. During Spring Break 2017, Tim Cope led his Geologic Field Experiences class on a week-long trip to Death Valley, CA. Many of the eighteen students who went on the trip experienced “dry-camping” for the first time. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, it means no running water, and therefore no showers and no toilets, in this case for a week! Tim hired Audrey Gelhuassen ‘06 to do all the camp cooking for the entire group, and that freed up the students to do what we do best: look at rocks and construct geologic maps and cross sections. The F. Michael and Dorothy W. Wahl Endowed Fund for Geosciences Field Trips paid most of the expenses for this trip for all of the students, including the airfare. In fact, the Wahl Fund has really been a “game changer” for the Department of Geosciences because we can think big in terms of our co-curricular field trips. But even more important, many students who would otherwise be unable to afford to participate on these field trip opportunities because of financial circumstances no longer have to worry about trip costs. The Wahl Fund enables us to cover most, and in many cases, all of the field trip expenses for the students. We deeply appreciate Michael’s foresight in establishing this fund, and his continued support of our students and our program.

In April, we awarded over $11,500 in merit-based department scholarships to 12 of our majors at the annual Awards Convocation (you can find the names of the award recipients elsewhere in this newsletter). These merit scholarships are made possible by the Department’s endowed scholarship funds: the Bieber Scholarship Fund, the Gault Memorial Fund, and
the “Rock” Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Wylie-Condit Science Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all of you who continue to support our geoscience students through your contributions to these endowed funds. In late April, two of our seniors, Gabby Jensen ’17 and Madeline Piscetta ’17, presented their research results at the annual Senior Showcase. Scott Wilkerson managed to slip one more field trip in before the end of the school year when he took his structure class on a weekend trip up to Baraboo, WI in early May. In late May, five geology majors and five environmental geoscience majors graduated. Four of these graduates are presently in M.S. or Ph.D. programs at Florida State University, University of Georgia, University of Miami, and Vanderbilt University (all have partial or full-ride scholarships), and five are employed in the private sector. The success of these students (and all of you) speaks volumes about the power of a DePauw liberal arts education in general and more specifically, about the quality of the core curriculum and co-curricular activities in the Department of Geosciences. Many of you have supported us over the years in a variety of ways, and you can rightly claim a role in helping to foster our students’ successes. Thank you for your continued support.

Department faculty members remained busy throughout the summer. Tim Cope worked on manuscripts from his research in China and prepared for a year-long sabbatical. Jim Mills did a May Term project with Jen Everett (DePauw Professor of Philosophy) and students (Sustainable Deconstruction Practicum: DePauw’s Farmhouse) and then continued his work on the St. Francois Mountains, which was supported by the endowed James A. Madison Fund for Research. Scott Wilkerson was busy with several projects, including a manuscript on the geology of the Baraboo region in Wisconsin, a second edition of the Geotours Workbook, and Geotour exercises for an introductory geology laboratory manual. I was busy ramping up for a new research project on suspended sediment transport dynamics, with funding from the Madison Fund to initiate the project. Please see the individual faculty reports below for more details on all of this work.

In Fall Term 2017, 32 geoscience majors returned to campus, and we welcomed six new majors to the department over the course of the semester, bringing the total number of geoscience majors to 38. Jim Mills led a four-day Fall Break field trip to Arkansas to collect minerals at Crater of Diamonds State Park and the Jim Coleman Crystals Mine. Seventeen students participated on that trip, with funding provided by DePauw Student Government and the Wahl Fund. Jim then went with senior Nick Meszaros ’18, sophomore Ben Magnin ’20, and Tim Cope to the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Seattle, WA where Jim and Nick did a poster presentation entitled “Petrogenesis of Igneous Rocks in the Eminence Knobs Region: Southwestern St. Francois Mountains, Missouri.” Nick and Ben also were co-authors on two other poster presentations that were the result of their summer research projects at Indiana State University: “Implication of Sphalerite Composition at a Central Tennessee Mississippi Valley Type Deposit” and “Repeated Exposure of a Eukaryotic Microorganism to Short Wave, UV-C Radiation – Implication for Life on Early
Earth and Extraterrestrial Planetary Bodies.” The DePauw Faculty Development Fund provided financial support for Jim, Nick, and Ben to attend the meeting.

The GeoClub students were quite active in 2017. Aside from the trip to Arkansas mentioned above, the GeoClub sponsored a trip to the Indianapolis Children’s Museum in the spring and a trip to the Annual Fall Indianapolis Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show in the fall.

I hope this brief review of our activities last year gives you a sense of the vibrancy associated with our geoscience program and the many opportunities that our students have to enhance their course work through participation in a multitude of co-curricular offerings: field trips, research with faculty, presentations on campus or at national meetings, January Term and May Term projects, and GeoClub activities. This place ROCKS!

Before I close, I want to take the opportunity on behalf of the department faculty members to congratulate a current senior and a recent alumnus. Elise Johns ’18, an environmental geoscience major, was awarded an Orr Fellowship. With an acceptance rate of slightly over 5%, the Orr Fellowship (http://orrfellowship.org) provides a two-year, symbiotic relationship between students and host businesses that helps foster development of these students into tomorrow’s business leaders. Congratulations, Elise! Mackenzie Cremeans ’14, environmental geoscience and English writing double-major and presently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kansas, was recently elected President of the Association for Women Geoscientists. In her role as president, Mackenzie will lead this international organization in helping to enhance the quality and level of participation of women in the geosciences and to introduce girls and young women to geoscience careers. Mackenzie is another excellent example of how DePauw continues to develop leaders that the world needs. Congratulations, Mackenzie!

In closing, I would like to invite you to check out DePauw University’s new website and the Department of Geosciences home page. In particular, check out the interactive graphic that illustrates what graduates of the department do after they leave DePauw (a Scott Wilkerson production). Finally, if your travel plans bring you back to Greencastle, please stop in for a visit, and consider spending some time to talk to our students and share your DePauw story with them. We would be happy to host a department lunch for you and the students. If you’ve lost touch with us because of the busyness associated with life’s work and family, reach out to us and reconnect. We would love to hear from you and to learn about where your DePauw education has taken you. Take care.

**DEPAUW’S GOLD COMMITMENT**
https://www.depauw.edu/commitment/

- PROMISES STUDENTS that DePauw faculty, staff, alumni and trustees will provide a distinctive and relevant DePauw liberal arts education that results in a life of meaning and means.
- ASSURES ALUMNI that the value of their DePauw degree maintains its value, especially with their ongoing support of our students and graduates.
- PROMISES EMPLOYERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS that they can expect well-prepared and accomplished graduates.
- EXPECTS FROM STUDENTS that they fully invest in the DePauw Portfolio of rigorous academics and robust experiences and graduate in good standing within four years.
- GUARANTEES that DePauw’s liberal arts education will lead to post-graduate engagement. If not, DePauw will provide an entry-level professional opportunity or additional semester tuition-free.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES, LIKE THE GOLD COMMITMENT, emphasizes the dynamic collaboration between the curriculum and co-curriculum (e.g., field trips, research, workshops, activities, etc.) with a strong focus on student outcomes.
Hi everybody—it’s been a great year for field trips! Thanks to the Wahl Fund, we were again able to offer student support for our Field Experiences class, which was one of many trips the department was able to offer last year.

Last January, Jim Mills and I ran the New Zealand course together for the third time. We changed things up a bit from how we’d run it in the past. Since this course was for academic credit, we incorporated several mapping and geologic interpretation exercises into the field trip. This led us to several areas where we had never been, including Castle Hill near Arthur’s Pass (which you see on the cover), where folded Cenozoic limestones weather to fantastic boulder outcrops. We also visited the type locality of dunite at Dun Mountain in the South Island. We had a lot of weather: ~90 kph winds on the Tongariro summit, ~6 inches of rain in 24 hours at Franz Josef, and high seas along the coast. But, as usual, we all had a great time!

I also ran a Field Experiences trip to the Resting Spring Range in Death Valley over Spring Break this year. It was an unusually large group of 18 students, and as usual, we camped right at the foot of the mountains. We had some company, too: Audrey Gehlhausen ’06, her boyfriend Chris, and my friend Rob Newell joined our trip as camp cooks, and Will Joseph ’14 came out from Las Vegas to join the group for the last two days.

We had a difficult time with wind—relentless evening dust storms savaged our camp for most of the week, and on one day we arrived back to camp to find that every tent, but one had been blown over! But still, we had a great time, and the students really enjoyed the experience. Most of our days in the field were clear, sunny, and mild (we were only blown off the mountain once!), and the geology was spectacular, as usual. This group of students did a marvelous job of mapping and explaining the geology in their final reports.
I am currently on sabbatical, and had the opportunity in December to join a Wabash filmmaker for three weeks in New Zealand (funded by a Mellon International Innovation Fund grant). My goal for the trip was to explore new sites for future New Zealand Winter Term courses. I spent three weeks visiting parts of both islands that I had never been to, and found several places that I plan to include in future versions of the course. It was a splendid three-week trip, and I really enjoyed seeing some new geology. My sabbatical project is to finish publishing papers related to my work in China, and I have also been contracted to write a new Sedimentology and Stratigraphy textbook for Waveland Press, Inc. The book is moving along well, and I have two papers almost finished and ready for submission. So, my sabbatical is on track to be a very productive one!

The family is doing great. Zoe is now 9, Tess is 7, and they are both doing well. Zoe is becoming a virtuoso piano player, and Tess is becoming a skilled artist. Kate has recently been named Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at DePauw. Over the past several years, she has been very successful in assisting DePauw students and alumni in obtaining external fellowships: DePauw now ranks #12 in the list of top Fulbright-producing undergraduate institutions!

Please drop us a line if you’re ever in the neighborhood—we would love to hear from you. -Tim

Jim Mills

Greetings from chilly Indiana! I hope you all found some way to stay warm in a classic La Nina year. 2017 was jam-packed, so let’s dive right in.

In January, Tim and I led another epic trip to New Zealand with 23 students. While we visited many of the same sites as on previous excursions, due to an increasing number of tourists visiting New Zealand and a corresponding lack of hostels with enough rooms (plus a desire to try some new things), we explored some new areas. For the first time since I have gone on the trip, we finally made the Tongariro Crossing! Amazing…20 kilometers of spectacular views. Although the first part of the hike was cloudy, by mid-day it had cleared up at the summit. If you go to New Zealand, you have to do the Crossing. Queenstown was a no-go this year – not enough hostel rooms! So, instead we traveled to Wanaka and had a wonderful time there hiking the backcountry. Mt. Cook was also a no-go this year too for the same reason, so we spent an extra day in Christchurch viewing the recovery efforts from the earthquake – an incredibly resilient city. And lastly, we took the students to the Castle Hill area due west of Christchurch in the foothills of the Southern Alps. We taught the students basic geologic mapping techniques and got to see some wonderful open folds. Best of all though, Lauren
Schaefer ‘09 and her friend Tyler joined us on the Castle Hill project, and we got to spend a wonderful evening with them and their colleagues in Christchurch – thanks Lauren and Tyler! Lauren is working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Canterbury for two years. All in all, in spite of a lot of rain, we had a wonderful trip!

January Term trip to Fox Glacier in New Zealand. Photo: Jim Mills

For May Term, I taught a course on Deconstruction. Prof. Jen Everett (Philosophy Department) and I have been working diligently to deconstruct the old Campus Farm House just east of the Prindle Institute (with the help of many DePauw students, including geoscience majors). Our goal is to have as much material from the house be recycled and/or reused, thus minimizing the amount of material that has to go to a landfill. The deconstruction project has been absolutely fascinating as the history of the house and the materials that were used in its construction have turned out to have complex histories of their own. If all goes well, we will have the rest of the house deconstructed by August of this year!

This past fall, the GeoClub and I ran a four-day trip to Arkansas to the Crater of Diamonds State Park and Jim Coleman’s Crystal Mines to collect quartz crystals. Thirteen students and I spent a full day at the Crater of Diamonds looking for elusive clumps of covalently-bonded carbon… Unfortunately, luck was not on our side – not a single diamond – but we were not alone, as no one in the park found a diamond that day. The next day we spent a full day at Jim Coleman’s Mines and were wonderfully successful. Everyone brought home at least one big bag of beautiful quartz crystals. If you get to Arkansas sometime, I highly recommend doing both the diamond and quartz crystal collecting…both are a lot of fun and very inexpensive.

GeoClub field trip to Arkansas to collect quartz crystals and to search for diamonds. Photo: Jim Mills

At the end of Fall Break, Nick Meszaros ’18, Ben Magnin ’20, Tim, and I traveled to Seattle, Washington to attend the annual Geological Society of America meeting. Both Nick, Ben, and I presented posters on our research projects (Nick and Ben had three posters each!). Both Nick and Ben received a lot of positive compliments on their work. Tim gave an excellent talk on his work in China. Nick continued working with me on the St. Francois Mountains project (which he presented at GSA) and is now working on a Senior Thesis on one of the large granitic intrusive bodies in the Llano Uplift of central Texas.
In December, I visited Jim Puckett ’67 and his wife Kris in beautiful Castle Rock, Colorado. Jim, Kris, and I have had a standing dinner ‘date’ for the area’s excellent Mexican food each year GSA has its national meeting in Denver. But alas, GSA will not have another meeting in Denver for several years, thus it would be a long time before we could have our dinner. So, off to Denver I went! We had a wonderful evening, superb food, and extensive conversation about all things DePauw, dinosaurs, and Colorado. Jim has been an award-winning volunteer at the Denver Museum of Natural History’s Prehistoric Journey dinosaur exhibit for many, many years. Jim has been solely responsible for donating all of the items in DePauw’s display case for Stan, which now includes Jim’s latest donation of a fabulous replica of a T-rex furcula bone! Thank you, Jim!!

And lastly, and sadly, I had to put Molly (the pig) down just before New Year’s this year. She was just too old and in poor health to continue on. However, I’m convinced that Shadow (the horse) will live forever (30+ years young…). I hope you all are doing well, and we have enjoyed hearing from many of you this past year! Stay in touch!

- Jim

Fred Soster

The years continue to fly by with 2017 marking my 35th year at DePauw University. I had a very productive year, both in the classroom and on the research front. In Spring Term 2017, I taught Earth & the Environment and Introduction to Environmental Science. In Fall Term 2017, I taught Introduction to Environmental Science and Historical Geology. The Environmental Science course continues to be a very popular course with students that have a broad range of academic interests; it always fills to capacity. I also was appointed to serve a second three-year term as Chair of the department.

I published the final paper (with colleagues) on my work on Lake Erie back in 2016, bringing an end to nearly forty years of research on the Great Lakes that began when I started graduate school at Case Western Reserve University in 1978. It was a wild ride (literally) involving research cruises on Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior aboard various large and small research vessels. My most memorable experience was in 1988 when I spent two weeks aboard Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution’s R/V Seward Johnson. I made four 800-1,000 foot dives to the bottoms of Lakes Michigan and Superior in the Johnson-Sea-Link II submersible to collect sediment samples using a robotic arm.
After taking a brief hiatus from research in 2016 to think carefully about my academic plans for the next few years, I’ve decided to pursue one more multi-year research project before starting to think about retirement. My decision was guided largely by the outstanding group of highly motivated geoscience majors in our program who are eager to gain research experience. I conceived a project that would provide a multitude of summer research opportunities for these students over the next few years, but one that also is important in terms of our broader understanding of soil erosion and sediment transport in fluvial systems. DePauw University has provided me with outstanding laboratory facilities equipped with research-grade instrumentation, and I just don’t want to see it all sit idle for the rest of my career. In Fall 2017, I applied for, and was awarded, both a three–year Faculty Fellowship and a sabbatical leave to study “Suspended Sediment Sources and Transport Distances in the Big Walnut Creek Watershed, Indiana.” The plan is to use fallout radionuclides as tracers of fine sediment particles to identify their source areas and to track their movement through the watershed. We can also use the dataset to assess soil erosion rates in agricultural and forested areas of the watershed. It is a complex project with lots of “moving parts,” so student participation will be absolutely essential to the success of this project. I began preliminary field and laboratory work last summer, and the initial data look good. Stay tuned for an update next year.

The big news of the year in the Soster family was that our son, Frederick Soster ’17, graduated from DePauw University last spring with a major in environmental geoscience. He is presently pursuing a master’s degree in meteorology at Florida State University on a full-ride scholarship and teaching assistantship. Because he attended DePauw University, and Jennifer and I both work here, we had the unique and amazing opportunity to watch this University transform our child from a high school student with the big dream of becoming a meteorologist into a young, articulate, passionate scientist who is eager to earn a graduate degree in pursuit of his dream. Our daughter, Erica, continues her work as a genetic counselor for Sequenom, where she works as a Clinical Liaison. Her job includes weekly travel all over the United States, and she also has made a few trips overseas. Jennifer was promoted to Music Operations Manager for DePauw’s School of Music and continues to enjoy her work, but not quite as much as her new found love of running. She completed her first full marathon last November in a time of 4 hours 23 minutes!

Fred and Jennifer take a rare selfie at Mexican Hat, Utah. Photo: Fred Soster

Despite a busy year, Jennifer and I enjoyed a three-week vacation again out west, this time to Arches, Canyonlands, Monument Valley, and the Grand Canyon.
We did a lot of hiking and biking, but the absolute high point was that we made a trek into the Grand Canyon out to Plateau Point on the Bright Angel Trail. It was six miles and 3,080 feet down to the overlook, where we were rewarded with spectacular views of the Colorado River in the Inner Gorge; however, it was a grueling 6 miles and 3,080 feet back up to the rim. We made it down and back in 9 hours. Jennifer was always well ahead of me on the trail on the way out (she was training for her first marathon). I was completely humbled close to the top of the trail when, as I stopped to rest (more like suck some air), a complete stranger stopped and asked, “Are you all right, dude?”

That’s about it for last year. I enjoy corresponding with many of you via email through the course of the year, so please continue to keep in touch, and do stop in for a visit if your travels bring you to the Midwest.  

-Fred

Scott Wilkerson

Hello...I hope this note finds you and yours happy and healthy! This past year has flown swiftly by with many activities that I’d like to share with you. 

On the teaching front, I’ve had a busy year with two sections of Earth & the Environment, Environmental Geophysics, and Structural Geology & Tectonics. In Earth & the Environment, I was able to test out our newly revised second edition of the Geotours Workbook, which comes bundled free with our course textbook. Most students find that the approach and revised content are cool/fun and that the interactive Google Earth environment enhances learning of geoscience concepts. In Environmental Geophysics students first grapple with the theory behind each geophysical technique in the classroom and then go out into the field to apply that specific technique to better understand the shallow subsurface. This applied fieldwork culminates in the students writing up their field experiments using different EPA report writing guidelines, giving them exposure to the importance of communicating their results in a specified format. Although we used several different techniques employed by the environmental industry (e.g., seismic refraction/reflection, magnetics, ground-penetrating radar, etc.), the highlight of the semester was working with geophysicists Forrest Kunkel ’15 and his Mundell & Associates colleague Ryan Brumbaugh to conduct a 2-D electrical resistivity survey over Boone-Hutcheson Cave south of Greencastle. Students not only learned a great deal of practical background information regarding electrical resistivity profiling, but also received hands-on experience with survey layout, data acquisition, and profile interpretation (http://mundellassociates.com/company-news/depauw-resistivity-demo/). We would like to sincerely thank Forrest, Ryan, Mundell & Associates, and Erin Walsworth ’15 (Erin and Forrest recently were married, and Erin came along to help out) for the donation of their time and equipment!
Environmental Geophysics students deploying electrical resistivity survey over Boone-Hutcheson Cave as part of field project led by Forrest Kunkel '15 and Ryan Brumbaugh from Mundell & Associates. The electrical resistivity profile (lower image) shows an area of high resistivity on the right side, suggesting a possible void in the subsurface. Photo: Scott Wilkerson

Lastly, we did our annual pilgrimage to Baraboo, WI in Structural Geology & Tectonics. The place never gets old...even though most of the rocks are Precambrian! The Baraboo Syncline provides such a wonderful natural laboratory for students to study mesoscopic structural features related to regional folding (especially given how my explanations of some of the more complex relationships have been refined and informed by my research with Steve Marshak on the area).

Speaking of which, Steve and I have followed up the publication of a chapter on Baraboo in GSA Field Guide #43 with a manuscript explaining how the down-dip-verging, second-generation foliations and folds developed during the formation of the regional Baraboo Syncline. We’re close...very close...to finally submitting the paper for review.

In addition to this research, I also was asked to create Geotour exercises for an introductory geology laboratory workbook by W. W. Norton, Inc. While I leveraged some materials from our Geotours Workbook, I also tailored exercises based on specific content in each chapter. Now that these exercises are completed, I hope to get back to doing structural research with students on cross-section balancing, seismic interpretation, 3-D modeling, etc.

On the home front, things are busy as ever. Ben (16) is busy with school and sports (and just got his driver’s license this past weekend). Zach (20) is now a sophomore at DePauw. He is absolutely loving it. He did summer research on stratospheric radiation this past summer with Howard Brooks and is planning on doing artificial intelligence research with computer science faculty Steve Bogarts and Chad Byers this summer. Beth remains as active as ever in GIS. In fact, she has branched out into photogrammetry and is now creating 3-D models of objects/outcrops. Our vacation this year was to Moab and the Grand Canyon (and all points in between).

I wish you all a great 2018...please stop by if you are in town! - Scott
Environmental Geophysics students employing ground-penetrating radar at the DePauw Intramural Field to locate buried metal objects (top). Thanks to Forrest Kunkel '15 and Mundell & Associates for renting their GPR unit to us. Photo: Scott Wilkerson

**Department Scholarship Awards**

**Ernest R. "Rock" Smith Memorial Scholarship**
Elise Johns '18, Nick Meszaros '18, Logan Miller '18, & Spencer Schillerstrom '18

**Charles L. Bieber Memorial Fund**
Vy Lee '19, Ben Magnin '20, Evan Miller '18, Sam Short '18, & Kaleb VanArsdale '18

**Charles M. & Frances Wylie-Condit Science Scholarship**
Haley Chute '18 & Ben Sherman '18

**H. Richard Gault Memorial Scholarship**
Nelson Blake '19

Income from the [James A. Madison Fund for Research](https://www.depauw.edu/academics/departments-programs/geosciences/what-do-geoscience-majors-do-after-depauw/) and the [F. Michael and Dorothy W. Wahl Endowed Fund for Geosciences Field Trips](https://www.depauw.edu/academics/departments-programs/geosciences/what-do-geoscience-majors-do-after-depauw/) helps subsidize Department of Geosciences faculty-student research activities and student field trip costs, respectively.

**Interactive graphic depicting initial student outcomes for geo-majors upon graduation**

Elise Johns '18 & Nick Meszaros '18 recently were inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society. Congratulations to Elise and Nick on this exceptional achievement!


DePauw University Department of Geosciences Newsletter
Alumni News

Thanks to everyone who has sent us information about job openings and internship opportunities...you are incredible resources for our current students and alumni looking for positions! Please keep us informed about your activities as well.

Bill Parker ’67 visited the department in June last year for his 50th Alumni Reunion celebration. Great to see you, Bill!

Jeremy Sadler ’94 stopped by for a visit in May 2017 while he was in town for a conference. Jeremy is currently working for The Davey Tree Expert Company as a Project Developer in the Syracuse, New York area.

Nic Brissette ’00 now works for Oakspring Energy in Edmond, OK and is “…still prospecting on the Eastern Shelf and Permian Basin, but now I have 100% exposure to resources plays, horizontal drilling and completions, 3D seismic, petrophysics, and reservoir modeling.” Nic also is the president of the Southwestern Section of the AAPG.

Jennifer (Berry) Phillippe ’01 has left the environmental consulting industry to become an instructor of geology/physical science at Concord University in West Virginia. As part of her career path change, she plans to apply to a Ph.D. program to continue her education.

Katherine (Adank) Ward ’05 is living in Texas with her husband James and their two wonderful children. She recently was a geoscience expert witness at a compliance hearing – an area in which she hopes to become more involved.

Mark Loomis ’06 and wife Megan welcomed Adalyn Rose Loomis to their family on June 29, 2017. Congratulations, Mark and Megan...send Ryan and Adalyn our way!

Ben Clement ’07 is a senior geologist with Burns and McDonnell in Chesterfield, MO. He reports that he has been busy traveling the country to perform various drilling jobs.

Bill Alward ’08, his wife Rebecca, and son Ansel recently moved from Texas to the greater Omaha, Nebraska area. He is now working from home for Weatherly Operating in the Fort Worth, TX area. Bill writes, “Ansel turned 2 in September and loves the outdoors.”...we’ll get him committed as a geo-major at DePauw soon enough!

Deanna (Shaw) Wolfe ’08 moved back to the U.S. from Australia and became senior geologist with Weir International, Inc., a mining/geo-consulting firm in the Chicago/Downers Grove, IL area. Deanna and her husband also are the proud parents of Savannah (who is nearly two).

Maggie Baber ’11 let us know that she and her husband Louis have moved to Paris, France where she is enjoying the Parisian life and looking for employment in the geoscience sector.

Andrew Krein ’11 writes that he is now with GHD, an Australian company that is one of the largest privately held environmental and engineering firms in the world. Andrew is currently based out of their Chicago, IL office.

Julia (Shaw) Sessions ’11 continues to “…geosteer from home and has published a peer-reviewed article in an AAPG Memoire.”

Nephi, Julia, and Genevieve Sessions. Photo: Julia Sessions
Alex Lopatka ’12 is a graduate assistant at the University of Maryland and is hoping to finish his Ph.D. later this year.

Madison (Gallegos) Beatty ’13 writes that she and Katherine Shover ’14 made a trip to Baraboo, WI. “The rocks were awesome, and Katherine and I had a lot of fun hiking around Devil’s Lake State Park.” Thanks for thinking of us while there! Madison just started her first year of teaching earth science to freshmen at LaPorte High School in Wisconsin.

Greg Screws ’13 is now working for Tetra Tech in Cincinnati, OH as an environmental scientist. Greg previously worked in the Cincinnati area after serving in the Peace Corps in Cameroon.

Ariana Borello ’14 writes that she still lives in Boulder, CO and is thoroughly enjoying her time there.

Mackenzie Cremeans ’14 has been named president-elect by the membership of the Association for Women Geoscientists while still a doctoral candidate in geology at the University of Kansas...this is quite an honor! Mackenzie shares that “I’m on track to graduate with my Ph.D. in May 2018. With that in mind, I’m currently working on getting publications out the door (just recently had one accepted at the Journal of Contaminant Hydrology and, potentially, will have two more accepted by the end of 2017). A few more are on the list for 2018...”

Katherine Shover ’14 moved to Madison, WI this year to start a medical software support position with Epic (https://www.epic.com).

Ali Sullivan ’14 and her friend Keith were back in Indiana to visit family, and Jim met them for lunch in Indianapolis. Ali and Keith live in Portland, OR where she teaches at the Rogers Park Montessori School and loving every minute of it. When not teaching, Ali and Keith are busy exploring all the natural wonders Oregon and Washington have to offer..

Makela Elvy ’15 is “…currently working for the NYC Parks Department as an Environmental Educator in the Staten Island Greenbelt. My job is a mix of interpreting, running public programs and providing outdoor education for schools that comply with the Next Generation Science Standards…I wanted to reach out and give a big thanks to the geoscience department for the challenges and diverse education I received.”

Nick McCreary ’15 is now the sustainability coordinator at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. He looks forward to collaborating with DePauw on sustainability efforts.


Anna Urso ’15 writes that she had her contract with the NASA HiRISE Mars program renewed at the University of Arizona and that she is also teaching music. Anna also notes that she is getting ready to have her first peer-reviewed manuscript published.

Nick Williams ’15 writes that he is now a geologist with Nexen Petroleum in Houston, TX. Nick defended his M.S. thesis at Northern Illinois University in May.

Taylor Williams ’15 is a field construction coordinator for Blattner Energy, Inc. out of Avon, MN (http://blattnerenergy.com), which works throughout the contiguous United States and Canada focusing on wind, solar and transmission developments. Taylor feels well prepared by his geoscience coursework: “Although I moved away from the environmental route after graduation, I can’t tell you how much of what I learned in the classroom translates to the real world. On a daily basis I get to browse through geotech reports and hydrology studies. I review concrete analysis reports, which is closely related to some of the topics taught in structural geology. Google Earth has become my new best friend, I’m able to do so much with it in regards to tracking production and reviewing detailed construction drawings. Much of what I learned in Earth & The Environment and Environmental Geology taught me so much about geography and how different environments are formed. Thus, why some regions are optimal for wind power as well as solar. I’m always finding pathways back to what I learned in the classroom when I’m on the job, it’s pretty cool!”
Thomas “Kojo” Addaquay ‘16 recently was accepted to the University of Toronto’s graduate program in Environmental Science. He plans to defer enrollment until next year in order to gain more work experience.

Tyler Donaldson ’16 received a University Fellowship to attend IUPUI for a Master’s in Anthropology beginning in Fall 2017.

Kelsey Furman ‘16 recently came back to campus for a visit. She is a science teacher at Success Academy Charter School in Brooklyn, NY and writes, “My already high respect for teachers has increased astronomically within the last 17 months. This has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life thus far. However, each time I visited DePauw I realized how much I missed being the student in the classroom.” Kelsey has decided that she would like to study/practice environmental law, so she has taken her LSAT and now is applying to environmental law programs.

Mitch Bolin ’17 writes that he is now a construction materials testing technician at Thompson Engineering in Mobile, AL.

Genna Chiaro ‘17 served as a GeoCorps cave guide at El Capitan Cave on Prince of Wales Island, AK during the summer. She now is doing graduate work at Vanderbilt University on the Ora Caldera in northern Italy. She writes...”I think about DePauw a lot, the department there has really prepared me for graduate school.”

Vanessa Gonzalez ’17 has a position with the Indiana DNR overseeing "licensing and continuing education of water well drillers and pump installers in Indiana (among other things)."

Gabrielle Jensen ’17 is currently living in Wolfsberg, Austria. She then hopes to spend time in Germany working in the jewelry industry.

Madeline Piscetta ’17 is currently pursing an M.P.S. in marine conservation at the University of Miami.

Alex Ruger ’17 is starting “…an Americorps position in Palm Beach County Florida, doing literacy work with young children, mentoring for high school seniors and juniors, and teaching basic English to Haitian refugees.”

Fred Soster '17 is at Florida State University in Tallahassee pursuing a M.S. degree in meteorology. With the active 2017 hurricane season, Fred couldn’t have chosen a better location for graduate work!

Peter Steiner ’17 is attending University of Georgia in Athens pursuing a Ph.D. in geology. Peter is undecided about a doctoral research project at present, but plans to work with Dr. Paul A. Schroeder there.

Amelia Wilson-Wright '17 accepted a position as assistant trainer for grand prix show jumper Robert Mendoza at Bannockburn Farm LLC, a sport horse farm in southern Indiana that specializes in breeding Belgian Warmbloods.
Taylor Williams ’15 enjoying a commanding view of the surrounding wind farm atop a wind turbine. Photo: Taylor Williams

Katherine Shover ’14 and Madison (Gallegos) Beatty ’13 on the bluff overlooking Devil’s Lake near Baraboo, WI. Photo: Madison (Gallegos) Beatty