Message from the Director

Spring/Summer 2012

The academic year has come and gone and the halls of Beach are quiet once again. Faculty and students are off to field sites in Colorado, Taiwan, the Bahamas and more. It has been another building year for Geosciences at UConn. We worked with the Chemistry Department on a joint hire to replace Raymond Joesten, who retired last year. From a very strong pool of candidates, we were able to recruit Dr. Michael Hren, who will join us this fall. Dr. Hren comes to us from the University of Tennessee/Knoxville. His research specialty is stable isotope geochemistry with a focus on global carbon cycling. Michael’s profile will be featured in our next newsletter.

The 2012 North East Geological Society of America’s meeting was held in Hartford. Dr. Jean Crespi’s dedication and hard work made this a very successful event (read more on page 5). Among the many talks and posters, UConn alumni John Nevius, and Kevin Bohacs and Nathan Hagelin were guests at a special session on Careers in Geosciences. Dr. Jeremy Teitelbaum, Dean of CLAS, was among approximately 80 attendees to the alumni reception at this meeting. John Nevius, Kevin Bohacs and Nathan Hagelin pledged their support in spearheading a campaign that will benefit the Geosciences Nugget Fund. This year, the Center for Integrative Geosciences received more donations than ever before. On behalf of our students and faculty, I would like to thank our alumni for their generosity!

The undergraduate program keeps growing and now counts 40 students. Eight students graduated with a Bachelor’s degree this past May. This fall, we welcome five new graduate students to our program. Kristen Myshrall and Januka Attanayake defended their PhD dissertations and Jill Libby completed her Master’s degree.

Graduating GSCI’s!

Congratulations to the following undergraduate and graduate students who are graduating this year!

Undergraduate Students:
December 2011 –
John Pawlowski
Jennifer Schoennagel
May 2012 –
Samantha Avis
Krystin Calderado
Gabriela Gonzalez
Thomas McCarthy
Michael McGarry
Tara O’Neill
Joanna Wilford
James Winkler

Graduate Students:
Januka Attanayake (PhD) – Summer 2012
Jill Libby (MS) – Summer 2012
Kristen Myshrall (PhD) – Spring 2012
Natalie Stork (MS) – Fall 2012
David Mirakian (MS) – Fall 2012
Alexandré Fowler (MS) – Summer 2011
In closure, I would like to share the sad news of the passing of long term Geology and Geophysics chair, Dr. A.J. “Mike” Fruch (see obituary on page 4). Other alumni news can be found on this page. I do hope that you will stay in touch and provide us with updates in your careers and beyond. We would like to keep everybody up to date through a column in this annual newsletter. Please contact us at geology@uconn.edu.

Best for the coming fall,
Pieter T. Visscher

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Foundation Funds in Use

Undergrad Rebecca Vanderleest spent this summer at the Indiana University Field Camp. She received a Presidential Scholarship Enrichment Award from UCONN, and The ConocoPhillips Scholarship for field school. On top of that, Rebecca requested funds from Geosciences to help her attend. The Nugget Fund paid for Rebecca’s travel to and from IU to help make this experience possible. IU is one of the best known and most highly respected field schools in the country and we are very excited that Rebecca was able to attend!

Rebecca in Glacier National Park as part of her field camp experience.

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Foundation Funds for Geosciences

We are often asked what funds exist for geosciences, and what they get used for here at UConn. Here is the listing of the accounts we have (all were handed down to us from the former Geology and Geophysics Department), with account descriptions.

~ Geology and Geophysics Fund (#20268) General support of activities related to geosciences at UConn. Unrestricted fund.

~ Nugget Fund (#30825) Financial support for programs within geosciences, specifically field trip travel, student research, symposia, lectures, and conferences. Endowed fund.

~ Undergraduate Field Trip Fund (#21770) To help support the spring break field trip and for small grants for field expenses of undergrads working on senior theses. Endowed fund.

~ Andrew J. Nalwalk Memorial Award (#30030) A graduate award for Geosciences and Marine Sciences. Award based on independent scholarship ability and determined by a 3 faculty member committee. Financial need is not a criterion for award. Endowed fund.

Alumni – if you are interested in learning more about contributing to any of these funds, please see the UConn Foundation website: [https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/ giving-to-uconn.html](https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/giving-to-uconn.html)

If you select the ‘give’ option and want to make an online donation to any of the above funds, you can click on “other fund” and designate the name and account number indicated above! If you’re interested in creating a new named fund, please contact either Becky McEnery at (860) 486-6851 bmcecnery@foundation.uconn.edu or Lida Mullarkey at (860) 486-8410 lmullarkey@foundation.uconn.edu.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Alumni Updates

Gerald Buckley (B.A. 1968) submitted one of our online geology information forms to update us. He recently retired from a position with Pixel Magic Imaging in Texas. He added to the notes section: “Although I never worked in the field, I have maintained a lifelong interest in Geology. My children still remember Dad’s ‘lectures’ during our travels. I’ve always believed that if you could envision how the planet works as a system then you could tackle any problem with creativity.”

Lynn Torak (M.S. 1979) also submitted an online information form this spring. Lynn works with the USGS in Georgia as a Hydrologist. Mr. Torak has performed multidiscipline, water-resource investigations that incorporate the broad spectrum of hydrologic sciences. He has applied simulation techniques to study the effects of climate and pumping on groundwater levels and stream-aquifer water exchanges in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin; developed a water budget for and assessed lake leakage into cavernous limestone beneath Lake Seminole, southestern Georgia and northwestern Florida; and evaluated geohydrology and climate and pumping effects on water resources in the Apalachicola-Suwannee-Oklawaha River Basin. While at the USGS National Center, he co-developed the Survey’s modular, finite-element model of groundwater flow, MODFLOW, and served as coordinator and principal instructor of training courses at the USGS National Training Center in Denver pertaining to finite-difference and finite-element simulation of groundwater flow. He has served as technical consultant to state environmental offices in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, pursuant to the tri-state water compacts and allocation negotiations; consulted worldwide on the application of simulation techniques to evaluate groundwater flow and stream-aquifer water exchange.

Betsey Wingfield (M.S. 1988) is currently Bureau Chief for Water Protection and Land Reuse. Betsey was recently honored with a Merit Award from EPA Region One. She was one of 11 Connecticut recipients of the award, which was presented at an annual ceremony at Boston’s historic Faneuil Hall. She was recognized for her work in the adoption of landmark stream flow regulations, which are designed to balance needs for human uses of water with those of our ecosystems and aquatic life.

Gard Ole Warnø (B.A. 2008; individualized major) recently earned his M.S. Degree and works for Statoil in Norway as a Reservoir Geologist.

David Mirakian (B.S. 2009, M.S. 2011) is doing an internship with Statoil in Houston (one of only 3 internships this year and Dave got one!). Dave just accepted a job with Shell with Expedition that he will start once his internship is over.

John Pawlowski (B.S. 2011) works for Weatherford International as a Wireline Engineer.

Jennifer Schoenengel (B.S. 2011) works for Fuss and O’Neill as a Hydrogeologist.

Tara O’Neill (B.S. 2012) was accepted to the University of New Haven’s Masters Program to become a certified Earth Science teacher.

Sam Avis (B.S. 2012) is currently working as an environmental scientist/field technician with GeoQuest, a small environmental consulting firm in Bloomfield, CT.

We love to hear from Geology alumni to see how you’re doing and what you’ve been up to in recent years. We haven’t heard from many of you recently – so please feel free to update us if you have a chance! You can email us with information at geology@uconn.edu or use our online Alumni Information Form here: [http://www.geosciences.uconn.edu/documents/geosciences_alumni_information_form.html](http://www.geosciences.uconn.edu/documents/geosciences_alumni_information_form.html)

We’d like to keep having a section with alumni news and updates for upcoming newsletters, so please send updates or contact us if you can!
Faculty and Student Publications/Presentations

**Papers:**


**Presentations:**

Beganskas, Sarah, Martini, Anna, Ouimet, William B., Murphy, Sheila , And Dethier, David P. “The Geochemical Impact Of Wildfire And Mining On Stream And Sediment Chemistry Of The Yarnelle Creek Watershed, Colorado” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.


**Burchsted, Denise;** Green, Mark B “The Legacy Of Natural Dams Lost.” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.


Fichman, Meredith E., Crespi, Jean M., Getty, Patrick R. “Retroformation Of Carboniferous Tetrapod Tracks In The Rhode Island Formation, Plainville, Massachusetts, Using Defomed Raingrop Impressions” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.


**Huang, Chung, Byrne, Timothy,** Rau, Ruey-Juin “Active Deformation Of A Trishear Fold In The Slate Belt Of Southern Taiwan.” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.

Lee, Yuan-Hsi, Earth, Ming-Hsiung, Chia-Yi, Lo, Wei, Timothy, B. Byrne, Rau, Ruey-Juin “Simultaneous Mountain Building In Taiwan Orogenic Belt?” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.


Rau, Ruey-Juin, Ching, Kuo-En, Lee, Yuan-His, Ming-Hsiung, Chia-Yi, Lee, Jian-Cheng, Chan, Yu-Chang, Byrne, Timothy. “Oblique Convergence And Syn-Orogenic Extension In Active Arc-Continent Collision: Constrained By Earthquake Analysis In South Central Taiwan” NE GSA, Hartford CT. 2012.

Robbins, Gary. “Potential For Misinterpreting Ground Water Contamination Data from Wells In Fractured Crystalline Bedrock Owing To Concentration Averaging And Flow Recirculation”, NE GSA, Hartford, CT. 2012.

Sforna, Marie Catherine, Pascal Philippot, Mark Van Zuil, Andrea Somogyi, Kadda Medjoubi, Pieter Visscher, Christophe Dupraz. “Micron-scale imaging of the distribution of bio-available metals (Fe, Zn, Ni, Co) in modern and ancient microbial mats.” Goldschmidt, 2012. Montreal, Canada


Thorson, Robert M. “Historic Legacy Sediment within The Catchment Of Sasquehsnet Creek, Lebanon, Connecticut” NE GSA, Hartford, CT. 2012


Awards and other news:

Undergrad Hannah Mondrach will be working as a Keck Geology Consortium student this summer with Dr. Will Ouimet! They will be studying the landscape of the Front Range in Colorado for 4 weeks. Grad student Neil Shea is with them as well, working on his MS thesis. For more information on Keck, visit: http://keckgeology.org/

2012 Award Winners Undergraduate: Lucke Award – awarded to outstanding geoscience senior. – Joanna Wilford received the award this year. Graduate: Excellence in Research Award – awarded to the grad student who has displayed excellence in research through field work, publications, awards, and other aspects. – Jill Libby and David Mirakian both received the award this year.

Dr. Robert Thorson has an appointment as a visiting scholar (affiliate) in the "History of American Civilization Program," at Harvard University from September 2012 through December 2013.

Passing of A.J. “Mike” Frueh: (from his obituary) Alfred J. Frueh, Jr. died peacefully on March 23, 2012, at age 92. Known to all as "Mike", but named after his father, theater caricaturist for the New Yorker magazine, he grew up in NYC and received his undergraduate and doctorate degrees at MIT. He served as a Naval officer in the Pacific arena during WWII, and spent his entire professional career as a Professor of Crystallography, teaching and doing research at the Universities of Chicago (IL) and Oslo (Norway), McGill University in Montreal and the University of Connecticut at Storrs. He was invited to UConn to build the Geology Department, which he chaired for 9 years, retiring in 1986. Mike's grandson, Jon Gourley, graduated with his PhD from UConn in 2005. Many recognize his name from the infamous Beach Hall Library (233), also known as the Frueh Reading Room. A picture of Dr. Frueh along with a plaque adorns the wall in that room.

Undergrad Welcome Back Picnic - Thursday Aug. 30th – 4 to 6pm Outside Beach Hall (or in 233 if weather is bad!)

GSCI and ENVS are holding our first annual undergrad welcome back picnic – come meet new majors and connect with your fellow classmates!

Faculty are welcome to join us -

RSVP to Abi by Thursday August 23rd if you plan on attending!
2012 NE GSA in Hartford CT a Huge Success

NE GSA took place in Hartford, CT this past March. UConn’s Dr. Jean Crespi was chair of the meeting, and the Center for Integrative Geoscience helped sponsor the regional event. Many of our students and faculty attended, as well as presented, and took part in the field trips and courses that were offered. Some information about the meeting:

* Nearly 500 abstracts were submitted for the meeting. The number of submitted abstracts was the highest ever for an NEGSA meeting. It was 26% higher than the average for the previous 10 years.
* Over 1000 people attended the meeting. This is the highest number of attendees for an NEGSA meeting since the mid 1980s. It was 32% higher than the average for the previous 10 years.
* 83% of the respondents to GSA's post-meeting survey said they would return to the same venue in Hartford for another NEGSA; only 4% said they would not.

Congratulations to Jean on a very successful meeting!

Graduate Scholarships and Fellowships

Links to these and other scholarship & fellowship opportunities may be found at www.ons.uconn.edu

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.** Application is typically due mid-November (funding for the following fall): seniors, 1st & 2nd year grad students eligible. 2011 application becomes available in August. See [http://www.nsfgrfp.org/](http://www.nsfgrfp.org/) for more information.

**EPA STAR Graduate Fellowships** for graduate studies in environmental science. Application is typically due in early November. 2012 application becomes available in August (pending Federal funding). See [http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/#CurrentStar](http://www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/#CurrentStar) for more information.

NEIGC – Fall 2012

The 103rd New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference will be held in New Hampshire this year from **October 12th – 14th** and hosted by Keene State and UNH. This weekend is a long standing tradition for regional geology students and is a great opportunity to learn more about the geology of a certain area of New England! For more details and to register for the meeting, see: [http://w3.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/](http://w3.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/)

GSA Annual Meeting – Fall 2012

November 4th – 7th in Charlotte, NC. **Registration is open!** Registration deadline is October 1st. More information is here: [http://geosociety.org/meetings/2012/](http://geosociety.org/meetings/2012/)

Students, are you interested in attending but need funding? You can apply for Center Funds by filling out the form here (for presenters only!)
[http://www.geosciences.uconn.edu/documents/RequestFunding.pdf](http://www.geosciences.uconn.edu/documents/RequestFunding.pdf)

You can also apply for GSA travel grants here:
[http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/grants.htm](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/grants.htm)
**Graduate School Funding Sources**

**Tuition Assistance Program For Outstanding Master's Degree Students**
The Tuition Assistance Program for Outstanding Master's Degree Students provides tuition assistance for a maximum of four semesters for selected students, who are classified as out-of-state for tuition purposes and are in terminal master's degree tracks. In effect, these grants permit the recipients to pay tuition at the in-state rate. The specific selection criteria for these grants include: admission to and full-time matriculation in a master's degree program which ordinarily does not lead to a doctorate; absence of graduate assistantship support (which carries with it a tuition waiver); out-of-state residency status; evidence of academic excellence (based on grade point averages, GRE/GMAT scores, etc.); and U.S. citizen or permanent resident status. This program is administered by the Graduate School. Students are nominated by faculty members in terminal-track master's degree programs.

**Graduate Student Senate Short-Term Loan Fund**
This fund is administered by the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), and is funded by graduate student activities fees. It provides loans of up to $1000 to assist graduate students in dealing with financial emergencies. Loans are issued for 60-day periods and are interest free. Applications are available in the Graduate Student Senate Office, Student Union Room 213 and on the GSS Web site.

**Semi-Annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program**
Twice each year, the Graduate School awards a number of $2,000 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships for advanced students in doctoral programs requiring a dissertation. Their purpose is to enable students to place a high priority on writing the doctoral dissertation as expeditiously as possible. The competitions for these fellowships are held in late fall and late spring each year (pending budgetary approval). To be eligible, the student must have passed the doctoral General Examination and have obtained full approval of the Dissertation Proposal (including the use of any human or animal subjects or stem cells). There is a maximum personal income limit for an applicant to be eligible. The limit is specified for each competition on the application form. The application is posted to the Graduate School Web site approximately October 1st and April 1st. Students are notified of the posting of the application at those times by UConn Listserv e-mail. Application deadlines are in late-November and mid-May respectively.

**Doctoral Student Extraordinary Expense Award**
Up to $500 is available to defray extraordinary expenses involved with completion of your dissertation research. Extraordinary expenses include those related to collecting/analyzing data, such as printing and mailing of questionnaires, fees paid to subjects, fees paid for the transcription of recorded research material, travel necessary to administer questionnaires, to interview subjects, or to do research at libraries and sites away from the campus, and unusual items of equipment or supplies that your academic program may not have. You may receive only one of these awards during your doctoral studies. Eligibility requirements are the same as those of the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, except that there is no income limit. Application for the Extraordinary Expense Award must be made before the expense(s) to be covered are incurred. More Information.

**Doctoral Student Travel Funds**
If you are in a doctoral program, once you complete your General Examination you become eligible for a $1000 travel allowance. This travel fund is made available through your major advisor and can be used for travel to the professional meeting or conference of your and your major advisor's choice. All doctoral students are eligible for this award. The details of the rules governing the program are available here.

**Multicultural Scholars Program**
The Graduate School and the Provost's Office have established a fund for the promotion of diversity within graduate education. This program functions to promote the recruitment and retention of diverse populations of graduate students by matching the funding support provided by the schools, departments, or fields of study. Students are nominated by the graduate program to which they are applying. Eligibility for support is based on the student's academic qualifications, U.S. citizen or permanent resident status, and the demonstrated need for increased cultural diversity within the field of study. Nominations should be sent to Joana Desjardin at Unit 1006. Nominations should include a brief cover letter addressing the applicant's accomplishments along with a description of how well the applicant fits in the program (including faculty mentor(s)), copies of his or her transcripts (including GPA), GRE scores, applicant's personal statement and letters of recommendation. A faculty committee will review and select awardees.

**Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowships**
Predoctoral fellowships are awarded to doctoral students on the recommendation of the graduate faculty in their program. Award amounts vary considerably. Predoctoral fellowships carry no service commitment. You must be a Regular (not Provisional) full-time doctoral student to be eligible for these fellowships. The Vice Provost for Graduate Education provides funds for this program directly to the academic units. Contact your graduate coordinator for more information about the Predoctoral Fellowship Program.
UCONN GEOSCIENCE T-SHIRTS!

If enough people are interested, we will do another Geoscience T-Shirt order this semester – probably in October. There are a few already made shirts for sale in the main office, as well. See Abi for details or email geology@uconn.edu. We need to have at least 12 items to place another order. Payment can be by check, cash, or paypal (prices do not include shipping).

Short Sleeve – B/W logo - $12

Short Sleeve – two color (green/blue) logo - $16

Long Sleeve – B/W logo - $20

Long Sleeve – two color (green/blue) logo - $24

Sweatshirts - B/W logo - $35

Sweatshirts – two color (green/blue) logo - $40

**FRONT SIDE – LEFT (3.5 inches):**

![UCONN Geosciences Logo]

**BACK SIDE – MIDDLE (9.25 inches):**

![UCONN Geosciences Logo]

These are the two color logos. **Shipping is not included** in the prices so if you would like to order a shirt but need it shipped, there will be an additional charge of around $3-$5!
We wish to thank the following supporters for their generosity in giving to Geosciences at UConn. Your support helps make it possible for students to travel to professional meetings, conduct field work and research, supports geoscience gatherings throughout the year, provides opportunities for large equipment purchases, and allows geoscience classes to take many field trips each semester.

Your continued support is much appreciated!

Mr. Kevin M. Bohacs & Ms. Susan J. Mitterling
Mr. Thomas J. Cwikla
Dr. & Mrs. Gordon K. Binkhorst
Mr. Robert S. Gilbert
Mr. Andrew M. Knowlton
Mr. & Mrs. Orville B. Lloyd, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Bradley
Dr. Timothy Byrne & Dr. Jean Crespi
Dr. Thomas A. Earl
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Curtin
Mr. H. Ray Underwood, Jr.
Mr. Nathan W. Hagelin
Mr. Joseph M. Sutila
Mr. Francis W. Basnikiewicz
Mr. David L. Mazzaferro
Ms. Samantha D. Andrews
Mr. John G. Nevius, Esq.
The ExxonMobil Foundation
ConocoPhillips
CLAS Dean’s Office
Who was John B. Lucke?

Each year a graduating senior in geosciences receives the John B. Lucke award. But who is John B. Lucke? Where does this award come from?

Lucke graduated from Princeton a degree (presumably a Bachelor) in 1929 and with his PhD in 1933. It appears he was involved in the Geology Club at Princeton while he was in the PhD program (around 1931). Among his classmates were the well-known Harry Hess and J. Tuzo Wilson. His research focused on nearshore processes and beaches. It appears that he arrived at UConn around 1939-40. Shortly after that he served in South Pacific as Lieutenant in Navy during WWII, where he worked interpreting aerial photography.

He returned to UConn in 1945, and is considered to be the founder of the Geology and Geography Department. He served as Associate Professor and Department Head of Geology and Geography at that time, and taught the first Geology course ever offered at UConn. He left UConn to start a Geology program at Grand Valley State University in Michigan in the mid-late 1960's. The earliest date on the Lucke Award is 1974, when Mark Rosser received it. Even back then, the AGI Glossary of Geology was awarded to the recipient! They also received a letter from the President of the University (times have changed!). Letters to recipients from then Department Head A.J. Frueh state “The John B. Lucke Award was created in honor of the founder and first chairman of the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Connecticut. Professor Lucke was also a former director of the State Geologic and Natural History Survey. The award is given annually to an outstanding graduating senior in the field of geology.”

The ‘outstanding senior’ is recognized not just academically by having a high GPA in geosciences, but as seen by the geoscience faculty to be an excellent all-around individual.

Geology Club News

The GeoClub continues to work on getting some trips done and gain a following. There were a couple of trips this year, one to a local gem/mineral show in Orange, CT. Students did some prospecting at local areas as well. We look forward to some great plans for 2012-2013!

New Officers for Fall 2012:

President: Almariet Palm
Secretary: David Perry
Treasurer: Stephen MacKay

If you want to be on the mailing list, email uconngeoclub@gmail.com so you can get all the details on upcoming trips and meetings!