Welcome and goodbye....

After nine and a half years, I am excited, although with a hint of dejection, to hand over the directorship to Prof. Lisa E. Park Boush. Lisa will join the Center in August of this year. She is moving from the University of Akron, Ohio, where she joined the faculty in 1995. Her research focuses on paleontology and she has a special interest in lakes and wetlands especially with conservation issues. From 2010 until 2014, Lisa was Program Director at the National Science Foundation for Sedimentary Geology and Paleontology. Please join me in welcoming Prof. Park Boush to UConn.

In the first nine and a half years of the Center, we have seen the faculty and graduate and undergraduate student enrollments growing; under the leadership of Prof. Crespi, a new Geosciences major was created and new courses added there have been renovations of laboratories, class rooms, library and offices, purchases of teaching equipment, etc. The Center has vibrant research and teaching programs, and virtually all of our graduates have found employment within months after graduating. The Geosciences endowment in the Nugget Fund has increased tenfold and continues to support student activities and creates many professional opportunities for them. I wholeheartedly thank the generous donors for their support. The next few years, under Prof. Park Boush’s leadership will undoubtedly be experiencing more growth, especially as the environment and sustainability has found a prominent place in the new Academic Vision.

Also in the past nine and half years, we added four new tenure track faculty - Prof. Bush, Dupraz, Ouimet and Hren - and received a Visiting Assistant Professor line in support of our instructional programs. The day to day logistics in the Center have been taken care of, first by Ms. Abi Hastillo and currently by Ms. Christin Donnelly. Without their undivided attention and dedication to the program, we would not have accomplished nearly as much! Prof. Ray Joesten, who came to UConn in 1971 retired after 40 years of service. Prof. Dupraz resigned to be closer to his family in Europe and I will leave at the end of August and return to Marine Sciences. It has been an honor serving Geosciences.

Best wishes for the future,
Congratulations to our 2013 Graduates!

**Graduate Students**
- Dariusz Chelbica, M.S.
- Meredith Fichman, M.S.
- Daniel Lolos, M.S.
- Mark Smith, M.S.
- Chandi Witharana, Ph.D.

**Undergraduate Students**

**Geoscience Majors**
- Mitchell Console
- Lauren Dudziak
- Prescott Fulton
- Rebecca Vanderleest
- Christopher McKenna
- Joseph Mingrone
- Hannah Mondrach
- Almariet Palm
- Aaron Schmidt
- Abigail Valletta

**Environmental Science Majors with Geoscience Concentration**
- Melissa McCarthy-Connors
- Brittney Jones
- Katherine Morrow
Congratulations to our 2014 Graduates!

**Graduate Students**
- Patrick Getty, Ph.D.
- Ellen Lamont, M.S.
- Amberlee Nicoulin, M.S.
- Molly Patterson, M.S.

**Undergraduate Students**

**Geoscience Majors**
- Rachel Amento
- Michael Barnett
- Alexander Conti
- Tiffany Cousins
- Brian Cunningham
- Samantha Dow
- Vanessa Khan
- William Marr
- Stephen McKay
- Christopher O’Donnell
- Ayesha Ramnath
- Shannon Spezzano
- Seth Travis
- Kyle Twombly
- Frank Zhang

**Environmental Science Majors with Geoscience Concentration**
- Toni Pawlowski
- Evan Tam
The Center for Integrative Geosciences celebrated the end of the year and the accomplishments of our students with a picnic on the lawn outside Beach Hall.

Each of our graduating seniors received a rock hammer to commemorate their time as Geoscience majors at UConn.

At the picnic, awards were presented to outstanding graduate and undergraduate students.

The Lucke Award, which is given to an outstanding graduating senior, was presented to Hannah Mondrach, an honors student who graduated with a 4.0 GPA and demonstrated a strong commitment to the program and the field of Geosciences.

Two graduate student awards were also presented at the picnic. Meredith Fichman was recognized with the Excellence in Teaching Award for the passion she shows in teaching our undergraduate population.

Patrick Getty was recognized with the Excellence in Research Award for his commitment to his research toward his Ph.D.
The 2014 Geoscience End of Year Picnic took place in our Reading Room due to weather, but everyone was still able to gather to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students this year.

We continued our tradition of presenting our graduating seniors with rock hammers as reminders of the time they spent studying Geoscience here at UConn.

We also presented our undergraduate and graduate awards. The Lucke Award for the outstanding graduating senior was presented to two students this year. Alex Conti, a Geoscience and Environmental Science double major excelled in his coursework and was able to intern with DEEP during his time at UConn. Alex won a merit-based scholarship to attend a field camp at SUNY Cortland this summer and will go on to graduate school at Ohio University in the fall. Samantha Dow, a Geoscience and Geography double major with a minor in French who has been extremely active in research as a Keck Geology REU student and a UConn Geoscience thesis student. She participated in field work and presented research at multiple conferences. Sam was also an active member of GeoClub, planning meetings, field trips and fundraisers.

This year we recognized Amberlee Nicoulin as our outstanding graduate student with the Excellence in Teaching Award. Amberlee will graduate with her M.S. this summer and has consistently demonstrated a passion for teaching our undergraduate students.
Andrew Bush and Robert Thorson participated in the first annual Alumni College Experience Day by giving talks on their areas of research and expertise to a group of alumni from around the Northeast. They were two of five faculty members who gave talks. View the article in UConn Today here: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/04/liberal-arts-and-sciences-hosts-first-alumni-college-experience/.

Andrew Bush co-organized the Paleontological Society Short Course at the 2013 GSA annual meeting. The course was titled: Ecosystem Paleobiology and Geobiology. He also co-organized a theme session at the 2014 Southeastern GSA meeting titled Symposium in Honor of the Career of Richard Bambach. Dr. Bush was a co-PI on a successful STEPPE workshop proposal “Biological and environmental transitions during the Neoproterozoic and Paleozoic”.

Vernon Cormier developed a radiative transport code for regional seismic monitoring and boundary element monitoring of inner core topography. He was also the recipient of an Outstanding Reviewer award for the Geophysical Journal International and was appointed an editor of the journal Physics of the Earth and planetary Interiors. Dr. Cormier received a Meaker Fellowship award from Bristol University to support his Spring 2015 sabbatical visit to Bristol's Institute of Advanced Studies.

Jean Crespi was elected the Second Vice Chair of the Structural Geology and Tectonics Division of the Geological Society of America which will automatically lead to serving as the First Vice Chair and Chair over the two following years. She was also invited to give seminars at the University of Vermont and Central Connecticut State University.

With the delivery of a Mass Spectrometer in October 2013 Michael Hren installed a Stable Isotope Laboratory at UConn and is now building operations and collaborative efforts. He was invited to speak at the GSA Annual Meeting, the Northeast GSA Meeting and at Wesleyan University in the past year. Dr. Hren has been awarded multiple grants to fund his research including an NSF grant and funds through the UConn Chemistry Department’s Beckman Scholars Program. Michael Hren's latest publication in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) was highlighted in UConn Today. Michael is the lead author on the study, “Terrestrial cooling in Northern Europe during the Eocene-Oligocene transition”. Read the write-up in UConn Today here: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/04/new-geochemical-method-highlights-links-between-terrestrial-climate-and-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide/ and his PNAS publication here: http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/04/19/1210930110.

Lanbo Liu was the main organizer and guest editor of four special issues on Ground Penetrating Radar in the Journal of Applied Geophysics, the Journal of Geophysics and Engineering, the IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing and the Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics. He delivered an invited talk to Missouri University of Science and Technology entitled “Great New Madrid Earthquakes after 200 Years: Facing the Scientific and Engineering Challenges.” Dr. Liu also conducted a hydrogeological field investigation in the remote Gambela area of Ethiopia in conjunction with the Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources and the LEAP program.
William Ouimet was awarded an NSF RAPID grant to study the 2013 Colorado floods. This was funded through the Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics program, Division of Earth Sciences. His publication in the Journal of Archaeological Science with Ph.D. student Kate Johnson titled “Rediscovering the Lost Archaeological Landscape of Southern New England Using Airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)” received numerous accolades in print, online and through radio media including online stories at National Geographic, Science Magazine and LiveScience (syndicated by Huffington Post and CBS News), in print in Archaeology Magazine and on the radio during NPR’s “Where We Live” show. The UConn today write up can be viewed here: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/02/hidden-new-england-landscape-comes-to-life/ and the Journal of Archaeological Science publication can be viewed here: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305440313004342. Dr. Ouimet was invited to talk at the GSA Annual Meeting in Denver and was a session chair at AGU and co-author in four presentations.

Gary Robbins obtained a grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health to support internships. He also initiated a training program for CT DEEP remediation staff. In addition, Dr. Robbins conducted continuing education short courses for the Connecticut Environmental Professionals Organization and the Licensed Site Professionals Association of Massachusetts. He also led three field geological trips for the Manchester Historical Society, Manchester Land Conservation Trust and Arbors at Hopbrook. Dr. Robbins’ research on monitoring groundwater supply and quantity was featured in Naturally@UConn. Read the article here: http://naturally.uconn.edu/2013/12/03/hydrogeologist/.

Robert Thorson’s new book Walden’s Shore: Henry David Thoreau and Nineteenth-Century Science was published by the Harvard University Press and has garnered favorable reviews and netted invitation for Thorson to speak at Thoreau related venues. Read the UConn Today write up on the book here: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/01/the-many-facets-of-henry-david-thoreau/ and find more information on at http://robertthorson.uconn.edu/writing/books/walden’s-shore/. Upon completion of this book Thorson revitalized the Stone Wall Initiative (a component of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History) website which can be viewed here: http://stonewall.uconn.edu. Thorson’s article titled “Hydraulic back-flood model for the archaeological stratigraphy of the Connecticut River Alluvial Lowland, central Connecticut, USA” was published in Quaternary International and can be viewed here: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2014.03.026.

Pieter Visscher was appointed as senior research fellow at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and Adjunct Professor at Curtin University in Perth. He was elected chair of the 2015 Gordon Conference on Geobiology and served member of the scientific/organizing committee of the International Sedimentology Congress 2014, where he chairs several sessions. Visscher’s efforts in Chile have lead in 2014 to the official conservation of the Salar de Atacama by the Chilean Federal Government. He remains involved in international conservation efforts of microbialites (Earth’s oldest ecosystems), which he spearheaded in Western Australian and the Bahamas. He taught the First International Course in Microbial Carbonates in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and is working on joint projects with Petrobras Energy company. He is also involved in a project sponsored by Total Energy Co SA (France) to investigate sedimentary systems in Cuba and Great Salt Lake, UT.
Student Accomplishments

Graduate Students:

- **Mark Smith** received two prestigious awards this year. He won Best Product Invention at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation’s Pitch Competition, which came with a $1000 prize. Mark also won 1st place in the 2013 UConn Innovation Quest for an imaging system he has been developing since high school. This award came with a $15,000 prize to use toward his start-up business. For more information on Mark’s accomplishments, read his feature in UConn Today here: [http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/05/geoscience-graduate-student-wins-first-prize-in-innovation-quest-competition/?utm_source+DailyDigest](http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/05/geoscience-graduate-student-wins-first-prize-in-innovation-quest-competition/?utm_source+DailyDigest).

- Our graduate students had a strong presence at GSA meetings in 2013. **Jayme Csonka** gave a talk at both the Northeast and National GSA meetings, and **Patrick Getty** spoke at the National meeting.

- In addition, a number of our students presented and organized sessions at GSA in Denver this fall. **Andrew Beard** co-organized a short course on Ecosystem Paleobiology. This one day short course will include his papers published as an edited volume.

- **Patrick Getty** recently had a paper accepted by the journal Palaios titled *Variation in wingless insect trace fossils: insights from neoichnology and the Pennsylvanian of Massachusetts*,

- **Jayme Csonka** has been invited to participate in a working group of NY stratigraphers to create a new correlation chart for the Devonian of NY.

- **Jaci White** received funding from the Geological Society of America for her field research on Middle Miocene Climate change in southwestern Montana using organic biomarkers.

- **James Farrell** was awarded Student Research Grants from the Geological Society of America, the Connecticut Geological Society and to participate in the GeoPRISMS Community Seismic Experiment along the Eastern North American Margin.

- **Molly Patterson** received grant from the Geological Society of America and a coveted Lewis and Clark grant for Exploration and Field Research in Astrobiology. Molly will continue her work in Green Lake, NY and the Bahamas and will present her thesis work at the International Sedimentology Congress in Geneva in August.

- **Sarah Vitale** received an LSPA (Licensed Site Professionals Association) Scholarship to support continued education in Environmental Fields in the New England Region. She was presented with the award on June 10, 2014 at the LSPA membership meeting.
Undergraduate Students:

- **Almariet Palm** (2013) won an Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster Award at the 2013 Northeast GSA meeting. Only 6 posters out of the 169 submitted were chosen for such recognition.

- **Alexander Conti** (2014) was awarded the James Kradyna Field Camp Scholarship to attend the SUNY Cortland Geology Field Camp. The award has a value of $1,000. Conti was also awarded a $2000 GSA/ExxonMobil Field Camp Scholar Award. Only 20 awards were presented to an applicant pool of 130. He was accepted to the University of Ohio to pursue his graduate degree and will begin in Fall 2014.

- **Greg Harris** was awarded funding from the Keck Foundation for undergraduate research in the Colorado Front Range. He also received SURF funding from UConn to conduct research on Cenozoic paleoclimate in northeastern Nevada.

- **Samantha Dow**’s research “Sedimentation Behind Conway Electric Dam, South River, Western Massachusetts” was included in presentations at the UConn Frontiers in Undergraduate Research exhibition and the Keck Geology Symposium.

- The Center continued its tradition of presenting an Undergraduate Research Showcase at the end of the Spring semester. **Samantha Dow** and four additional students, **Frank Zhang**, **Evan Tam**, **Rory Burgess** and **Kellyn Patros** all presented their research.

- **Tiffany Cousins** was accepted at Texas A&M to pursue a Master’s degree. Tiffany plans to work toward a career in emergency management or earthquake/GIS modeling.
Our Alumni are doing great things!

Januka Attanayake (2012) is a post-doctoral fellow at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, Portugal.

Denise Burchsted (2013) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Keene State College in New Hampshire and also has two papers in press based on her dissertation research.


Lexy Fowler (2011) has started a position at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington DC.

Meredith Metcalf (2006) has accepted a tenure track position at Eastern Connecticut State University.

David Mirakian (2009, 2011) now works as an exploration geologist for Shell in Houston, Texas. David recently had a paper published in Lithosphere based on his M.S. thesis work.

Natalie Stork (2011) is currently staff geologist at AECOM in California.

Sam Volet (2011) has been accepted to the UConn School of Law and will start in Fall 2013.

Joanna Wilford (2012) will be attending the University of Georgia for her M.S. in Geology.

Abbey Valletta (2013) is working at TRC Solutions in Millburn, NJ.

Dariusz Chlebica (2013) is employed by Geosyntec Consultants in Acton, MA. His duties include litigation support, hydrogeologic assessments and field deployments that have taken him to Kansas, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. A portion of Dariusz’s thesis was published in the Fall 2013 edition of the Groundwater Monitoring and Remediation journal. Dariusz has been appointed to serve on the Earth Sciences Advisory Board at Worcester State University. Dariusz frequently attends Massachusetts LSPA meetings and hopes to meet you there!

Chandi Witharana (2014) was appointed as a research scientist with the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA). His research will be primarily focused on IIASA’s recently initiated collaborative project with UPenn’s Wharton Business School and Zurich Insurance Group entitled “Scientific Insight for Building Long Term Flood Resilience: Devising incentive-based and equitable flood risk management portfolios.”

Meredith Fichman (2014) will attend the Master’s Program for Earth Science Education at the American Museum of Natural History.

Rebecca Vanderleest (2013) is attending Pennsylvania State University to study active tectonics.

Hannah Mondrach (2013) is attending the UConn Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates at Avery Point and will be concentrating in Earth Science.
**Pat Tucci** (1976) embarked on a 31 year career as a hydrogeologist with the US Geological Survey after earning his degree from UConn. He specialized in ground-water hydrology, ground-water flow modeling and use of geophysics in ground-water investigations. His career took him to USGS offices in Indiana, Arizona, Florida, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and Colorado (although much of his work from the Colorado office was at Yucca Mountain in Nevada). He eventually became the ground-water specialist for the USGS 15-state Central Region. He also worked on several international projects during his last 10 years with USGS, working in Ethiopia, Abu Dhabi, and Bangladesh, and he helped to plan and coordinate projects in the Cape Verde Islands and Afghanistan. He retired from USGS in 2007, although he still serves as a volunteer with them. Since retiring, he has worked with the US Navy teaching ground-water modeling classes in Ethiopia and Kenya, with the US Forest Service writing technical procedures for ground-water activities in the National Forests, and with IAEA. He and his wife own a home-based business selling minerals, fossils, and jewelry (GEOdyssey, LLC), primarily selling at local mineral club shows. They also like to travel, and since retirement have visited Ethiopia, China, Italy, Iceland, and Namibia, as well as travelling around the US. They currently live in Golden, Colorado.

*We want to know what you have been up to! Send us an update about what you are doing and we will include you in our next newsletter!*  

Email christin.donnelly@uconn.edu
Geoscience Students Study Abroad in Taiwan

The Center for Integrative Geosciences was excited to offer our first Winter Break Study Abroad trip to Taiwan. Students had the opportunity to spend 3 weeks studying in the classroom and in the field in Taipei and the surrounding area. The participants attended lectures at UConn prior to the trip and on a weekly basis while in Taiwan. The majority of their time in Taiwan was spent out in the field, collecting data and relating their findings to the fundamental geological processes and consequential geologic hazards they had learned about in the classroom.

Important stops on the trip included:
- Chi-Chi Earthquake Museum
- Juo-Feng-Err landslide area
- Typhoon Morakot destruction and reconstruction in southern Taiwan
- Exhumed metamorphic rocks in Taroko Gorge
- Natural hot springs in an ancient magmatic arc

The students also had some time for fun! They had the opportunity to learn about the culture of the area and to witness the New Year’s Eve celebration in Taipei!

This exciting trip will run again in January 2015 and we have a group of students who are thrilled to have the opportunity to experience Taiwan!
Thank You to our Supporters!

The faculty and students of the Center for Integrative Geosciences would like to send our sincerest thanks to the generous alumni who have contributed funds to our program this year. You have enabled us to continue to provide high quality educational experiences for our Geoscience graduate and undergraduate students.

Ms. Samantha D. Andrews
Mr. Francis W. Basnikiewicz
Gordon K. Binkhorst, PhD. & Mrs. Karen D. Binkhorst
Mr. Kevin M. Bohacs & Mrs. Susan J. Mitterling
Mr. Christopher H. Bradley & Mrs. Lynn T. Bradley
Oliver M. Braissant
Dariusz W. Chlebica
Dr. Timothy Byrne & Dr. Jean Crespi
ExxonMobil Foundation

Mr. Stephen P. Garabedian
Mr. Robert S. Gilbert Jr.
Mr. Timothy Graham
Mr. Orville B. Lloyd Jr. & Mrs. Charlotte A. Lloyd
Mr. David L. Mazzaferro
Mr. John G. Nevius & Mrs. Alison A. Hess
Mrs. Paula N. Roney & Mr. David A. Roney
Mr. Joseph M. and Mrs. Patricia A. Sutila

UConn Foundation: Geoscience Funds

We are incredibly thankful for all the generous donations from our alumni. They allow our students to get out in the field to do research, attend conferences, have gatherings throughout the year, and countless other activities and learning opportunities. If you are interested in making a donation to one of our accounts, you can visit:

http://www.foundation.uconn.edu/giving-to-uconn.html

To make an online donation, you can select the “give” option, choose “other fund” and designate the name and account number that you wish to donate to.

If you wish to create a new named fund, please contact Becky McEnery at 860-486-6851 or bmcenery@foundation.uconn.edu or Lida Mullarkey at 860-486-8410 or lmullarkey@foundation.uconn.edu

Our accounts are:

- **Geology and Geophysics Fund (#20268)**, used for general support of Geosciences.
- **Nugget Fund (#30825)** financial support for programs within Geosciences, specifically field trip travel, student research, symposia, lectures and conferences.
- **Undergraduate Field Trip Fund (#21770)**, to help support the spring break field trip and for field expenses of undergrads working on senior theses.
- **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 the award.