Message from our Chairman
by Dr. Trevor Harris

TREVOR M. HARRIS
Chairman
Department of Geology
& Geography
Eberly Professor of Geography

(FOR CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION)
Geology and Geography News
2003-2004

AT A GLANCE...

Message from Chairman... 2
New Faculty ..................... 4
Faculty Updates............... 7
Building Scholarships...... 18
Faculty and Staff.............. 19
Alumni Support............... 20
Alumni Update............... 21
I am an Assistant Professor of Geography just starting my third year at WVU. Academically, my research interests had for the longest time centered on investigating the socio-economic challenges to, and micro-level responses of, low-income households in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, however, I have been focusing on the meaning attached to, and importance of social networks among marginalized groups. The regional focus has remained the same though: sub-Saharan Africa. Can't believe it's been three years already… since moving to Morgantown. Of the three, the past year has been the most rewarding both professionally and personally. The year went by pretty fast and wasn’t as stressful as my first two. Once the school year was done, I took off to Boulder, CO for a conference, before jetting off to Ghana, West Africa for a month to collect field data. Needless to say, both trips went smoothly. Came back after the summer break and watched my first-ever graduate student not only graduate but also find a job. Wow!

I have always loved travelling and visiting new places. So, moving to Morgantown has been fun. Initially it was tough. Small town and no family ties here. Well… I have however gotten used to the town and am adjusting fine, or so I think. Today, among my newfound interests are walking the trails, deer watching, and recently sailing on Deep Creek.

BRENT McCUSKER
Assistant Professor of Geography
brent.mccusker@mail.wvu.edu

It is with great pleasure that I begin my third year as a tenure-track professor of Development Geography at WVU. It is quite appropriate that I am a professor of “development geography” as I myself was “developed” in West Virginia and have seen the unevenness of economic development within our state. That being said, I am much more knowledgeable on issues in Southern Africa, my area of expertise. In the summer of this year I took my ninth trip to that area to develop a collaborative curriculum development grant between WVU and the University of the North (UNIN). I have worked closely with colleagues at UNIN and hope to send some graduate students there soon to enhance their teaching portfolios.

I find teaching at WVU G&G engaging and rewarding. In addition to the large survey course, World Regions, I also teach the Geography of Africa, the Geography of the Middle East, and two graduate seminars, Development Geography and Land Use/Land Cover Change. Needless to say, I keep busy. The Middle East course keeps getting more and more interesting and challenging. It is hard to keep students from getting overly gloomy about the region, but explaining “how things got the way they are” and why a geographical understanding of the region is important almost always keeps the students attentive and usually optimistic. I have refined my “active learning” style of instruction in the Geography of Africa course by engaging students with real world example of the challenges and opportunities faced in that most exciting of the world’s regions.
Students go game ranching in Kruger National Park

Watch lions eat everything in sight and elephants remodel the forest in Savuti, Botswana

...or see their professor get very nervous on a pontoon boat on the Zambezi as crocodiles follow us hoping for a “bump” in the river.

Students in the large survey course World Regions get to hear about the development issues facing the world and I draw on my experience teaching in South Africa to constantly challenge the students to critically examine their own experiences and actions as citizens in the world community. In addition to undergraduate teaching, I advise several graduate students in the department. They also keep me busy.

I have recently undertaken research in South Africa and Mozambique that addresses issues of land use change and have poverty might be causing these changes. I explore the issues of poverty and land but don’t indict the poor for their actions as so many people are quick to do. I try to explore why people take certain actions and how they are forced into certain decisions due to poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, power, and resources. I use GIS and remote sensing to answer some basic questions about how Southern Africa’s landscape is changing and how this is related to the decisions people make, both poor people and those in positions of power. When I’m not teaching, I am usually writing a grant application or journal article. I have published several articles in geography journals and actively seek grants. I received a grant award to develop a research lab within the department that several graduate students use for advanced research.

I look forward to developing these and many other aspects of both my teaching and research portfolios in the coming years. Given the solid record of success in the department in the past few years, I feel it is a wonderful incubator for my future activities.
JENNIFER MILLER  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
jennifer.miller@mail.wvu.edu

I received a B.A. in Geography at the University of Miami (after going through Marine Biology, Biology, Chemistry, then? Geography!). I did my M.A. at Ohio State University (also in Geography), where I focused on GIS and spatial analysis methods. I finished my PhD at San Diego State/UC-Santa Barbara in August 2003 and moved (2 days later) to Morgantown, WV to start an Assistant Professor position in the Geography department at West Virginia University. My research interests are broadly GIS and environmental modeling, and I am specifically interested in incorporating spatial dependence in predictive vegetation models, as well as issues of spatial representation of environmental model accuracy. At WVU I’m (so far) teaching Intro. to Physical Geography, Natural Resources, a graduate seminar on GIS and environmental modeling and Digital Earth.

The first year here kind of flew by, and the summer went even faster, but I did get to combine business with pleasure during the summer with trips to Maine for a conference and to Switzerland for a workshop. I’m slowly adjusting to living in Morgantown—the regional change from California to West Virginia has not been a problem, since I grew up in rural Virginia and some things are pretty similar. The adjustment from very large city to “small city” has taken some getting used to! I certainly don’t miss the traffic and rent from San Diego though! I have been enjoying Morgantown— I live near campus with my dog Pico. It’s also great for me to be within 3 hour drive of my family in Columbus, OH.

DOROTHY VESPER  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
dorothy.vesper@mail.wvu.edu

My arrival at WVU – and West Virginia in general – is a great match for me in many ways. First, a little background about who I am…. I grew up just up the road in Pennsylvania under the shadow of Nittany Mountain. One of my favorite pastimes as a child was wading around in the limestone-lined creeks and checking the water level in the spring on my parents’ property. Who knew these tasks would be so useful in my professional career? I first left the Penn State area to obtain my BS in Geology at Juniata College (1986) but was drawn back for my Masters Degree (PSU, 1988). After that I worked in consulting firms in the Boston-Cambridge area for ten years — and have had the opportunity to look at geochemistry and/or hydrogeology in lots of interesting places including about 30 states, Canada, Central America, Europe, Bermuda, and the USVI. While working in Kentucky and Tennessee I rediscovered my love of karst geology and decided to return to graduate school; so it was back to PSU. For my doctorate I looked at how contaminants, particularly metals associated with particulates, are transported and stored in karst aquifers. While the field of karst geology was once a fringe, it has recently become a very active research area which just makes it more fun for folks like me. When I finished my doctorate I came to WVU (Aug 2002) as a research faculty member working primarily with Joe Donovan, but in Aug 2004 I transitioned into a tenure-track faculty member. For the past two years Joe and I have been looking at some of the karst aquifers in West Virginia. The Great Valley karst aquifer in the eastern panhandle is our largest project. The rapid urbanization of that area has stressed the aquifer quantity and quality. We have one watershed – with more than 10
springs in about 5 miles - that we’re studying in detail. Other projects Joe and I are collaborating on include hydrogeochemical studies in Berkeley Springs and Monroe County. All of these projects have included some public interaction with watershed groups or rural water committees. When I’m not doing karst geology, I pursue other interests such as selenium chemistry in mine drainage, manganese on streambed cobbles, interactions between spring macroinvertabrates and water chemistry, history of the historic hot springs, and the mythology of holy waters. I also find some time to teach – Physical Geology (101), Intro to Environmental Geology (488), Aqueous Geochemistry (588), Contaminant Chemistry (591Y) and Applied Field Geochemistry (591H). The last of those debuted this fall and gives grad students the chance to collect their own data for interpretation. I view this as learning geochemistry the way you learn baseball – by jumping in and playing and figuring out the rules as you go. To sum it all up, I’d just say I am interested in water. And if it flows out of a spring, all the better. As the Roman philosopher Seneca once said, “Where a spring rises or a water flows, there ought we to build altars and offer sacrifices.”

ROBERT BEHLING
Professor of Geology
robert.behling@mail.wvu.edu

Greetings!

Dr. Bob here reporting on the activities with K-12 teachers in 2004. Of special note was another fantastic field experience by WVU bus (we always like to advertise) to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The short version review: the geology and seafood are FANTASTIC!! I have to schedule more trips to this area for the world class exposures and because it is a great composite of North American Plate tectonics following the building of the Appalachians and the opening of the Atlantic. The trip is long (we logged more than 3300 miles) but there is so much to see. Enroute we took the Cog RR up Mt. Washington in NH and we checked out the dinosaur footprints in CT. Of course we had to see Acadia National Park! Then, too, the glacial geology features were an added veneer to the rocks below!

During Spring semester, I had the distinct pleasure of leading the undergraduate majors in our Capstone Field Experience over spring break. This is a new course for the BA majors in Environmental. We flew in to Las Vegas, rented a Suburban and were off to Zion Nat. Park and then Page, AZ. We toured the Glen Canyon Dam and when we finally got down to lake level in Lake Powell, we were off by boat to see rocks that have not been exposed since the 1970’s. From there we were off to view the volcanics around Flagstaff, AZ and then a day long trip to the Grand Canyon. On the way back to Vegas we stopped off to see Boulder Dam. Before the red-eye flight back east, I introduced the troops to the insidious dangers of the one-armed bandits. Fortunately, they found the shops on the strip more
to their liking than the actual gambling. Remember!! It is always a Great Day for a Field Trip! Cheers!

Remember!! It is always a Great Day for a Field Trip! Cheers!

ALAN DONALDSON
Professor Emeritis of Geology
alan.donaldson@mail.wvu.edu

It is difficult for me to part with books and personal photos of faculty and students. They are reminders of wonderful memories. As a result, the office Milt Heald and I shared at 407 White Hall, as retirees resembled the library stacks of our neighboring building. Milt, as always, was very accommodating and gracious and never complained about the clutter. When he and Doris moved to Roanoke, Virginia last year, Bob Shumaker volunteered to move in with me so that his office could be given to a newly tenured geology faculty member. Trevor wisely has discovered that the best way to get faculty to “house clean” is to assign them smaller office space. It works. In the process, I have gained another super office mate in Bob Shumaker. I still cherish the opportunity to witness on a daily basis the talent and dedication of our GG faculty and the good students they attract.

I have mixed feelings about teaching my last large elementary geology class this fall. I started doing it in the fall of 1957. Obviously like an old soldier, I’ve been fading away for some time considering that I retired in 1995.

On the home front, Ruth remains a whirlwind of energy and seemingly in good health. Ruth alternates yoga, water aerobics and ballet throughout the week for exercise while I still swat tennis balls with aging buddies. We have been blessed with four children, who married wonderful spouses and their union has produced nine special grandkids. We used to have a family reunion at Camp Wood on Labor Day, but the Forest Service is in the process of removing it because it is located on the flood plain of Anthony Creek. This past Labor Day weekend we stayed at a private campsite along the Greenbrier River instead. We are active volunteers in school and church activities within the community. We savor news of GG alumni and learning about your life journeys. We are only a mouse click away at adonalds@wvu.edu. If you write, then I will reply.

JOE DONOVAN
Associate Professor of Geology
joe.donovan@mail.wvu.edu

In the last 3 years, I have divided my time between teaching in the Department and research in the WV Hydrology Research Center. The HRC is the water research arm of the WV Water Research Institute. The center is currently undertaking projects in mine drainage research within the Pittsburgh coal basin and in karst hydrology of the eastern counties of WV and western Virginia.

Co-investigators on Center projects include Dr. Dorothy Vesper, our newest hire in G/G, and Dr. Jim Stiles, of WVWRI. The kinds of work we are producing includes mapping of groundwater conditions in underground mines of the region, looking in particular at the potential for future discharge; monitoring of water levels in regional aquifers using a network of 36 datalogger-coupled pressure transducers; and construing the water budget for the Pittsburgh mine aquifer. HRC projects can be visited on our web site www.hrc.wvu.edu. In addition to Dorothy, full time staff at HRC include Eb Werner and Brenden Duffy (MS Geography, 2003).
In terms of student work, we have had two grad students (Jason Early and Sarah Webb) produce groundwater flow simulations of the areas around community water systems in the Ohio River alluvial aquifers and in the Eastern Panhandle, principally karst aquifers. Kurt McCoy finished a thesis on barrier-flow and recharge rate parameters for the Pittsburgh mine aquifer. Sarah and Jason are now working for consulting firms in Indianapolis and Fredericksburg; Kurt is working for the USGS WRD in Charleston. I am currently advising three students: Geoff Richards, who is doing a karst spring inventory in Monroe County WV; Sri Chaudhury, who is doing a follow-up study examining the effects of in situ reclamation activities at the Greer site, a mine fill near Morgantown studied by 3 WVU Master’s students in the mid 90s (Beth Barker, Jen Sincock, and Andy Ritter); and Dave Light, a new PhD student coming to us via ERM in Albuquerque. Dave also is a WVU Swiger Fellow, one of the first we have had in that category within the department in a number of years.

While my teaching responsibilities have diminished somewhat as a result of HRC involvement, they are being very ably filled by Dorothy Vesper, also a research collaborator on several new projects. Dorothy’s addition to the faculty is a welcome one and we feel makes the hydrogeology program one of the strongest in the region. We look to great things as Dorothy adds her stamp to the program. Her input will be especially welcome as she adds her mark to the move into Brooks Hall, where we will be building new teaching and research facilities for geochemistry.

I have also increased my holdings of hawaiian shirts to 24, and have been trapped into doing service for GSA Hydrogeology Division, where I will be Tech Program Chair for the 2005 meeting in Salt Lake City.

Former students, expect the clarion call to come to Salt Lake!

---

GREG ELMES  
Professor of Geography  
greg.elmes@mail.wvu.edu

2004 has been an outstanding year in every respect. On a personal level, I have seen members of my family triumph in their individual goals – notably Jeanne, my wife, in passing her doctoral comprehensive exam in music; my son Arthur in starting his higher education at the University California at Santa Barbara after graduating from MHS; daughter Alex was in the All State Choir and made MHS M&M’s; Carol is on walk-about in Australia for the year; and James achieved his dream of receiving his pilot’s wings at a ceremony at the Kingsville NAS on the last day of September. Needless to say, this has all been a source of pride and joy.

On the professional front, I take great pride in having served as a member on a number of successful graduate committees at doctoral and master’s level. Congratulations are due to Koti and Abdullah. I have had the honor of being invited to present talks at Montana State University and Leicester University. Several book chapters have appeared in print in 2004, two of them after delays so long as to despair of the work ever seeing the light of day. In August, I was elected chair of the International Geographical Union’s Commission on Geographic Information Science for the next four years, with the enviable task of arranging meetings and workshops in Brisbane, Rome and Tunis. It’s tough work being a Geographer! In current research, Dan Weiner, Jennifer Miller and I have been joined by a postdoctoral student, Cristina
D’Alessandro-Scarpari, to investigate GIS and society perspectives on Digital Earth. We have assembled quite a team and look forward to some productive debates and contributions.

ROBERT HANHAM
Associate Professor of Geography
robert.hanham@mail.wvu.edu

Most of all, Dr Hanham is pleased to report that doctoral students Eric Spears and Scott Spiker both graduated this summer. Joel Halverson and Rique Hoch are not far behind them. New doctoral students Jacquelyn Core, Janice Hardin and Chris Schaney have all made excellent early progress toward their degrees, as has Bobbie Alt in the masters program. Undergraduates continued to get a lot of opportunity to express and shape their views of the world in my classes, much to my pleasure. Thanks comrades.

AMY HESSL
Assistant Professor of Geography
amy.hessl@mail.wvu.edu

2004 was an exciting year in research and teaching for me. I continued my work on the relationship between wildfire and climatic variability in the Pacific Northwest, made possible by a generous grant from the US Department of Agriculture and the US Department of the Interior. Working with colleagues from the University of Washington, we have been able to demonstrate a clear link between western wildfires and drought that occurs on decadal time scales. This result suggests that long term forecasting of extreme fire years may soon be possible. I have also received a new grant from the National Science Foundation to study terrestrial carbon sequestration in West Virginia. The objective of this work is to estimate changes in carbon resulting from different timber management strategies. We hope that this research will pave the way for West Virginia to participate in carbon trading programs should such opportunities come available in the coming years. I continue to teach my core undergraduate courses, Introduction to Physical Geography, Biogeography and Environmental Field Geography, but have added a new graduate course on the Geography of Fire. With all the western wildfires burning in the last few years, this course makes for lively discussion. Finally, I have watched my son Aiden grow from a baby to a toddler and have enjoyed every minute of it!

TREVOR HARRIS
Professor of Geography
trevor.harris@mail.wvu.edu

Very much a mixed year for the Harris family. The high points of the year came from the successful acquisition of funding and support for the National Geospatial Development Center (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter) and various other research initiatives, to the lows of being diagnosed with colon cancer. The latter has involved major abdominal surgery and almost a year of chemotherapy – to be completed by end of November. The good news is that the prognosis looks good at the present time with all the major indicators in my favor. I am very grateful to students and colleagues, especially Ken Martis, Tom Wilson, and Duane Nellis, who stepped into the breach and did a splendid job during my enforced absence.
Randy Jackson continues as Director of the Regional Research Institute. New RRI initiatives this year include the RRI/College Special Research Assignment, providing support for external funding proposal preparation, the RRI Book and Travel Award, complementing funding for departments for recruiting exceptional graduate students, and an international Consortium of Regional Research Institutes and Centers (CORRIC).

Founded this year to promote, coordinate and facilitate regional research and instruction. Randy conducted research this year on several topics, with funding from external sources including the National Science Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and Dominion Energy. Two of his Papers were published in 2004, one on matrix updating formulations in Economic Systems Research, and one on the contributions of Walter Isard in the Journal of Geographical Systems. He also took part in a half dozen paper presentations. For more details on the RRI, visit the Regional Research Institute web site.

2004 was another busy year of teaching including Geol 103, Earth Through Time; Geol 200, Geology for Environmental Scientists; Geol 331, Paleontology; and Geol 632, Paleoecology. I was out of the rotation for Geol 404, Geology Field Camp, which was taught by Steve Kite and Dave Oldham this year at our new camp in the West. In 2005 Jaime Toro and I will teach Field Camp again as we did in 2003, but this time Jaime will take the Black Hills part and I will do the Montana part.

Research on fossil crinoids is moving along. I currently have a 3-year NSF grant entitled: Evolutionary Success in Marine Invertebrates: Testing the Relationships between Eurytopy, Longevity, and Geographic Range in Carboniferous Crinoids. The project involves a comparative study of crinoids between North America and Europe to investigate patterns of taxonomic longevity and how these relate to both facies and geographic distribution. During the summer of 2003 I spent 3 weeks in the field in Ireland, England, Wales, and Belgium collecting facies data at classic crinoid localities. In summer 2004 I returned for 3 weeks of museum and field work in Ireland, Scotland, and England. This work is being done in collaboration with Dr. Bill Ausich of Ohio State University. So far we have collected data on over 370 species of European crinoids and more than 1200 species of North American crinoids. The data are still being analyzed. We are presenting a paper at this year’s GSA Annual Meeting in Denver entitled: The “Age of Crinoids”: a Mississippian biodiversity.
The most exciting thing I did in the last year and a half was to travel to Norway for an international Eclogite Field Symposium in June 2003. For the last few years, I have been working on eclogites from northeast Greenland with a colleague at the University of Iowa. Eclogites are beautiful coarse-grained red and green metamorphic rocks that are exposed in few places in the world (hardly any in North America). They are formed very deep in continent-continent collision zones and have generated a lot of interest among an active international group of geologists. This group meets every two years at some location where eclogites can be seen in the field. Last year the meeting was in Norway, and I got to attend. I visited a Norwegian geologist friend, went on a pre-meeting field trip, met a lot of interesting and clever people at the meeting, learned a tremendous amount about eclogites, and even went on a post-meeting field trip. The rocks were beautiful, Norway was beautiful (we even had pretty good weather), and I thoroughly enjoyed myself.
GE LIN
Assistant Professor of Geology
ge.lin@mail.wvu.edu

The last two years have been wonderful. In addition to regular courses, I offered a Business GIS course in spring 2004. We met regularly at local bars after class, and many silly business ideas floated around. All most all the students promised to meet again 10 years later, and see who will be richest with a geography degree.

This summer, I visited NASA Johnson Space Center at Houston as a faculty fellow. During the 10 week-period, we visited various labs at the Johnson Space Center. One day, we visited both old and new command centers. When I sit on next to the director chair, I was thrilled as if I got the Heisman trophy. Also, having some space-food that can last two years in more than 100 oC taught me that the space science has far reaching impact on our daily life. I heard that G.I. in Iraq dessert can eat freshly preserved food in various weather conditions and the technology behind is from the pioneer work of NASA.

KENNETH MARTIS
Professor of Geography
kenneth.martis@mail.wvu.edu

The academic year 2004-2005 is my 30th year in the Department of Geology and Geography. It is shocking to even say this and it has been an exciting and wonderful experience. Some of my best friends in life are those in the Department who I share my day-to-day life with. Myra and I have two adult daughters, one in San Francisco (Kase) and one in Boston (Elizabeth) so we are bicoastal parents. Elizabeth had a son since the last newsletter and he happily occupies much of our free time when we can see him.

Research wise the last two years have been productive. The year 2002 saw the publication of The Atlas of American Politics: 1960-2000 by Congressional Quarterly Press. This book has been well-received and, hence, CQ Press and my four author team have been contracted for one of my career-long research goals The Historical Atlas of United States Presidential Elections: 1789-2004. Work on this atlas will take another year with a 2006 publication date. I have also scanned the large maps in my congressional election atlas and now give PowerPoint presentations on the history and geography of United States elections.

I am also in my second three-year term as Associate Chair of the Department for Geography. Recent expansion of the full-time geography faculty to 12 gives us high profile in national meetings in areas of GIS, biogeography and economic development. I still have a full range of courses, including a new course SENIOR THESIS which is a “capstone” experience and primarily field based. The undergraduates and I enjoy getting out of the classroom and doing field trips each fall semester. My final thought is that those of you who have not seen Morgantown in the last three years are in for a major surprise. The rail-trail and accompanying development have changed the face of the city along with much other construction around the town.
2004 has been an eventful year in Geography as the program continues to add new faculty and expand course offerings and research opportunities for students. Consequently, my role as undergraduate coordinator has been exciting as we assist students in developing their geographic skills and knowledge. This year was particularly successful with a record number of students graduating and entering new jobs or continuing their education in graduate school. I was especially pleased to have Seela Aladuwaka graduate with a PhD in Geography and return to her home university in Sri Lanka.

On the research front, my work continues to focus on economic development in rural areas of South Africa and Appalachia. These two regions provide interesting comparisons in the broader context of economic globalization. My research has led to some interesting collaboration with graduate students and other faculty at WVU.

Finally, at the national level, I have become more involved in the Association for American Geographers through service on the National Council. This provides a great opportunity to interact with geographers from around the country. Our big event in 2004 was the Centennial meeting in Philadelphia with over 8000 national and international participants.

Please keep in touch with us at WVU.

This past year I’ve been busy. I taught six courses this year, including Freshmen Environmental Geol/Geog, Senior Hydrogeology, Graduate Environmental Hydro-geology, and Karst. I enjoy teaching, and each class is unique. For service work I continue to serve on the West Virginia Surface Mine Board and Quarry Board, and we heard probably our biggest case since I started on the SMB in 1977; this case involved a challenge by an
environmental group to mining at a particular mountain top/valley fill surface coal mine site, that had implications for all future surface coal mining in West Virginia. The case decision went in favor of the WVDEP and the coal company, but probably be appealed. I’ve changed some service jobs this year, and am now heading up our Alumni Relations Committee, which produces our annual Alumni Newsletter. I had two research Geology graduate students, Kayse Fisher and Laura Burnette, complete their research with me. I now have four current research advisees – Eric Perry (Ph.D. student), Jeff Bray, Josh Silvis, and Scott Wade (M.S. students). My primary research focus remains the environmental impacts of underground coal mine subsidence on streams and ground water supplies. I’m still involved in some karst research through Jeff Bray, and have continued work on environmental monitoring of geological sequestration of carbon dioxide; the latter topic involves USDOE and the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

On a personal note, my daughter Denise, who is 26, now lives and works in Reno Nevada as an occupational therapist. Unfortunately she couldn’t find a decent job closer to my wife Dottie and me in West Virginia. However, we enjoy visiting her, when I get to play poker in nearby casinos. I would love hearing from all of my former students; please send my an E-message when you can.

I’m doing very little geology these days, just enjoying retirement and awarding small amounts of money from The Shumaker Fund to faculty and grad-students for research projects. Most of my time is spent outdoors working around our farm on things I neglected when I was teaching. Right now I am trying to put our old tile silo (>100 yr. old) back together so it will survive into the next generation. Our family did get away to the Baltic countries to celebrate Beverly and my 50th wedding anniversary, and this winter we will be going to a small island in the Caribbean called Culebra for a month. I have moved into Alan’s office as Milt has moved to Virginia to be near one of his daughters. Doris has had health problems and Milt needed to be near family. I talked to him last winter and he seemed fine. This winter I will get back to my genealogy. Hunting for one’s ancestors is very different from research I am used to doing. No original data here. Time is spent in libraries, historical societies, county court houses and on the computer. Still there is the same excitement of discovery (not oil or gas), but for example, finding that a long-lost great grandfather was really a first-class scoundrel, etc

---

RICHARD SMOSNA/KATHY BRUNER
Professor of Geology
Adjunct Faculty
richard.smosna@mail.wvu.edu
kathy.bruner@mail.wvu.edu

DICK SMOSNA AND KATHY BRUNER
LEAD ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO IRELAND
For several years Drs. Dick Smosna and Kathy Bruner have been taking geology graduate and undergraduate students on a stratigraphy field course to Europe, first to Spain and more recently to Ireland. The principal objective of this program is for the students to gain valuable field experience in
geological techniques. Again in 2005 the course will be conducted in Dingle, County Kerry, on the west coast of Ireland. Mountains of this region offer a wide spectrum of different sedimentary rock types; moreover, the rocks are well exposed for easy field examination. In a word, the geology is superb. Needless to say, the stark beauty of this small peninsula into the Atlantic Ocean is breath-taking. Cultural aspects of the trip include a close interaction with the people of a rural Irish community (Dingle, population 1500), a warm Gaelic people. During the week-long trip the group visits historical churches and other Medieval buildings, early Christian monastic remains, and archeological sites featuring structures from the Bronze and Iron Ages. And of course, we taste the unique food and drink of the country. Exposure to a different culture is as important a part of an international geological field trip as exposure to different rocks, no?

BRIANE TURLEY
Research Professor
briane.turley@mail.wvu.edu

Briane Turley, a research assistant professor in Geography, is currently working with Trevor Harris and graduate assistant Sue Bergeron on a project sponsored by the National Guard Bureau aimed toward development of a predictive model for marijuana growth in the United States. The team is examining several approaches including utilization of expert system analyses. Turley and a colleague in the Department of History, John Super, recently completed work on a book to be published by Routledge, London in June next year. Titled Religion in World History, the book will be included in the Themes in World History series edited by Peter N. Stearns. In May, Turley received the J. William Fulbright Alumni Initiatives Award, his second Fulbright in two years. The award supports the development of an online, scholarly journal at West Virginia University titled Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition, Turley is working with Daniel Wiener and the Office of International Programs on the
Abdullah Almutairi graduated with a PhD in August of 2004. His dissertation is potentially a major contribution to the field of change detection in remote sensing, because he provides the first comprehensive analysis of how the accuracy of the different change detection methods varies as a function of image properties. Abdullah also did his MA at WVU, and so I was very sad to see a good friend leave. Abdullah returns to his home as an Assistant Professor at Imam Mohammad bin Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

This last summer I traveled with students Jon Michael Bosley and Matt Smolnik to Xanthi, Greece, for a remote sensing course. After the course, I bicycled for a week on spectacular Kephalonia Island. Later that summer, I participated in a digital forestry workshop in Beijing, China, with a fascinating field trip to Manchuria. My travels ended with a wonderful visit to WVU remote sensing alumnus, Dr. Jong Yeol Lee, in Seoul, South Korea, to work on high spatial resolution imagery. Dr. Lee is now a Fellow at the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements.

Dr. Wilson currently serves as Associate Chair for Geology. He advises three grad students: Bill Carpenter, Sandeep Pyakurel, and Jamie Tallman. Bill has just submitted a rather thick first draft titled “Regional Characterization of a Carbon Sequestration Pilot Site with Implications for Enhanced Oil Recovery.” Sandeep is working on a study titled “3D seismic characteristics of the Morrow Production Trend in the Buffalo Valley Field, New Mexico.” A formal proposal of his thesis research efforts is forthcoming. Jamie is just getting started in the program. Both Bill and
Sandeep are funded through DOE NETL contracts. This past year Dr. Wilson introduced a new course titled Computer Aided Subsurface Interpretation based largely on the Landmark software, GeoGraphix. We are grateful to companies like Landmark, Seismic MicroTechnology, and dGB USA for their continued software grants. Students receive training with these software in various geophysics classes. Dr. Wilson will be on sabbatical this coming spring and will concentrate on carbon sequestration research efforts with NETL and the new NRCCE Center for Zero Emission Research and Technology.

BUILDING THE GEOGRAPHY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Geography Need for Support

The Geography Program at West Virginia University is one of the most dynamic and widely recognized programs in the United States. The faculty is internationally known and has been invited to give presentations worldwide. WVU Geography is a national leader in Geographic Information Science (GISci), which was named one of the top 20 technologies by the United States government for the 21st Century. WVU Geography has a state-of-the-art GIS laboratory, one of the most advanced in the eastern United States.

One of the newest state agencies, the West Virginia GIS Technical Center is located by our state in the Department in White Hall. Computer mapping, computer graphics, spatial data handling, Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) and other technologies are not only taught to West Virginia students, but have been applied to real world problems as close as West Virginia and as far away as South Africa.

We are seeking to build a world-class program by attracting the finest young minds who have the desire to become intellects and scholars, and who are excited about the possibilities that a career in geography can bring.

One of the easiest ways of attracting these bright students is to support their achievements by offering scholarships. Scholarships to deserving students make their path a little easier, and let them know that they are valued.

The support of our alumni is indispensable in building the Geography Scholarship fund. Each and every dollar will help provide a future for a deserving student. This investment in students, knowledge, and skills will then be repaid many times over by competent professionals helping to solve problems in our country and worldwide. Please give us your support.
OUR FACULTY

Harris, Trevor
Professor of Geography

Behling, Robert
Professor of Geology

Elmes, Gregory
Professor of Geography

Kammer, Thomas
Professor of Geology

Martis, Kenneth
Professor of Geography

Rauch, Henry
Professor of Geology

Renton, John
Professor of Geology

Smosna, Richard
Professor of Geology

Weiner, Daniel
Professor of Geography

Wilson, Thomas H.
Professor of Geology

Donovan, Joseph
Assoc. Professor of Geology

Hanham, Robert
Assoc. Prof. of Geography

Randall Jackson
Professor of of Geography

Kite, J. Steven
Assoc. Professor
Geology and Geography

Lang, Helen
Assoc. Professor of Geology

Oberhauser, Ann
Assoc. Prof. of Geography

Warner, Timothy
Assoc. Professor
Geology and Geography

Hanson, Kobena
Assist. Professor of Geography

Hessl, Amy
Assist. Professor of Geography

Turley, Briane
Assist. Research Professor

Vesper, Dorothy
Assist. Research Professor

Bruner, Kathy
Adjunct Faculty

Pyle, Lizbett
Adjunct Faculty

Lin, Ge
Assist. Professor of Geography

McCusker, Brent
Assist. Professor of Geography

Miller, Jennifer
Assist. Professor of Geography

Toro, Jaime
Assist. Professor of Geography

Donaldson, Alan
Professor Emeritus of Geology

Shumaker, Robert
Professor Emeritus of Geology

Refsland, Scott
Assist. Research Professor of Geography

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Benson, Debbie
Administrative Secretary

Crowe, Randy
Systems Manager

Stewart, Hope
Administrative Secretary

Titus, Donna
Office Administrator,
Research Associate

GIS TECHNICAL CENTER STAFF

Donaldson, Kurt
Sr. Project Coordinator

Hopkins, Eric
GIS Tech

Kuhn, Kevin
GIS Tech

Lafone, Frank
Associate Researcher, GIS Webmaster
The Department of Geology and Geography is increasingly dependent on alumni giving, and we are fortunate in having a supportive group of graduates. Alumni donations have traditionally sponsored speakers for our colloquium and AAPG Distinguished Lecturer series; helped with the expenses of field trips and student travel to professional meetings; and have provided much needed grants for student summer research and field work. Many student research projects are supported by your donations. Donations designated to support undergraduate and graduate students greatly enhance the Department’s ability to attract high-quality students.

**Department Scholarships and Funds**

Please designate my gift(s) to the area(s) in the amount(s) shown below

- [ ] Unrestricted
- [ ] Environmental Geoscience
- [ ] Geology and Geography Library Fund - To provide for the additional purchase of books by WVU library in support of the Department’s research and teaching programs
- [ ] Alan. C. Donaldson Scholarship Fund - To award a scholarship to an outstanding pre-major student in Geology - to encourage their selection of Geology as a major and as a career
- [ ] John C. Ludlum Geology Fund - To support the Geology Program distinguished speaker program
- [ ] Marshall S. Miller Geology Endowment Fund - To support students undertaking Geology Field Camp
- [ ] Geology Graduate Fieldwork Fund - To support Geology graduate student fieldwork
- [ ] Wilcox Geology Scholarship Fund - To support geology undergraduates by providing merit-based scholarships for Geology Field Camp
- [ ] Geography Undergraduate Scholarship Fund - An award made to an outstanding Geography major or pre-major

Please take this opportunity to do something wonderful for yourself and for our students.

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________ State ____________ Zip-Code ____________

Telephone ( )_________________________ Email __________________________________________________

Signature_______________________________________ Date___________________________

*My support this year is in the amount of ____________________________*

**Checks may be made payable to WVU Foundation, Dept. Geology and Geography**

Please use the enclosed envelope or send donations and form to:

Alumni Relations
West Virginia University
Department of Geology and Geography
425 White Hall
P.O. Box 6300
Morgantown, WV 26506-6300
Attn: Trevor Harris, Chair
The following information/request(s) can be submitted via e-mail to: hdennis@wvu.edu. Also see our alumni website at http://www.geo.wvu.edu/alumni.

Last Name____________________________First Name_________________________M.I.__________

Degree (Geol, Geog, Env.Sci) BS/BA___________MS/MA___________PHD____________Year__________

Major Professor (if MS or PHD) __________________________________________________________

Home (Mailing) Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State_________ Zip Code________-________

Telephone_____________________________________________________________________________

Retired From____________________________________________________Year___________________

Current Position______________________________________________________________

Firm_________________________________________________________________________________

Business (Mailing) Address_______________________________________________________________

City____________________________________State_________________Zip Code________-_________

Telephone______________________Fax__________________E-Mail____________________________

Is there something missing from the Newsletter that you would like to see in our next issue?

Write below any news item(s) concerning your activities that you would like to share in the next Newsletter (use additional sheet if needed)

I would like to receive the addresses for the following department alumni (include year of graduation, if known).

☐ Please check here if you do not want any information released.

Use the back of this page - fold, tape and add postage to return information.

West Virginia University
Department of Geology and Geography
Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 6300
Morgantown, WV 26506-6300