



Notes from the Department 2000-2001

The last academic year was filled with accomplishment, recognition, and change for the Department of Geology and Geography.

Faculty Awards

Each year Georgia Southern University recognizes six faculty members with Faculty Awards of Excellence, signifying outstanding contributions in the fields of instruction, research and scholarly activity, and service. Our very own **Fred Rich**, Professor of Geology, was the recipient of the 2001-2002 Award for Research. The award was announced during Spring 2001 Commencement ceremonies at Paulson Stadium. Previous departmental winners include Gale Bishop, Dan Good, and Richard Hulbert.

The 2001 College of Science and Technology Teaching Award was awarded to **Dan Good**, Professor of Geography. This award was announced at the first College faculty meeting at the beginning of the fall semester.



Fred Rich



Dan Good

Student and Faculty Grants

Geology majors **Cori Cowen** and **Eric Wink** received the College of Science and Technology Academic Excellence Awards in the spring of 2001. Cori was awarded \$150 for her project on the Structural and kinematic analysis of the Eastern Western Blue Ridge contact in the northern half of the Weaverville, N.C. 7.5-minute quadrangle. Eric was awarded \$300 for his project on an analysis of the past behavior of the San Andreas Fault in the Cholame area, California.

Arizona State University faculty Ramon Arrowsmith, graduate student J. J. Young, and Eric Wink (front) in "Eric's Grave" along the San Andreas Fault.



Jim Reichard and **Pranoti Asher** were recent awardees of the Georgia Southern Faculty Research Stipend Competition. They used their awards to conduct hydrological and mineralogical research during the summer of 2001.

Mark Welford was awarded a \$10,000 Global Partnerships Grant from the USG Board of Regents to develop an Environmental Support Group: The Andes/Appalachian Connection between Georgia Southern University, University of Georgia, and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. As principle participant, Mark coordinates this cooperative research and teaching program. **Chuck Trupe** was one of the participants in this support group.

Fred Rich was awarded a \$30,000 grant funded by the Coastal Rivers Water Planning and Policy Center. His project is titled "A Proposal to Establish Research, Education, and Interpretive Priorities to Enhance the Development of the Okefenokee Education and Research Center, Folkston, Georgia." In other words, he will be working toward a set of objectives and methodologies that will help in the construction and design of the Okefenokee Education and Research Center. He will have release time in spring, and essentially 100% of his effort in the summer will be spent helping with the development of the plan for the center. The center will be placed in a former school building in Folkston, which is currently being renovated. Upon completion it will occupy three buildings, and will include a full complement of research, teaching, and interpretive facilities.

IN REVIEW

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2000-2001

REVIEW

Kudos to Students

Susan Moody, Geography minor, was selected as Ronald E. McNair Scholar for the summer of 2001. Ms. Moody's faculty mentor was Dr. Sam Couch. The focus of Susan's research was the influence of modern economic development on traditional crafts in northwest Ireland. Her paper, "Weaving a Future, Building a Dream: Modification in Hand Weaving and Dry Stone Wall Construction of Gleann Cholm Cille, County Donegal, Ireland" will be published by the McNair program. Susan presented the results of her research at an undergraduate research symposium held at the University of Knoxville in July 2001.

Geology major **Luke Davis** participated in a W. M. Keck Foundation sponsored project in Minnesota in the summer of 2001. He was involved in research on Geomorphology and Watershed Studies of the Cannon River and its tributaries, Prairie Creek, Minnesota and will be presenting his research at the Fifteenth Annual Keck Research Symposium in Geology to be held at Amherst College, Massachusetts in April 2002.

GIS in the News

"Geographical Information Systems" was one of the five proposals accepted in the initial round of screening for Second Disciplines in the new School of Information Technology. Second Disciplines are a vital part of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) degree that will assure that graduates of the program have in-depth knowledge of an important application of IT. Students enrolling in GIS as their Second Discipline will complete 18 hours of advanced geography courses and an upper division statistics course. The BS in IT and the School were approved by the Board of Regents on March 15, 2000. Faculty for the School have been hired and the first 90 students admitted to the BSIT program began their studies this Fall. Groundbreaking for the building that will house the School of Information Technology is expected to occur next spring.

USDA grant establishes the Coastal River Water Planning and Policy Center

Drought continues to grip the state, and policymakers are looking for information on which to base crucial water use decisions. Georgia Southern is helping to provide those

data. The University recently received a \$137,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish the state's third center for water policy research and education. Department Chair and Professor of Geology **Dallas Rhodes** is the Co-Director of the new center. The Coastal Rivers Water Planning and Policy Center will partner with Georgia State University and Albany State University; the other two state policy centers, and serves the Southeast region of the state. According to Dr. Rhodes, the center's agenda is still in the planning stages, but important topics to investigate will likely include estuarine biology, hydrology, water quality, and the effects of saltwater intrusion in the area.

In the field

Georgia Southern Geologists in Death Valley

The question of the day was "Where's Ron." Here's why. Last fall, **Dallas Rhodes**, **Kelly Vance**, and **Chuck Trupe** began planning a field trip to Death Valley for Georgia Southern's spring break in March 2001. Dallas had lead many field trips to Death Valley during his 21 years in southern California. There may be no better place to see structural geology and desert geomorphology. Plus, there are enough really weird rocks around to keep Kelly Vance happy. Eleven students signed up for the trip and the planning began in earnest.



Ron Moore, geology major on the Death Valley National Park field trip

Arrangements were made for the group to fly together from Atlanta to Las Vegas. To save as much time as possible, Dallas went to Las Vegas two days ahead of the group. This allowed him to pick up the vehicles, make arrangements for a place to stay when the group returned, and purchase supplies. Only one student was not travelling with the group, Ron Moore, a junior geology major from Savannah. Ron decided to take the trip after the deadline for plane reservations, so he had to make his own arrangements. Ron was supposed to arrive a few hours before the rest of the group, but that wasn't to be. Dallas was in the Las Vegas "Food for Less" shopping when his cell phone rang. Anyone who has ever led a field trip knows it isn't good news when a conversation begins, "Hello, I'm So-and-So's mother ." Oops. Something is wrong.

Well it turned out Ron missed his connection in Atlanta. He was hoping to be on stand-by for a later flight. That would get him to Las Vegas well after the rest of the group had departed. Dallas told Mrs. Moore that the only way to get from Las Vegas to Baker, California, where the group would be spending the first night was by renting a car (too expensive) or taking a Greyhound bus in the middle of the night. The Greyhound it would be. Dallas gave her instructions for Ron on how to find them in Baker and hoped for the best.

The rest of the students and faculty arrived on time and Dallas met them at the gate. In short order, the van had been secured and the group was on the road to California. Everyone wanted to know, "Where's Ron." That's a good question.

Having been spirited out of Las Vegas as quickly as possible, and with nothing in their stomachs but what Delta Airlines refers to as a "snack", food was needed. So the first stop of the field trip was in Stateline, Nevada where three huge casinos light up the desert night. It can't be explained, only experienced. Everyone's first trip to a Nevada casino is like stepping through the looking glass or like being on the set of a B movie. Not quite real, but certainly tangible.

After refueling both body and the vehicles the group was off again, heading north toward Baker. Before the Stateline casinos were built, Baker, California, used to exist as the only "place" between Barstow and Las Vegas. It's where you stopped for food and gas on I-15. It's also the place where California Route 127 heads north toward Death Valley. Baker has been used as a set in a number of Las Vegas road movies and what is usually shown is the World's Tallest Thermometer, where temperatures of

125°F are not unusual. The group checked into Arne's Royal Hawaiian Motel (which is neither) and made plans for the next day.

Sometime during the night, Ron did arrive, found his room, and actually had some sleep before the group headed north. The route took them through a series of intermontane valleys, across the Amargosa River and up Ibex Pass to Shoshone. One of the best stops on the trip is east of Shoshone, at what California geologists call, the Charlie Brown road cut. The cut exposes a beautiful volcanic sequence with obsidian in the center that has been displaced by several faults. Cross cutting relationships at their best.

From the cut, the group retraced their steps to Shoshone, then north on 127 to California 178, the road over the Greenwater Pass and down (really down) into Death Valley. The remainder of the day was filled with stops at the Calico Chaos, Shoreline Butte (where strandlines from Pleistocene Lake Manley are preserved), the Copper Canyon fan, Badwater (lowest point in North America), and Devil's Golf Course on the salt pan. The group reached the Furnace Creek Ranch near sunset.

The next morning before departing we filled the vehicles at the highest gas prices anyone had paid in the U.S., \$2.26 per gallon! Death Valley is always expensive, but this set a new record.

This long day found the group first at Zabriskie Point. The group didn't tarry long because Dante's View is best at mid-morning. Dallas maintains that Dante's View may be the most spectacular scenery in North America. On a clear day it is possible to see Badwater almost directly below at -282 feet and Mt. Whitney at 14,494 feet (the highest point in the conterminous US) from the same spot. The day was gorgeous and the geology almost too good for words.

The next objective was Titus Canyon. Reaching Titus requires that you not only leave the park, in fact you have to leave California, go north to Amargosa Valley, Nevada, northwest from there to Beatty, southwest from there to a dirt road and then over the Grapevine Mountains before dropping into Titus Canyon. The road traverses some of the best folding and faulting to be seen in the park as it descends, gradually narrowing until the slot is little more than 10 feet across. The bedrock narrows expose some of the most incredible breccia to be seen any where, large angular blocks of dark gray limestone caught up in the white calcite matrix. At the mouth, the road emerges from the stem of the wine glass canyon and suddenly you are

back on the floor of Death Valley. The sun set as the group headed back to Furnace Creek.

Day three was longer yet. First came the 63 mile drive north to Ubehebe Crater, the largest of a group of maars produced by steam eruptions about 6,000 years ago. Decision time now. Do we turn back now and return to Las Vegas at an early hour or do we take 30 miles of rough, washboard road to Race Track playa. We'll that was easy. How are slot machines ever going to compare in a geologist's mind to sliding rocks? The ride was bone



In Titus Canyon, Death Valley National Park

jarring in both directions but well worth the time, but now it's 3 pm and we still need to get back to Las Vegas tonight. Everyone flies out tomorrow and there is no time to waste.

Arrival time in "Sin City" was about 9 pm, but Las Vegas is the city that never sleeps, where the concept of 24-7 was invented. So everyone had a chance to do a little sight seeing, to watch the fountains at the Bellagio and stroll through Caesar's Palace. And what's wrong with dinner at 11 pm, it's a long flight back to Atlanta and sleeping is the best way to pass the time. Oh, and by the way, Ron made it home just fine.

And now for something completely different...

Mark Welford lead an Environmental Support Group: Andes/Appalachian Connection 10-day workshop to Ecuador from July 22 to August 2. The workshop partially funded through his Global Partnership Grant from the USG Board of Regents visited field sites on Papallacta Pass, and Yanacocha, a side-vent of the Volcano



The Georgia Southern gang in Death Valley National Park.

Pichincha, cloud forest in the Tandayapa and Mindo Valley's, and the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon basin. Six faculty from across the state and one Georgia Southern geography major, **Mike Robinson**, participated in the trip. Dr. Jim Wedincamp from East Georgia College had a particularly successful trip when he found for the first time in the tropics plasimids in the stomachs contents of several horse fly species.

Research Updates

Professionally, faculty and students were highly productive. In the spring 2001 semester, students and faculty presented ten papers at the Southeastern Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Georgia Water Resources Conference in Athens, the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston, Texas, and the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in New York. In the fall semester, two papers were presented at international conferences and twelve at national gatherings, including the annual meetings of Society for Vertebrate Paleontology and the Geological Society of America. In addition, the faculty produced one book and seven other professional publications during 2000. The Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Boston (November 2001) was the venue for papers presented by senior **Cori Cowan**, and Professors **Alexander, Asher, Battles, Henry, Langley, Reichard, Rhodes, Rich, and Trupe**.

Second Departmental Annual Awards Dinner

Students, faculty and staff attended the second end-of-the-year-party on April 27, 2001. This event was held at Dr. **Dallas Rhodes'** and Dr. Lisa Rossbachers' home and catered by Ms. Helen Cannon of Georgia's Bed and Breakfast. Several students won awards for their accomplishments. Amongst the awardees were **Anna Austin** (Outstanding Geology Student), **William Brooks** (Outstanding Geography Student), **Emily Polonus** (ESCAL Employee of the Year Award), William Chipman, Computer Science major, and **Jason Stringer** (Service Awards), **Luke Davis** (Geology - Rookie of the Year), and **Michael Robinson** (Geography - Rookie of the Year). **Dallas Rhodes** gave several awards to the faculty including the Chair's Clydesdale Award to **Mark Welford** for teaching the largest number of students. **Tracey Tapley** coordinated the awards for the faculty. Some of these awards included the Faculty Rookie of the Year Award to **Susan Langley** and the Special Award for appreciation for the Death Valley Field Trip to **Dallas Rhodes**.

Alumni News

Homecoming 2001

The Department of Geology and Geography was host to approximately thirty four alumni, current students and faculty on Saturday, October 20. The Department held an open house at Herty followed by a pre-game cookout at



Alumni, faculty, and students picnicing outside Herty during Homecoming 2001.

"Herty Gardens." Geo Club members Luke Davis, Ron Moore, Jake Jones, Eric Wink, Stafford King, Seth Schilke, John Mnieckowski, and Tracey Tapley provided muscle and gopher work moving chairs and tables before and after festivities. The Geo Club also contributed to the food supply and assisted Kelly and Lisa Vance in setting up the cookout. After a narrow victory over The Citadel; the geo-festivities continued at the home of Dallas Rhodes and Lisa Rossbacher.

Alumni attending one or both events included Charles H. Hill (1980), Amy Samiratedu (1992), Stewart Dixon (1996), Kim McIntosh Booth (1997), Joe Governale (1997), Jonathan King, (1997), and Bill Good (1998). Faculty and staff attending alumni events included Jim Darrell, Dallas Rhodes and Lisa Rossbacher, Kelly and Lisa Vance, Dan and Julie Good, Sarita Warren, Nancy Leathers, John Jacobs, Jim Reichard and family, and Denise Battles and Michael Mills. The youngest geoscientist attending was four month old Jillian King; the oldest geoscientist was..... well, never mind that. The point is, you are all part of our geo-family and should feel welcome to bring children, spouses, significant others and anyone else that can tolerate concentrations of geologists and geographers, bad jokes, and good beer! We thoroughly enjoyed seeing old friends again and making some new ones. Please plan on joining us for homecoming festivities next Fall.

Alumni News

Many of our alumni have sent "snapshots" or sketches of their careers after Georgia Southern and we wish to share

some of these. If you are also interested in sharing a bit of your life and career please send us a brief sketch along with your current e-mail, address, and phone number. We have tried to cover the time line for the Department of Geology and Geography with the following snapshots but could not squeeze everyone in this time:

1970's

William Howard Hughes (1971) attended our Spring, 2000 get together and described an exciting career performing geophysical studies in the petroleum industry. This work took Mr. Hughes around the globe. He has now settled back into Georgia as a businessman.

Joseph Summerour (1977) reports that he is no longer with the Georgia Geologic Survey. Currently he is teaching Environmental Science at Georgia Perimeter College (Lawrenceville campus).

Gerald W. Lundy (1979) operates a natural gas exploration and drilling company out of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He has expressed his appreciation and strong support for the "classical, well rounded education" he received at Georgia Southern. He recalls a problem-solving seminar taught by Dr. Petkewich and emphasizes development of this critical ability for current undergraduates. Gerald's generous gift to the Department is much appreciated.

1980's

Laird Brian Culver (1985) Laird and family reside at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he works in U. S. Army Aviation as CW3 Instructor Pilot/Instrument Flight Examiner and Aviation Safety Officer - a Georgia Southern eagle that really soars!

James Robert Barnwell, IV (1988) Bob is registered as a Professional Geologist in Georgia and Virginia but works in many parts of the country. He gives both a Georgia and New Mexico address and his letters express a fondness for northern New Mexico that many of us understand. Bob served on the Search and Rescue team in Santa Fe and has a working knowledge of hot spring distribution in the Jemez Mountains.

Harlan Trammell (1988) has been working at the Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper in Atlanta where he serves as Staff Captain. He also has a coast guard license of master near coastal with a 25 ton rating and authorization to engage in commercial assistance towing. In his spare time he is a hard core fossil/ artifact collector and spends every weekend at shows buying, selling, and trading fossils, or underwater in Georgia and Florida rivers collecting more.

1990's

Amy Williams Samiratedu (1992) Amy worked in the Research and Development labs at Thiele Kaolin in Sandersville after graduating from Southern. She continues her industrial minerals career in Chatsworth, Georgia where she serves as Technical Services Manager for Global Stone Filler products. Amy is an active member of the Georgia Section of SME. Amy has been a valuable asset to the Department and the mineral industry, providing tours of mines and industrial minerals processing and research facilities to many groups of geology students and science teachers.

Jarvis Earl Moore, III (1995) Jay earned an M.S. degree at Texas Christian University after leaving Southern. He has remained in Texas as one of a small number of our more recent graduates working in the petroleum industry. Jay worked for Denbury Resources in Dallas until his recent move to Cawley, Gillespie and Associates in Fort Worth. Fortunately, he stayed in a portion of the country where you can maintain proper summer temperatures.

Benjamin Charles Jastram (1996) Ben earned an M.S. degree from the University of Louisiana in 1999. Ben is another of our petroleum geologists (Ocean Energy, Inc.) and a generous and faithful supporter of the Department and fellow Georgia Southern students. Ben welcomed a Geo Club group en route to Big Bend Park on a 1997 Spring Break trip into his home and treated everyone to a "mud bug" feast. Rumor has it that Ben removes alligators from duck blinds for entertainment.

Chance Fulk (1997) Chance worked out of the Atlanta Office of the U.S.G.S. as a Hydrologic Technician performing stream gauging and monitoring activities in Georgia until a recent move to Arizona. Chance now lives in Flagstaff and continues his work for the U.S.G.S. performing hydrologic and geologic studies of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon. Chance gets paid to take raft rides down the Colorado - a situation reversed for most people! In his spare time he attends the nearest Neil Young concerts.

Joe Governale (1997) Joe is a Project Geologist working out of Longwood, Florida for Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants, Inc., performing Phase I environmental assessments and geotechnical evaluations for construction projects as well as dodging brush fires. Joe has recently trained in the use of ground penetrating radar at a facility in New Hampshire.

Heath Rasco (1997) completed his Masters from West Virginia University and now works for Logicon, Inc. as a

Remote Sensing/GIS instructor at the Defense Mapping School and lives in Manassas, VA.

Bill Good (1998) has been promoted to Environmental Manager of the Daytona Beach regional office of Universal Engineering Sciences. Universal is a large engineering consulting firm of 360 employees in 12 regional offices in Florida including Puerto Rico. They specialize in Environmental Sciences, Geotechnical Engineering, Construction Materials Testing, and Threshold Inspecting Services. Bill was a dental surgical assistant on a recent medical trip to the Dominican Republic. Anybody out there who needs dental work should contact Bill!

2000's

Laura Merrell (2000) Laura added the geography minor to her Geology degree at Georgia Southern and is utilizing her GIS training as GIS Manager of the Rome-Floyd County Planning Department in Georgia.

Amanda Johnson (2000) will be pursuing a graduate program in City Planning at Georgia Tech beginning this Fall.

Angela Page Carter (2001) received a B.A. in Geology along with a minor in GIS this past summer. She is currently a GIS Technician at the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center in Brunswick.

Emily Polonus (2001) is working as a GIS consultant on the project entitled "An Integrated GIS-Based Approach to Quantifying the Rates of Shoreline Change in the Georgia Bight." She is working under associate investigator, Dr. Susan Langley. Emily's duties include georeferencing historical maps that date back to the early 1800s, digitizing historical shoreline positions, and creating posters for presentation at professional meetings.

The faculty would like to thank those who contributed news of their activities. We are grateful to those who did respond and encourage all to take part in the 2002 newsletter. Your former classmates are really interested in what's been up in your lives. The recognition of our department is based to a large extent on the excellence of our graduates; keep it up!

FACULTY PROFILES

During his third year as chair of the Department, **Dallas Rhodes'** major accomplishment was guiding the geology and geography programs through a University-wide review process. All 130 academic programs prepared formal reviews mandated by Georgia Southern's Strategic Plan. The reviews were the basis for evaluation by the Deans, the Strategic Planning Taskforce, and the Provost before reaching the President for a final decision. With possible outcomes ranging from "Enhance" to "Eliminate" both the geology and geography programs will be maintained at at least their current levels with real possibilities of future enhancement. This is a strong vote of confidence in the Department from the University's administration.

During 2000-2001 Dallas taught geomorphology for the first time at Georgia Southern and continued working with the environmental geology course during the spring semester. He also returned to Wyoming, as he has since 1988, to run the hydrology segment of the University of Missouri's summer field camp.

Dallas also has his first Georgia Southern student completing a senior thesis under his direction. Eric Wink, from Dalton, joined Dallas, and several geologists from Arizona State in working on the Cholame segment of the San Andreas fault. Eric is logging a trench that crosses a small sag pond. His trench is near a site which was extensively trenched by Arizona State last summer. Eric and Dallas also mapped a previously undocumented channel that has been offset by the San Andreas. "Pig Pen" Wink (as he came to be known) and Dallas ended their two weeks in the field by flying over the area in a small plane. With the back door removed, the view and the photography were incredible.



Eric Wink and Dallas Rhodes getting psyched for their field adventures in California.

Daniel Good is in his thirty-third year at Georgia Southern's Department of Geology and Geography. He has stayed busy by serving on university, college, and departmental committees all the way from the university student evaluation of instruction committee to the college post-tenure review committee to the departmental search committees. He was very active in working with Georgia Southern faculty and students in supporting their applications to various scholarship programs through Rotary International, and serves as Rotary International Students Coordinator for the Rotary Club of Downtown Statesboro, of which he is a member. His research on place names led to a publication in the Georgia Historical Quarterly called "Tomato, Snap, and Fly: Postal Records and Place-Names in Local Settlement Histories." He traveled once again to the Dominican Republic on a medical mission, and also collected data for research on Haitian sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic. After returning he traveled to British Columbia to attend the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education, as well as conduct field work on sustainable agriculture in the Fraser River valley, and research on historic mining and tourist industries. Dan has received several honors this year including the 2001 Excellence in Teaching Award from Georgia Southern's Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, the 2001 Outstanding Teacher Recognition by the Association of American Geographers, and induction into the Golden Key National Honor Society.

Denise Battles has recently returned to campus after completing a year as a Fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE). The ACE Fellows Program is a year-long leadership development program that allows participants to engage in focused study of higher-education administration. Individuals who are selected into the program spend a year working with senior administrators at a host institution. Auburn University served as Denise's host campus, where she worked in the President's Office under the mentorship of AU's former President William Muse. While off campus, Denise continued to be professionally active, involved in the final year of the NSF grant "Environmental Literacy for All Students" and developing for the Bell Honors program the new course "Art and Geology." This class is being taught for the first time in fall 2001 with co-instructor Jane R. Hudak, Professor of Art. In AY 2002, Denise will continue to "wear two hats", serving as both a faculty member and the College's Associate Dean for Research and Budget.

During the last year, **Pranoti Asher** was mostly involved in teaching introductory geology courses (laboratory and lecture) and looks forward to teaching Petrology in the spring 2002 semester. In addition to teaching, she kept

extremely busy with her research and service activities. Along with **Jim Reichard** and **Kelly Vance**, she submitted a NSF proposal to acquire analytical instrumentation. Her paper entitled "Teaching an Introductory Physical Geology Course to a Student with Visual Impairment" was published in the Journal of Geoscience Education. A paper (with Canadian colleague Edward Cloutis) on the compositional and spectral properties of zeolites was recently accepted for publication by the Journal of Geophysical Research-Planets. She continues to stay involved with the Association for Women Geoscientists as their publicist.

In the Spring 2003 semester Pranoti is planning to teach a course on the "Geology of Hawaii." This course will be accompanied by a week-long or ten-day (funds permitting) field trip in mid-May to the big island of Hawaii. Interested alumni who would like to join the Georgia Southern gang's trip to the Aloha state should contact her at pasher@gasou.edu. Trip details (including expenses and airfare) will be determined shortly. Adjunct Research Associate **Michael Kelley** will lead the trip with Pranoti.

Susan Langley focused on teaching during her first year as a faculty member, helping to develop and then teaching a new course in Real-World Applications of Geographic Information Systems, in addition to her other courses in GIS, Cartography, and Human Geography. She also focused on her students, helping place students in internships, jobs, and on funded research projects. She is continuing to broaden her interest in GIS applications (beyond that of community ecology and longleaf pine ecosystems) and was on a USDA/NASA proposal review panel to fund grants in precision agriculture in Washington, D.C. in June.

During the last year, **Chuck Trupe** taught structural geology, field methods, and introductory geology courses. Along with **Dallas Rhodes** and **Kelly Vance**, he took a group of geology students to Death Valley during Spring Break. In May, Chuck spent a week in Ecuador doing reconnaissance geology as part of **Mark Welford's** Global Partnerships grant. Chuck continues to conduct field research on structure and metamorphism of the Blue Ridge in western North Carolina, and is currently supervising senior thesis research in that area. He will be presenting a talk at GSA in Boston, as well as co-presenting a poster with senior thesis student **Cori Cowan**.

Fred Rich developed some new interests in the past year, or at least had to assume some new responsibilities. With **Gale Bishop's** retirement, someone else had to take the



Room 1107 in Herty Building, formerly known as the geography classroom.

administrative lead in the St. Catherine's Island Sea Turtle Conservation Program. Gale, and Nancy Marsh (Portal High School) are still the lead teachers and researchers, but Fred is in charge of administering the grants. We were recently told that we would be funded for the next two years, with a budget close to \$100,000. This continues to be one of the most successful programs funded in Georgia by the Eisenhower Higher Education Program.

Fred was selected to receive one of Georgia Southern University's awards for Excellence in Research/Scholarly Activity. A summer stipend, and one of the University's distinctive bronze medallions are the tangible awards, but the recognition and pride that accompany them are probably the most valuable. A presentation entitled "Dust Motes, Big Boats, and Fossil Ferns - Somehow, It's All Geology" will be Fred's contribution to the award program lecture series. This will focus on his research interests in palynology (dust motes), structural geology of the Coastal Plain (big boats and the Savannah Harbor deepening controversy), and paleoecology (fossil ferns, a manuscript dealing with them is to be published in a forthcoming issue of PALAIOS).

Jim Reichard continues to help teach environmental geology, which now has the largest enrollment of any course in the department. With respect to environmental labs, Jim and **Kelly Vance** have been steadily improving the department's successful custom lab manual. Jim also teaches a course in his specialty, hydrogeology, and will be offering an advanced course on this topic for the first time in the spring of 2002. This new course will expose students to various field techniques as well as geochemical and modeling aspects of hydrogeology. In the area of research, he continues to pursue his research interests in pedagogy and applied hydrology. Jim and a graduate

student, Chandra Brown, recently completed a 12-month investigation on the Canoochee River near Claxton, Georgia where a plume of nitrate-rich groundwater has severely impacted the water quality of the river. Jim and Chandra have presented this work at regional and national conferences and will soon submit a paper for journal publication. Finally, Jim hopes to obtain funds for a new research project to investigate the significance of groundwater discharge to the habitat of endangered Atlantic and short-nosed sturgeon in the intertidal zone of the Altamaha River.

Mark Welford has been very busy with his teaching and research. He recently presented a poster at a Congress in Cuzco, Peru on Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andes and the Amazon Basin held between September 24-28. The poster was titled "Rare, restricted-range birds, early successional habitats and ecotourism facilities in the Ecuadorian Andes." He presented a paper titled "Landslides, earthquakes, and tropical montane trees: a possible connection" at the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Association of American Geographers held between February 27-March 3 in New York City this year. In addition to these, he also had published this year a short note in the journal *Cotinga* titled "Behavior and use of human trail by Giant Antpitta (*Grallaria gigantea*)." This summer he led a group to Ecuador to explore research opportunities in the Andes.

This summer **Jim Darrell** moved offices from Anderson to Herty. He's now in Dr's. Petkewich and Couch's old office. For the old alums, the office has been renovated and sound proofed from the lab and lecture room on either side of the office. Although he threw away a lot of stuff, it seems like he still has too much stuff. At the present, he's trying to unpack boxes. It's slow go.

This summer International Paper reactivated their environmental course for teachers. It was placed in the College of Education. Marti Shriver, with whom Jim team-teaches the Middle Grades Science Methods course with asked him to team with her on the IP course. Although a lot of front end preparation time was spent on this course, it turned out to be a rewarding summer. He learned a lot of things particularly from the corporate side of the street.

Kelly Vance spent the summer of 2001 "holding the fort" in the introductory courses but eventually escaped to the southwest to scout another field course for the Summer Short Session of 2002. This course will work its way through the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico into the San Juans and Gunnison region of Colorado exploring regional geology, mineral resources and

environmental geology. Kelly is enjoying teaching Mineralogy this semester and working with an enthusiastic group of students in a rejuvenated Geo Club. Exploits from the past year include investigations of Mesozoic diabase dikes with **Pranoti Asher** and working with **Chuck Trupe** on a Field Methods mapping project that resulted in the entire class presenting a poster session at the Southeast GSA meeting in North Carolina. Kelly also participated in an excellent Spring Break field trip to Death Valley that was led by **Dallas Rhodes** with assistance from **Chuck Trupe**. Kelly continues to serve as alumni coordinator (contact him at rkvance@gasou.edu) for the Department and encourages all alumni to provide updates on snail mail and e-mail addresses.

Jim Henry and **Clark Alexander** provided the following news from Skidaway: Construction began recently to renovate a portion of the Applied Coastal Research Laboratory (ACRL) to create three additional offices and a general laboratory. The ACRL presently has two offices, a geochemical lab, conference/library room, map layout/drafting room, audiovisual room, kitchen and lavatory. The new additions will provide the necessary facilities for campus faculty and students to carry out research and educational activities that were previously unavailable on the Skidaway Island campus. The work is the final phase of the renovation project project that began a little over a year ago with the construction of a steel and sheetmetal building behind the ACRL to house the numerous sediment cores and samples and geophysical data that were collected during the past 40 years from the Georgia coastal region and the continental shelf from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida. The archived material was stored in the space now being renovated. The previous work also included a new roof, front and back porticos and installation of a fiber-optic communication system. Funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 was provided by the College of Science and Technology.

Gale Bishop gracefully exited early retirement on February 1, 2001 to assume the duties as Director, Museum of Geology at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Gale had earlier donated his fossil decapod collection to the Museum of Geology and has now joined those other fossils in returning to South Dakota. The Museum of Geology exhibits 3,200 specimens in a classic Exhibit Hall and curates approximately 297,000 additional specimens in an adjacent building. Strengths of the collection include Cretaceous marine reptiles, dinosaurs, an Oligocene White River collection, some invertebrates and a world-class mineral collection (including a collection of Minerals of the Black Hills).

Faculty Changes

The Museum supports several Summer Field Excursions and acts a fossil repository for several Federal agencies. Active projects include the Big Pig Dig in Badlands National Park, the Titanotheres Graveyards Dig in the South Unit of Badlands National Park, a project on Marine Reptiles of the Missouri River Valley, the St. Catherines Sea Turtle Conservation Program, and Pleistocene Fossils of Fossil Lake Oregon.

The Paleontology Program has about 30 undergraduates in a paleo-track in its B.S. in Geology, 13 Master's degree students in Paleontology, and two Ph.D. students in Geology...making it one of the biggest programs in the world (and one of the best, too!)

Visit the Museum of Geology live at <http://dinocam.sdsmt.edu/view/view.shtml>.

Going Strong

We look forward to another full and productive year. You can keep up with what's happening by visiting our Web site at <http://www2.gasou.edu/geog/G&G.html> and checking the Bulletin Board.



Dallas Rhodes receives his award from former GeoClub President Cori Cowan. Incidentally, his award lists his now infamous "Rhodes Laws." If you must know, his rules for every field trip include: 1. Don't be stupid, 2. Don't lose your sense of humor, and 3. This is not a democracy.

Dr. Samuel Couch, Assistant Professor of Geography, has accepted a position as Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Young Harris College set in the north Georgia mountains. He resigned from his position at Georgia Southern effective August 1, 2001.

Dr. Anthony Foyle (Applied Coastal Research Laboratory) left Georgia Southern University to accept a tenure-track faculty position at Penn State, the Behrend College, beginning August 2001.

Dr. Jonathan Geisler joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Geology and Curator of Paleontology at the Georgia Southern Museum in Fall 2001. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and came to Statesboro from a post-doctoral position at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He is currently teaching a course entitled Dinosaurs and introductory geology labs.

Mr. John Jacobs joined the Department as a Temporary Instructor of Geography in Fall 2001. He is currently a doctoral student in geography at Kansas State University.

Dr. Nancy Leathers joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Geography in Fall 2001. She is involved in teaching GIS, remote sensing, cartography, and other geography courses. Dr. Leathers completed her Ph.D. in geography at Kansas State University.



Nancy Leathers



Jonathan Geisler



John Jacobs

Departmental Field Trips

Want to join us for a field trip? Contact us for more information.

Spring Break 2002 n jkcgh– Mark Welford and Chuck Trupe are planning a spring semester trip to Ecuador for Geology and Geography students. The trip will be 8-10 days long, and will explore the geography and geology of the inter-Andean valley in the vicinity of Quito. Contact Mark Welford for more information: mwelfgeog@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu

Short Summer Session 2002 – SW trip with Kelly Vance. Contact Kelly Vance for more information: rkvance@gasou.edu

Spring 2003 – Big island of Hawaii trip with Pranoti Asher and Michael Kelley, adjunct researcher in the Department. This trip will include stops at the Hawaii Volcano National Park including hikes at the base and rim of the Kilauea Caldera, view of Pu'u'O'o to see the current venting, and a close look at current flow activity meeting up with the Pacific Ocean (Goddess Pele permitting!), Green Sand Beach at South Point (southernmost point in the US), summit cone of Mauna Kea and a visit to the Mauna Kea Observatories, etc. Contact Pranoti Asher for more information: pasher@gasou.edu

Annual Giving

The faculty and staff of the Department support Georgia Southern University through their gifts to the annual Day for Southern campaign. For the third year in succession, 100% of the Department participated. We hope you will join us in supporting the University and the Department. As you think about your end-of-the year giving, please consider one of the Department's four endowed funds. Contributions should be made to the Georgia Southern University Foundation and may be sent to either the Department or directly to the Foundation. Feel free to use the accompanying form. Please be certain to indicate which fund should be credited with your tax-deductible contribution.

The Department of Geology and Geography Fund

This is the Department's general endowment fund. It used for a variety of purposes including support of student travel for field trips and conferences and the annual awards dinner.

The H. Stanley Hanson Geology Scholarship

This scholarship honors the career and services of former Department head, H. Stanley Hanson. The purpose is to provide a means by which outstanding geology majors can be recruited, recognized, and assisted.

The Daniel B. Good Geography Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Dr. Dan Good to award scholarships to qualified geography majors. The first award will be made when the fund's principle exceeds \$10,000. Dr. Good will retire at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year. Making his scholarship a reality would be the most fitting recognition of his life over 30 years at Georgia Southern.

The Richard M. Petkewich Service Award

This award was established in honor of Dr. Petkewich's many years of unselfish service to the Department and the Georgia Southern Museum. This fund also needs a minimum endowment of \$10,000 to begin making awards.

Other ways in which you can help the Department and get involved:

- Make a donation through your company's matching fund program. If a matching fund program doesn't exist, ask about setting one up.
- Ask your company about donating equipment or software to the Department.
- Consider hiring one of our undergraduates during the summer or co-mentoring one of our students as part of an internship that includes a research project.
- Consider asking your employer to attend Georgia Southern's Job Fair as an exhibitor held each year. Click on <http://www2.gasou.edu/sta/career/> for scheduling.
- Attend our departmental seminars if you are in the area (seminar schedule available on our web page at <http://www2.gasou.edu/geog/seminar.html>). Talk to our students about your experiences about life after Georgia Southern.
- Present a seminar to our students (Contact Fred Rich (frich@gasou.edu), Seminar coordinator).
- Conduct a field trip for our students to your research or study area.

However you decide to help, we look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know if you are going to be in the area and would like a tour of the Department.

Geo Club news

The officers for the 2001-2002 academic year are:

Junior geology major **Luke Davis**, President of the club, is a native of Statesboro and is working on the B.S. in Geology degree along with a minor in GIS. He is interested in pursuing graduate school in a hydrology program after he completes his studies at Georgia Southern. Vice President **Ron Moore**, a native of Savannah, is also a junior who is pursuing a B.A. in Geology with a minor in GIS and anticipates a Spring 2003 graduation. Secretary **Patrice Cook** commutes to Statesboro from Savannah and is working on a B.A. in Geology. Currently a junior, she also anticipates graduating in Spring 2003. Both Ron and Patrice are hoping to work at the Georgia DNR or EPD upon completion of their degrees at Georgia Southern. Treasurer **Erik Wink** is a native of Dalton and is in his final year at Georgia Southern. He is working on the B.S. in Geology and has plans to pursue graduate work in neotectonics somewhere out west! If you have any career advice for these students, please feel to write to them at gsugeoclub@yahoo.com.

The Geo Club members have been very actively involved in a variety of activities since the beginning of this Fall semester. The members are pleased to announce the latest design for the Geo Club Tshirt. If you are interested in purchasing a tshirt, feel free to contact the officers at gsugeoclub@yahoo.com. By the way, alumnus **Mehmet Samratedu** assisted the Geo Club officers with Tshirt design and production.



Logo on the latest GeoClub tshirt.



Faculty and students mingling at the Second Departmental Awards Dinner.

Final notes

We have enjoyed putting this newsletter together for you and hope that you enjoyed reading about events in the department. We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season and the new year from our family to yours.

Dallas Rhodes, Chair (drhodes@gasou.edu)

Pranoti Asher, Newsletter Editor (pasher@gasou.edu)

Kelly Vance, Alumni Coordinator (rkvance@gasou.edu)

Sarita Warren, Administrative Secretary
(snwarren@gasou.edu)

Check us out on the web at:
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