

Geological Sciences

NEWSLETTER

June 2005

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily representative of the Regents of the University, or of the Department of Geological Sciences.

UCSB

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Webb Hall, Room 1006
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Faculty News News News!

FACULTY PROFILE: BILL PROTHERO RETIRES

"I'm astounded by people who want to 'know' the universe when it's hard enough to find your way around Chinatown."

— Woody Allen

I'm retiring, so I thought you might be interested in some comments about my work and how it relates to the department's education mission. Our faculty have a tradition of strong commitment to our undergraduate curriculum and the education of our undergraduate majors. We've also kept our student/faculty ratios fairly respectable with large courses like Intro Geology, Oceanography, and Geological Hazards. These introductory courses may be one of the very few science classes many UCSB undergraduates take. This gives us a unique opportunity (and responsibility) to make a case for science and scientific thinking to the non-science population.

This is looking even more important now, because of the increasing politicization of scientific thinking about evolution, global warming, and other subjects with important policy implications. My own efforts over the last ten years have focused on developing methods for improving our general education, introductory courses.

Since about 1993, I've implemented activities that require the analysis of real earth data and scientific writing for my oceanography class. This work has been the most challenging of my career. I had to develop sophisticated software that was error free (at least as error free as I could make it) and make it work on a wide variety of student computers, in an environment of frequently changing computers and operating systems, viruses and spyware.

I began with a narrow focus on the analysis of data relevant to plate tectonics, with papers written, submitted, and graded in the traditional way. What a paper handling nightmare, especially for a large class!

EMERITUS PROFILE: BOB NORRIS

Professor Emeritus Robert Norris Publishes a new book on the Geology and Landscape of Santa Barbara County.



Professor Norris who received his Ph.D. in 1951 in Marine Geology at Scripps Institution of Oceanography was one of the first faculty members of the Department at UCSB. Along with Professor Robert W. Webb, he published an influential textbook on Geology of California, which is used at many universities. Professors Norris and Webb spent much time in the deserts of California searching for old cars and learning about the geology while leading numerous field trips for undergraduate students and other professors who were learning about the geology of California. Field trips with Professor Norris were truly memorable, especially those that went to the "Bunny Club" in the Granite Mountains where Bob had carefully constructed a house with multi levels right into the bedrock over a series of large boulders that form natural caverns.

Bob's new book on the Geology and Landscape of Santa Barbara California is a real gem! Many of the interesting features found in our landscape and their links to the geology, are clearly stated and provide a valuable resource for a student, lay person and professional. We all celebrate the multi-decade career of Professor Norris and will remember those great field trips to the desert and other areas with great fondness over the coming years. Bob continues to live with his wife Ginny in Santa Barbara while visiting children around the globe and I am sure he would love to hear from you.

FACULTY AND EMERITUS PROFILES
Continued on Page 2

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR...



Jim Mattinson

Dear Alumni and Friends,
As we approach the end of the 2004/2005 academic year, it is once again

my pleasure to thank you for your steadfast support of our Department, and to fill you in on some of our latest news.

First, in terms of UC and the State of California, we are hopeful that the new State budget, now being debated in the legislature, will finally end half a decade of deep budget cuts to the University. Your support over these difficult years has been of profound help to the Department.

Thanks to you, we have been able to maintain a full schedule of field trips, award scholarships to our best and most deserving students, and simply maintain our instructional quality at a high level.

The Governor's budget proposal increases state funding for UC by 2.5%, and is accompanied by another round of increases in student fees, so we won't break out the champagne quite yet. Your support will continue to be a vital part of keeping our Department strong over the next few years. Speaking of support, I am delighted to report that you met the "Jane Woodward Challenge" for 2004.

You will recall from last year's newsletter that Alum Jane not only made a significant pledge to help support our Summer Field Program starting last year, but also pledged to match the donations of her fellow alums and Department friends up to a total of another \$5K.

Your donations this year to the Arthur G. Sylvester Summer Field Fund will again be matched by Jane, so keep up the good work! News Flash: Jane Woodward was the featured speaker at the Math, Life, and Physical Sciences Division commencement ceremony this June. Congratulations Jane! Latest News Flash: Jane has just been named a "Distinguished Alumna" by our Department for her many accomplishments after leaving UCSB. She joins such select company as Bob Ballard (discoverer of the Titanic), and our other 2005 Distinguished Alum, Nick Christie-Blick. Even more congratulations!

Your support for the grad program, the undergrad program, and "where most needed" allowed us to help in many areas, including field trips independently planned and run by the grad students (Santa Cruz Island) and undergrads (Trona) this past year (see brief reports elsewhere in the newsletter). We also were able to put together a new fellowship award, the "Alumni Award for Excellence in Research" funded entirely from your donations. The first recipient, Candice Constantine, one of our PhD students, asked that I give her the opportunity to thank all of you who made this possible:

"Dear Alumni, As the recipient of the 2004 Alumni Graduate Award, I want to extend my thanks to all of you for your contributions to the UCSB Geological Sciences Department.

I especially appreciate your support of student research. I am a second year graduate student in the department. My research is focused on developing better prediction of meander migration of large, alluvial rivers. The ability to predict river shifting directions and rates is important for land-use planning and for guiding restoration efforts. In my first two years, my advisor and I were able to make some interesting observations about how migration works in the Sacramento River.

I'm looking forward to two more years of research at UCSB and to making even more exciting discoveries! Thank you again for your support of my research and of all graduate student research in our department."

We recognized yet another group of our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students at our always fun and exciting year-end awards ceremony in June. Being the MC for this bash is just about the best part of being Department Chair. You can read about last year's and this year's awardees elsewhere in this newsletter.

FACULTY PROFILE Continued BILL PROTHERO RETIRES

To smooth this out, I developed online software that allows students to write and submit papers online (including data figures) and for TAs and myself to score, comment and return online. During Winter 2005 I introduced an online peer review system that was extremely effective and allowed me to assign 4 writing assignments (instead of 2) without overworking the TAs. This also gave students the opportunity to review "ideal" papers and see the writing of their peers (anonymously).

Most students have not been exposed to science writing that requires them to support a theory using data. This skill is fundamental to critical thinking, and is also an important tool for an educated person. Education researchers (and our own experience) have shown unequivocally that science writing improves the student's understanding of the subject and science process. We hope that the general population understands that science is mutable, a work in progress. Yet, science points the way to informed policy decisions, even in the face of uncertainty. The future of our planet may depend on the majority of our population being able to separate the reliable scientific results from spin from those with particular agendas. Our general education courses may, ultimately, be the most influential and important part of our curriculum.

"What happens if a big asteroid hits Earth? Judging from realistic simulations involving a sledge hammer and a common laboratory frog, we can assume it will be pretty bad." — Dave Barry.

WHAT ARE THE ALUMNI DOING?

Falene Petrik has been accepted to the University of Hong Kong and will begin her PhD program in January

Lindy McCulloch has decided to pursue her Masters at Texas Tech. She will be working with Cal Barnes and Aaron Yoshinobu and plans to begin field work in Norway this summer.

Nick de Sieyes has won a fellowship from the Civil Engineering Department at Stanford University

Duane Chase will be in Kashi (Kashgar), China in July. He will be doing volunteer work with a flying eye hospital.

Trystan Herriott was selected as one of 19 USGS/NAGT Interns for the 2005 summer season. Trystan has been assigned to the Vancouver, WA office of the USGS. Trystan has also been accepted to our graduate program to work with Phil Gans.

Renee Perez is at the University of Calgary as a post doc.

Emily Crawford has accepted a position with Pacific Soils

Bob Blackmur is now a geologist with Stone Energy in Houston, TX.

John Willott retired from Exxon last summer.

Katie Maes is a Project Geologist with Lawson & Associate Geotechnical Consulting Inc.

SECURITY AND TECHNICAL CONCERNS FORCE DISCONTINUATION OF ALUMNI ON-LINE FORUM

We regret to inform you that we are discontinuing the on-line alumni forum. This past fall the system was compromised. While no personal information was obtained, the hacker did cause significant disruption to the hosting web-server. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient resources to maintain the system in a secure manner that protects your privacy and server integrity. We apologize to those of you who took time to join the system.

2005 COMMENCEMENT TEA



Evan Price



Summer Miller



Adrian Almanza



Michael Busby and Family



"The Fabulous Four"
Martin Moskovits, Jim Mattinson,
Jane Woodward, Art Sylvester



Lindy McCulloch

2004/05 Fund Drive Nets Almost \$70,000 in Donations and Gifts-In-Kind



We had a great response to our funding appeals last year. It is gratifying to see our alumni taking a lasting and consistent interest in their department. When I explain to potential donors that we have substantial commitment of support from our alumni, it makes us believable about our needs and we are taken seriously. The department has benefited in particular from employer matching gift programs. Be certain to check with your company when you make your gift this year!

Donors to Geological Sciences April 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005

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May 2005

Donors, (Continued from Page 4)

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2005 GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES AWARDS CEREMONY

Outstanding Academic Achievement



Jim Mattinson, Mike Busby, Grace Giles, Trystan Herriott, Sean Loyd

Other Award Winners



Jim Mattinson, Alumni Graduate Award, Beth Pratt-Sitaula, Geophysics Award, Susana Custodio, Richard & Eleanor Miguez Graduate Field Research Award, Colin Amos, Harry Glickman Award, Sarah Fowler, George Tunell Endowed Fellowship, Emily Peterman, Lloyd & Mary Edwards Field Studies Fellowship, Scott Johnston

Preston Cloud Award



Jim Mattinson, Erik Blumhagen, Tonya Del Sontro, Frank Kinnaman, Stacy Supak

G.K. Gilbert Award



Jim Mattinson, Christopher Ehrhardt, Christy Till

Department Fellow



Jim Mattinson, Robin Gowen-Tiffney

2005 DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

Muckers Coterie Field Trip to Trona

Muckers Coterie is the student-run club for geology majors. This year was one of our most active years in our history because of our dedicated officers who have taken the time to organize many events. We sell bagels every Tuesday to help raise money for our other activities. We have meetings every few weeks and have bowling nights quarterly. Over the last year we have gone on trips to the hot springs, Ventura gem show, stargazing, and held a BBQ. We also designed a shirt, which the grad students and staff can be seen wearing as much as the undergrads! For those that could attend, our highlight for the year was our field trip to Searles Dry Lake.



Over the weekend of October 9th and 10th of 2004, Muckers Coterie embarked on a field trip to Trona, California to attend the 63rd Annual Gem-O-Rama sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society. During this one weekend a year, the Searles Valley Mineral Company (SVMC) opens Searles Dry Lake to the public in three organized (and otherworldly) field trips where one can collect salt minerals. Over several hundred attendees from all over the country participated yearly



The first trip starts on Saturday morning and is called the Mud Trip-with good reason! SVMC personnel bulldoze a crystal-rich section of the lake 4 to 6 meters below the surface and heap it into piles for the public to collect from. The black mud has a consistency similar to tar and smells like the town of Trona.

Few articles of clothing were spared, but excellent crystals of halite, borax, sulfohalite, and hanksite (clusters and individual crystals up to the size of bowling balls) were recovered by dedicated "Muckers" (pun intended). Not only does Hanksite at Trona display excellent crystal habit, but Hanksite is only found in one other locality worldwide (Lake Katwe in Uganda).



The second trip takes place in the afternoon and is known as the Blow Hole Trip. Before the event, Navy technicians from nearby China Lake drop explosives down a 15 meter hole to loosen crystals. A tube is later inserted into the hole and the crystals are jetted out of the hole and onto the lake surface before the collectors. What happens next can best be described as an Easter egg hunt for frenzied mineral collectors. The minerals found here are similar to the first trip only smaller and cleaner



The last event is the one that makes Trona famous worldwide and allows anyone so willing to collect beautiful pink halite specimens. To collect the halite one must wade through red-tinged brine pools and feel under ledges in the pool to find the best crystals. Interestingly, the halite owes its pink color to bacteria that live in the pools and essentially dye the crystals.

To top off our otherworldly experience, we camped among the tufa towers of the Trona Pinnacles. All the undergrads came back with excellent specimens and stories to tell. Everyone that went had such a great time that we are going to make this a yearly trip for the undergrads.

For those interested in finding more about the Gem-O-Rama, check out <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagem-club/gem-o-rama.htm>

Nicolas Barth
Muckers Co-President

Muckers serving up hot coffee and fresh bagels on Tuesday mornings!



2005 DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

2004-2005 Departmental Student Awards

• • • • •
Charles Douglas Woodhouse Award
Grace Giles

Outstanding Graduating Senior
Trystan Herriott

Robert M. Norris Prize in
Field Geology
Nicolas Barth

William Bushnell Memorial
Scholarship
Michael Busby

Outstanding Academic
Achievement
Michael Busby, Grace Giles, Abigail
Gleason, Trystan Herriott, Sean Loyd,
Ellen McCulloch

G.K. Gilbert Award
Christopher Ehrhardt, Christy Till

Harry Glicken Memorial Award
Sarah Fowler

Preston Cloud Memorial Award
Erik Blumhagen, Tonya Del Sontro,
Frank Kinnaman, Jeni McDermott.
Stacy Supak, Fabrice Roullet

Wendell Woodring
Memorial Award
Christopher Ehrhardt

Richard and Eleanor Migues
Graduate Field Research Award
Colin Amos

George Tunell Endowed Fellowship
Emily Peterman

Lloyd and Mary Edwards Field
Studies Fellowship
Scott Johnston

Geophysics Award
Susana Custodio

Alumni Graduate Award for
Research Excellence
Beth Pratt-Sitaula

Every year, the department honors two of its alumni—one each from industry and academia—celebrating their accomplishments and providing our current students with exemplary role models.

Jane Woodward



Jane Woodward graduated from UCSB in 1980 with a A.B degree in Geological Sciences. Shortly afterward, she took her M.A. in Applied Geology from Stanford, co-founded Community Impact, which is a Bay Area public service volunteer organization, and then worked for ARCO Oil and Gas Exploration in Denver, where, in addition to compiling and publishing a comprehensive atlas of the stratigraphy of the northern Rocky Mountains, she founded a children's burn clinic.

She returned to Stanford, was instrumental in the planning and fund raising to renovate the Stanford Quad, took her MBA., and worked as a petroleum engineering consultant for Warren K. Kourt & Associates, Inc. In 1989 Jane co-founded Minerals Acquisition Partners, INC (MAP).

Now as President and CEO of MAP, Inc., she is principally responsible for the organization of partnership offerings and the management of the firm. Since 1990, Jane also has been a Consulting Assistant Professor at Stanford University where she teaches two classes on energy and environment in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

She is an active member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists.

Jane also serves on the board of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, and the Advisory Board of the Family Office Exchange.

With all these credits and responsibilities, however, Jane considers her greatest accomplishment as being "mom" for three beautiful daughters.

Nicholas Christie-Blick



Nick is Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences DEES at Columbia University. Nick received his Ph.D in 1979 from UCSB, completing a study of the stratigraphic, structural and paleogeographic interpretation of upper proterozoic galeogenic rocks in the Sevier orogenic belt in north western Utah. Nick's advisor was Professor John C. Crowell. Nick became very interested in the love of the outdoors when he first arrived at Cambridge University in 1971.

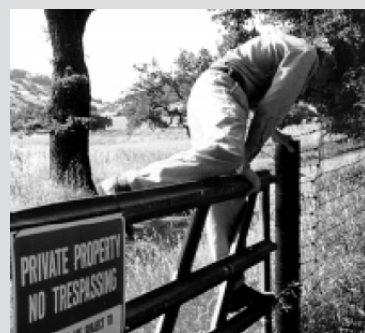
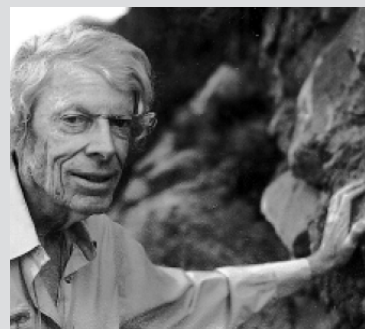
After a spring field trip to Scotland, he reevaluated his priorities to focus on the history of earth. Nick completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Cambridge (Kings College) in 1974 in Natural Sciences and Geology and had a MA Degree awarded in 1978.

From 1981-83 Nicholas worked for Exxon as a research Geologist.

His current research is on the New Jersey Continental Margin and involves the stratigraphic record of deformation in the extensional and foreland basins. Much of this work is of a collaborative nature with a variety of perspectives in the Earth Sciences. Nick has a wonderful research record and it continues to make important contributions in Earth Science.

Geological Sciences POINTS OF INTEREST

In Memory of Thomas Wilson Dibblee Jr. 1911 - 2004



Thomas Wilson Dibblee, Jr. created a true California legacy with over 70 years of active geological mapping. Tom mapped more than one fourth of the state of California. His knowledge of regional stratigraphy, structure, and paleontology were basic to understanding much of California's geology.

Descendant of the historic De la Guerra family, Tom grew up on his family's ranch, Rancho San Julian. Tagging along with an oil geologist on the ranch when he was 14, Tom discovered he had an aptitude for understanding the rocks and the land. He created his first field map in 1929. After graduating from Stanford in 1936, he was hired by the newly formed Richfield Oil Corporation. For the next 15 years, Tom mapped some of the most remote areas of the Pacific Coast. As one of his fellow students, Ben Page wrote "(Tom) reveled in the geology and established his legendary reputation for roaming harsh country with the greatest of ease on his own two feet. Moreover, he understood most of what he saw."

In 1952 Tom began a long career with the US Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS assigned him the task of mapping the geology of the Mojave desert and then a swath 25 miles on each side of San Andreas Fault from the Mexican Border to the north of San Francisco. In 1953, he and his co-worker Mason L. Hill published a significant article on California faults that explained little-understood horizontal displacement along the San Andreas. This paper is considered fundamental to plate tectonics theory. Tom's expert field mapping led to the discovery of oil in Cuyama Valley.

While working out of Richfield's Bakersfield office, Tom met Loretta Iscambosa, who was a secretary of the exploration department. They were married in 1949 and she was his devoted wife until her passing in 2001. After retiring in 1978, Tom volunteered his services to map the entire Los Padres National Forest, a project that earned him a presidential volunteer award. During his lifetime, he amassed more than 500 field maps covering approximately 40,000 square miles. Until recently, Tom remained active in field work, as a research associate in geology with the University of California Santa Barbara, and a consultant and volunteer for various government and civic agencies.

A testimonial to the high regard in which he is held by his colleagues was the formation of the Thomas Wilson Dibblee, Jr. Geological Foundation, a non-profit corporation. This undertook the task of publishing Tom's many geological maps, preserving them for their scientific and educational value. In 2002, the Dibblee Geological Foundation merged with the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum to form the Dibblee Geology Center. Tom remained intimately involved with the map making process through his 93rd birthday in October 2004. Tom's remarkable memory was invaluable in the editing process and he readied about 75 quadrangles for production. Tom once said, "I feel driven by a sustained curiosity to see as much of California geology as possible within my lifetime." In pursuing this vision, he has left a legacy that will benefit us all.

Geological Sciences POINTS OF INTEREST

2003/04 GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES AWARD WINNERS

GRADUATE AWARDS

GK. Gilbert Award
John Singleton

Harry Glicken Award
Dylan Rood

Richard & Eleanor Migues
Graduate Field Research Award
Dick Heermance

George Tunell Endowed Fellowship
Andrew Kylander-Clark

Wendell Phillips Woodring
Memorial Graduate Fellowship
Jill Wertheim & Willy Amidon

Lloyd and Mary Edwards Field
Studies Fellowship
Matt Rioux

Alumni Graduate Award for
Research Excellence
Candice Contantine

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni
Dr. Michael Hoover & John Platt

Department Fellow
Bob Dunn

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

William Bushnell Memorial
Scholarship
Cindy Broderick
Jon Sanks

Robert M. Norris Prize
Trystan Herriott

Outstanding Graduating Seniors
Sarah Richmond
Christy Till

C. Douglas Woodhouse Award
Julie Fosdick

Distinction In The Major
Gabriel Rotberg

Outstanding Academic
Achievement
Julie Fosdick
Sarah Hopkins
Gabriel Rotberg
Christy Till
Karen Vasko
Sarah Richmond
Lindy McCulloch

Geological Sciences POINTS OF INTEREST

DAVE PIERCE RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS



In 1971 I came to UCSB to work as an electron microscopist for Preston Cloud in his Biogeology Clean Laboratory, now re-named the Preston Cloud Research Laboratory. I was appointed Laboratory Manager shortly after that and have occupied the same office and held the same title ever since. In January Anna Bass, my wife, landed a nice position teaching geography at Braintree College in the town of the same name, Essex, about 35 miles NE of London. After these many years, it is time for me to retire and join Anna over the other side of the great pond.

It has been a wonderful career working with top geologists and students on every imaginable project from moon dust to climate change. The big advantage I have had is that I was involved in every aspect of earth science satisfying my personal goal of making contributions to as much front-line research as possible.

A generalist by inclination, the rich scientific environment at UCSB more than satisfied this goal. In England, I expect to continue working in scientific research and also continue to build my moonlight career in equity and environmental politics. Not everyone knows that at the same time I've managed the electron microscope, electron probe, x-ray machines and light microscopes, I also have held elected office as a Director on the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District now cutting short my second 4-year term. Also, after chairing the Santa Barbara Human Relations Commission as an outgrowth of my work as Co-Cordinator for the North Santa Barbara County National Organization For Women, a position not often held by a male, I became involved in water issues and Chaired the Lompoc City Water Commission and finally the Lompoc City Utility Commission where I have helped oversee the water and power utilities operated by the City of Lompoc.

Extracurricular activities at UCSB include serving on the campus Radiation Safety Committee. On the Executive Board for the University Professional and Technical Employees Union I have helped to better integrate of the needs of UC staff employees with the University mission. As an appointee to Chancellor Yang's Alternative Transportation Board I am proud to say that I was on this Board when we brought UCSB together with other Santa Barbara interests to make major improvements to regional transportation system planning by supporting a commuter rail system. In England I hope to transfer not only my background in geology but also my experience and training in this more socio-political realm.

After many years of helping students at all levels to mature into some of the top people in the field, and supporting faculty research in the front lines of geologic investigation, I am ready to move ahead and develop a new career in England. It is difficult to say good-bye, but as is the case for the majority of students, it is time to move on and grow with the next set of challenges. Still, I will not forget my life in the Department and I will continue to communicate my support whenever possible just as so many before me have. Our excellence has impacted the world of geology and the many who have benefited from our educational program. With the support of the many I am certain the Department of Geological Sciences, or if I may be permitted, the UCSB Department of Earth Science, will continue to grow and stay ahead of the pack as the best of its kind.

CHUCK ANDERSON NOW AT PENN STATE

I'm moving on after being in the department for over 15 years. I arrived as a wide-eyed new graduate student in the fall of 1989. Little did I know it was the start of an adventure that included fieldwork in four countries, an extended run as a "senior" graduate student and finally a staff position in the department. I leave with a wealth of great friends and the satisfaction of working with some of the best people in the field of geology.

In June, I start a new job as the visualization and outreach specialist with the Center for Environmental Kinetics Analysis (CEKA) at Penn State. CEKA is an interdisciplinary research initiative that focuses environmental chemical kinetics, especially as related to geochemical cycling of elements, fate and transport of contaminants, and carbon sequestration within the critical zone.

The job focuses on developing GeoWall content related to CEKA members' areas of research, and using that content in outreach activities that span everything from elementary schools to the general public. It is an amazing opportunity that promises a never-ending string of interesting challenges and rewarding accomplishments. I've enjoyed department life immensely and the thought of leaving fills me with a great deal of sadness. This is a special place and I will miss it greatly.



Geological Sciences POINTS OF INTEREST

A FEW WORDS FROM YORK MANDRA



Professor Mandra has devoted his professional life to university teaching for over 50 years. For much of that time, he has taught geology courses in the UCSB Summer Session. He has been and is a close friend and benefactor of the department. When York was asked what brought him to UCSB, he replied: Many years ago, maybe sometime around the plio-pleistocene boundary, things were different. For example, in academia, there were less regulations, less oversight, and committees were rarely used. A “boss” could offer a position to a potential candidate without prior committee consultation or approval. Early in that modus operandi time Bob Webb invited me to join him at UCSB. But, because at that time I was trying to create a geological curriculum, major and department at San Francisco State University, I declined Bob’s informal invitation. Nevertheless, this started my interest in UCSB.

Some years later, Pres Cloud invited me to speak to his students. At a meal after the talk, Pres suggested that I continue my silico flagellate research in his (Pres’s) new clean lab in the summers. And he said that he would ask the department to offer me a summer teaching appointment to cover part of my expenses.

He did. They did. And that’s how I got started at UCSB for 30+ summers. I refer to this period as my 30-year love affair. “Love” is a very strange and maybe inappropriate word to be used in the context of academic activities. When asked why I used the word “love”, I replied there are many reasons. Let me mention just four:

My students were superb, both in the class and on our field trips. They made teaching a unique pleasure.

My colleagues were a group of recognized scientists, each known for his or her excellent record. But more important to me, was their warm friendship. As a result, even though my home base is in San Francisco, some of my best friends are at UCSB.

The support staff, both the technical group and the department office members were not only so good in their support, but in their treatment of me that I actually spent much time trying to bring the whole group to San Francisco into my department.

I enjoyed the seminars and the occasional spirited but always polite discussions resulting from the presentations.

And finally, I must not forget the TGIF events – the roof – where we could talk with colleagues and students in a much more relaxed environment than the office. I plead guilty to the potential criticism that when you’re in love, you only see the good. But even if I were not in love, I would not change any of the items above. even if I were not in love, I would not change any of the items above.

2005 DEPARTMENT FELLOW ROBIN GOWEN-TIFFNEY

By Ken C. MacDonald

For years, Robin has opened her kitchen, her home and her wonderful hospitality to the department on many occasions. The annual beginning of the school year party would not be the same without her efforts. In addition, she has hosted many faculty recruitment dinners and visiting speaker dinners, providing a warm, intimate setting where people could get to know each other better. This has boosted our department’s reputation as a warm and collegial one to the outside world. The sadness of going away parties is lifted by her hospitality as well. And her cooking, it is the BEST! Great spices, but not too much; international and eclectic choices, I must stop as I am getting too hungry just thinking about it. The Dept of Geological Sciences gives a huge thank you to Robin and is honored to invite her to become a department fellow.

..... POINTS OF INTEREST.....

What's in a name?

Many of you will recall that, a couple of years ago, we began the process of changing the name of the Department. We started out life many years ago as the "Department of Geology". Later we changed to the "Department of Geological Sciences".

Now, to reflect the great breadth of what we do in the Department (and to avoid ongoing confusion with the Department of Geography – some folks on campus never really mastered this subtle difference in spelling), we will henceforth be known as the "Department of Earth Science". Don't worry, we will still answer to Geological Sciences, or just plain "Geology."

"WHERE ARE THE WOMEN GEOSCIENCE PROFESSORS"

This was the question behind a recent workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and the Association of Women Geoscientists. As we all know, geoscience used to be an almost exclusively male-dominated field, but in recent years about 40% of Bachelors degrees in geoscience have been obtained by women. However, the percentages progressively decline for women completing advanced degrees and getting tenure-track positions, especially at Ph.D.-granting institutions. The workshop studied the careers of men and women granted Ph.D.s from 1991-2000 to gain some insights, and to see which schools are especially effective in producing women Ph.D.s.

No surprises here – UCSB stands out! We are number 7 in the nation in terms of the total number of women Ph.D.s who have gone on to faculty careers, and number 2 in the nation in terms of gender equity. Our female Ph.D.s go on to become tenure-track professors at Ph.D.-granting universities at almost the same rate as our male Ph.D.s. Way to go!

The Men & Women of Summerfield



ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GOLETA Graduate Students Trip to Santa Cruz Island

Hello from the Geology Department graduate (gradual) students. It has been another arduous year here trying to get work done with the usual Santa Barbara sun and with the beach only a few steps away.

We got the year started off in the right way, though, as we weaseled our way into getting Jim Boles to lead a graduate student trip to Santa Cruz Island. After a short ferry across the channel, and spotting several large dolphin pods, we were carted up to the Santa Cruz Island field station where we made our home for the next few evenings. With the help of the station's off-road vehicles, we were able to cover a lot of ground and see a lot of interesting geology.

The stark contrasts between the land and the ocean, the grasslands and the thickets covered canyons, and the fog and the sun made a stunning backdrop for the variable Santa Cruz Island geology. There were little morsels to get everyone excited: steep canyons and active uplift for the geomorphologists, active faults and offset markers for structure/active tectonics/earthquake types, high-grade metamorphic clasts in the San Onofre Breccia for the metamorphic petrologists, and sedimentary structures and unroofing histories for sedimentologists. Mostly, it was fun to work together and see how much we could learn from each other.

Of course there were other highlights: listening to the Presidential debates huddled around the radio, spotting endangered Santa Cruz Island Blue Jays, as well as late-night revelry and campfires. After a few jumps into the drink from the pier, we made our way home as a happier, and more friendly department.