REMEMBER SLUGAC!!!

Info:
SLUGAC 8 website: http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/slugac8.html
The Bloomer Lecture will be given by Art Waterman '73 on October 5th.
Registration form: http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/slugac8-registrationform-fillin.pdf

 Lodging information
Rooms have been reserved in blocks at the following hotels:
Best Western University Inn
90 East Main St (US Highway 11)
Canton, NY 13617
(315) 386-8522
Code: SLUGAC
(St. Lawrence University Geology Alumni Conference)
Rate: Price for Oct 4th: $119.99
Price for Oct 5-6th: $139.99
Reserve by: September 1st. The rooms will be released for general booking and prices after that time.
Scottish Inn
7575 US Highway 11
Potsdam, NY 13676
(315) 265-6700
Code: St. Lawrence University Geology
Rate: $69.99+ tax per night for rooms with 2 double beds
       $64.99 + tax per night for rooms with 1 queen bed
Cancellation: will be charged if do not give at least a 2 week cancellation notice.

Summary of Important Dates:
Intent to present a talk: ASAP -- spots are filling fast!
Abstract Submission deadline: July 15, 2012
Alumni Resume Submission deadline: August 15, 2012
Alumni Brief Description deadline: September 1, 2012
Early Registration: September 1, 2012
Conference Dates: October 5-7, 2012
See website for details on format and submission information.

SLUGAC 8 Committee
Jeff Chiarenzelli ’81, Sarah McElfresh ’98, and Christopher Stevens ’04
email: slugeologyalumni@gmail.com

Trent Hubbard ’94 started field work in May and will be spending a good portion of this summer getting ready to co-lead a Friends of the Pleistocene Field trip Labor day weekend along the Alaska Highway. See more about Trent’s work at the Survey at http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!!

Timothy Beaupre
Coral Carpenter
Emma Coronado
Thomas Jackson Jr.
Krystyna Kornecki
Amelia Oates
Molly Patterson
Ashley Robin

John Buflod ’03 decided to take the plunge and abandon the cushy office life in Washington DC for a natural gas rig in Pennsylvania’s Northern Tier. He started in November, and is loving getting in the mud and looking at rocks for the first time since he graduated in 2003.

NEWS FROM BRIAN CONGIU ’08..Lisa Romas ’08 and I were married in August, 2011. Matt Zabik was in the wedding party, and some SLU geo-alums attended. In January, we purchased a house in Medford, NJ and are finally settled in our new place. Lisa and I work for Golder Associates: I am working as a geologist and Lisa as an environmental scientist. Lisa and I have been incredibly busy working on several interesting projects. Some of which are fairly high profile and uniquely challenging. Most frequently, we help with developing site conceptual models and remedial investigations/designs. A few of my projects have large drilling programs and interesting bedrock investigation work planned for the summer. Over the past year, Lisa and I have been learning and utilizing 3D software for geologic and environmental modeling. It has proven to be challenging, but a very powerful tool. As part of this work, I have gone back to my GIS experience at SLU and have relied heavily upon those skills for a variety of projects. We are planning on making the trip up to SLU in October for SLUGAC and are excited to be honoring Dr. E.
Best wishes!

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Made it on top of Kilimanjaro!

A team lead by Drs. Antun Husinec and Alexander Stewart made a successful fieldtrip to East Africa over the Winter break. The project was funded as part of Mellon Foundation grant to St. Lawrence. Picture from top of Kilimanjaro; front row, from left to right: “Bear” (assistant guide), Dr. Alexander Stewart, Dr. Antun Husinec, Henry Lauwo (lead guide), Jeff O’Connor ’14; back row, from left to right: Libby Nichols ’13, Lillian Donahue ’13, Chris (summit porter), Drew Twitchell ’14, Annylyse Kowalczyk ’14, Laura St. Andrews ’14, and Tony (assistant guide).
This spring semester was quite busy and productive. For starters, Antun and I summited Mt. Kilimanjaro (5895m) on 08JAN12 with six students as part of our Mellon Environmental Initiative grant. We spent nearly three weeks in East Africa, learning about climate and the socio-political situation in both Kenya and Tanzania. As a result, “my” three students, Andrew Twitchell, Libby Nichols and Lillian Donahue presented their work from the trip at the SLU Festival of Science this past April.

Emma Coronado ’12, wrapped up her Keck Consortium project entitled XRD Analysis of sediment core material as an indicator of the transition from valley glaciers to cirque dwelling glaciers in the Peruvian Central Cordillera as her senior thesis, Northeastern GSA presentation and as two Keck Consortium presentations. We worked with Dr. Donald Rodbell ’81, Union College; Emma’s data being instrumental in helping define Neoglacial/Little Ice Age activity in the high Andes. It is interesting how XRD of core material reveals mineral provenance associated with small, alpine glacier advances. Emma is working for EcoLogic LLC, an environmental consulting firm, in Cazenovia New York.

Emma Kearney ’12, Statistics/Environmental Studies/Geology, completed her senior thesis entitled The Future of Driftwood as a Subsistence Resource in Shaktoolik and Savoonga, Alaska: A Statistical Analysis of Driftwood Distribution and presented these data at the SLU Festival of Science. Emma’s work on the dendrochronology of these driftwood samples is revealing additional information about Bering Strait current currents, forest longevity and subsistence heating by local villagers. Emma is currently a farming apprentice with Grant Family Farms in Wellington, CO, a family-run, CSA organic farm.

Aaron Chesler ’13, wrapped up a successful austral-fall semester in New Zealand and is beginning his senior-thesis research involving Continental ice sheet flow indicators in the Adirondack high peaks: possible evidence of alpine glaciers. Aaron will be collecting glacial geomorphic data on Whiteface, Lower and Upper Wolf Jaw and Saddleback mountains. Aaron was awarded a SLU Fellowship, which will help fund his research this summer. Aaron is following up on his Juneau Icefield Research where he was able to resolve a pre-ice cap valley glaciation of the Llewellyn glacier, Juneau Icefield.

A new geology major, Terry Cox ’14, was awarded the McNair Fellowship and is working with me on a junior-summer project. The Ronald E. McNair Scholar Program is to increase the attainment of the PhD by students from underrepresented groups. Like Wendell Caesar ’11, Terry is completing research for his junior summer and will be presenting his tentative results at the Annual R.E. McNair National Meeting in Buffalo, NY in July. Terry and I will be working on a project, tentatively entitled, Dendrochronological investigation of Lampson Falls, NY: naturally felled trees—related to geology and weather? If Terry finds this project interesting, we plan on presenting his results at an upcoming GSA meeting. It may be possible, next summer, for Terry to join me at the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek, where he will be able to undertake a 10-day intensive field course on “upper” level dendrochronology/geomorphology techniques. Regardless, he is on for a senior thesis; we are excited to see his progress.

Soon-to-be major (combined with History), Jacqueline (Ashley) Grey ’15 (recruited from my FYS) will be applying for the McNair fellowship this Fall and I hope to have her help me finalize the Albert P. Crary ’31 biographical sketch for the History of Earth Sciences Journal, next summer. She is an excellent student and we look forward to having her join the crew.

Personally, I have been quite busy this semester. After summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro, I was invited to give the Class of 2014 induction ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) for the Departments of Environmental Science and Engineering; the talk was entitled USA ADTs: role of the geologist in the counterinsurgency. Along this vein, I have recently submitted a manuscript for the International Military-Geoscience community entitled U.S. Army Agribusiness Development Teams: the role of the geologist in the counterinsurgency. Another result of this active time in Afghanistan is being published by the Journal of Arachnology this year, Military base growth in Afghanistan: threat to scorpion populations?

In addition to working with students this summer, taking a break in Luckenbach, TX for my unit’s (143rd LRSD) third annual memorial BBQ, I will be breaking in my new Livingstone corer, magnetic susceptibility meter and preparing a grant for EDMAP funding (assuming there is some money this year; last year was a bust).

**DR. E.’S RETIREMENT FOCUS OF SLUGAC 2012**

We would very much like to recognize the professional work and numerous contributions that Dr. J. Mark Erickson has made to St. Lawrence Geology program and its students for nearly 40 years. After some deliberation we believe that the most inclusive way to do this will be to organize a SLUGAC event for the fall and invite as many of you back to campus as possible. The theme of this SLUGAC will be the contributions that Mark has made to the geology program here at St. Lawrence and the profession in general. We would like you consider to returning to campus next fall to help celebrate Mark’s exemplary career. Although this will deviate from our usual three year cycle it seems most appropriate to hold the event this fall. I hope you will honor Mark with your presence.

Best,

Jeff Chiarenzelli

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Kate Zubin-Stathropoulos ’08 is working as a salvage paleontologist in Denver, CO.

Krystyna Kornecki ’12 is off to Kent State next Fall for her MS. She finished her senior thesis titled Caenogastropoda from the Cannonball Formation (Paleocene), North Dakota, and their implications for Paleobiogeography. Krystyna was Dr. Erickson’s final senior thesis student!
Dear Friends and Alumni

Last week I had the rare pleasure of listening to one of my esteemed colleagues, Chapin Professor Emeritus J. Mark Erickson, address the full faculty and reflect on a long and fruitful career at St. Lawrence. Naturally his presentation dealt mostly with the department and its students, faculty, field trips, summer research, and the ebb and flow of the academic life. As a graduate of the department, and now an employee of the University, I was struck by Mark’s institutional memory spanning more than four decades. I must say that I felt sad for our loss but also happy for Mark as he transitions into a new phase of his career and research. He made an interesting point about the cyclicity of careers and mentioned that his first research report to the faculty and his final student research report (Krydia Kornecki ’12) both involved gastropods from North Dakota.

I hope you will consider joining us next fall for SLUGAC 8 and help us wish Mark well for a career well spent! I know he would value your presence. If not now, when could be a better time for one to return to SLU???

Best wishes,
Jeff Chiarenzelli

Hi everyone,

It has been a successful first year for me here at St. Lawrence. With the support of a SLU Instructional Mini-Grant I travelled to Florida over winter break and collected bulk samples of fossil material to serve as the basis of research projects for future paleo-related courses. A colleague at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FMNH) made available access to locations generally not accessible to the public. We have samples of the beautifully-preserved diverse molluscan assemblages of the Early Pleistocene Nashua Formation from a privately-owned quarry, which will keep paleontology students busy for the next several years. In addition, we had access to the Late Pleistocene Anastasia Formation at the Old Spanish Quarry near St. Augustine. This location is the original quarry mined by the Spanish to build the Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest remaining 17th Century fort in North America. Sampling at the Old Spanish Quarry was not simple as it required supervision by the Director of the State Park and an archaeologist to ensure the protection of human artifacts, but it was worth the effort as our students will be among the first to examine invertebrate material from this location. This project will not only play a key role in the paleontological education of St. Lawrence students, but will allow them to participate in service to the profession and outreach to the general public. The samples they sort, identify, and analyze will be returned to the State of Florida; part will be curated into the research collections at FMNH and the remainder will be returned to the State Park and used for public education and outreach about the park’s paleontological resources.

It was a busy and successful spring of teaching and learning. I taught GEOL 104 The Evolving Earth to a whopping 36 students. I suspect that this class is a sign of things to come. To me they indicate a rapidly growing interest in geology at SLU by bright and curious students. I look forward to seeing their progress in coming years. I was fortunate to be able to develop a Paleontology course (for a decidedly smaller number of students). These students worked very hard as they delved into the principles of ecology in deep time, negotiated a steep learning curve being introduced to the primary literature, and identified and analyzed the first few thousand specimens from the Anastasia Fm. material. I am very proud of the progress they made.

My summer schedule is full of new opportunities for professional growth. I will be attending an Early Career Workshop for Geoscience Faculty at the College of William and Mary through the generous support that SLU provides for faculty development in pedagogy. In addition to learning how to improve student learning, I will meet with Program Directors at the National Science Foundation and gain some insight on how to better secure funding for research and instrumentation for the University. Following the workshop, through the generous support of the SLU Scholarly Development program, I will conduct fieldwork in the southern Appalachians searching for Ediacaran-aged fossils. Of course I will also be preparing for the fall semester, which, by all appearances, will be one of continued growth for the department. I plan to teach a sizeable section of Invertebrate Paleontology (21 students as compared to seven in 2011) and Dinosaurs to a near capacity crowd of 25.

I wish you all the best for the summer, and look forward to meeting many of you at SLUGAC or the GSA meeting in Charlotte this fall.

Cheers,
John Huntley
Hi all!

My five years at St. Lawrence have been diverse, challenging, enriching and rewarding! When I came in the Fall of 2007, Stephen Robinson had just left, and Alexander Stewart arrived as a visiting assistant professor. Cathy Shrady was the chair, and other members of the department were Mark Erickson, Jeff Chiarenzelli, Matt VanBrocklin, Sherrie Kelly, and Carl Pierce as a Jeffrey Campbell Fellow. A lot has changed since then: Colby Smith was visiting for two years. David Kratzmann and John Huntley arrived as visiting assistant professors, Alexander left for Texas and Afghanistan and then returned as a tenure-track assistant professor, Jeff became the chair, Cathy started directing the Adirondack and most recently Sustainability Semesters, and Mark retired.

I am pleased to announce that I’ve been tenured and promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor, and would like to thank to all faculty, students and alums who wrote their letters in support of my case. It has been my great pleasure and privilege to serve the St. Lawrence University and especially the Geology department. I am excited for its future, and look forward to the opportunities for continued service as a tenured faculty member!

Season’s Greetings!

Antun Husinec

Salutations Geo-Folks,

I hope this finds each of you well, in good spirits, and ready for summer. It is feeling like summer here in the North Country both in weather and in atmosphere as it is in the 80’s today and campus is quiet since graduation last weekend. As is my habit, I will leave the Geology Department news to those who are better suited to relay that to you and I will keep it sweet and simple with another North Country farm report.

No real big plans for your technician this summer. A few long weekend motorcycle trips planned with one in June when I will be riding down into Pennsylvania and then down into Virginia to visit family and enjoy a few miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway again this year. Later in the summer Shirley and I and friends will enjoy some fine riding in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The Northeast sure does have some fantastic scenery, countless wonderful destinations, and winding roads that are some of the finest motorcycling routes around.

Much of the rest of our summer will be kind of a redo of so many summers past… chores on our little farm… We did manage to get half of our household firewood for next winter cut and blocked during an extremely mild March we had here in the North Country and I hope to have the rest blocked up by early June. My brother and I had tilled and planted a small 5 acre field last month that had been a corn field for the past half dozen years. The grass and clover is now a thin but thickening carpet of green. To help us pay for the seed and fertilizer we are selling a little firewood. Between cutting firewood for our home and what little bit we cut to sell should keep me out of trouble and in the woods a good bit. Before we start spending a lot of time during the week working with horses, we have some pasture work that still needs doing. Noticed fifteen or so posts that need replacing between our two pastures and still have last years old hay gathered in large piles in the north pasture to remove and place in the large hay compost out back. I am happy to report the south pasture is already cleaned of the old hay and the grass is growing nicely. Currently we have the horses shut out of the south pasture, giving the grass there a chance to grow and thicken. Over the summer we will mow it a few times and come late summer when the north pasture grass is browsed down and burnt from a hot dry summer the horses will have the lush south pasture to graze. By the time both pastures are browsed down it will almost be time for hay. We do have a few non-farm chores to tackle this summer as well. We hope to replace the other half of our house roof and plan on adding a gabled roof to the back porch when we do so. We have wanted to put a roof over the back porch for a good many years now and it looks like we might finally do it. That probably will not happen until mid or late August when your geology department will begin getting things ready for the fall semester here at SLU.

The foals are now 3 year olds and two of them have a good start on their training and we hope to have those two under saddle by the end of the summer. The other 3 year old hasn’t been so easy and I have lots of ground work left to do with her before we can even consider doing any saddle work. Along with the young and anxious critters that are getting started there are also those older members of the farm whose race has run. As is life on a farm, we said goodbye to our old Appaloosa mare and gently had her put to rest with the aid of our vet this past spring. Ky was the grand ole dame of the farm and our oldest daughters first full sized horse. Ky had survived around 45 seasons of freezing winters and sweltering summers and though her heart and teeth were astounding for a gal her age, she had become so stiff with arthritis that she was laying down way more than what is healthy for a horse’s digestive system. Colie was imminent and before that tragic end came to be we decided to have our grand old dame humanely laid to rest. As difficult as this stuff is Nicki (our oldest) was there for her lifelong friend and mount until the very end, ensuring that Ky was not alone for that last goodbye. Ky now shares space with another of our past mares under an elm tree in the meadow. Our granddaughter, Colee, will be four this summer and it has been our habit not to shelter her too much from the realities of caring for large animals. Colee had lots of questions for Shirley while the vet was tending to Ky but that is part of living on a farm and Colee is developing a real interest in the horses and cows. Jadyn, our grandson, will be one year old this summer and as you can probably imagine he is interested in everything.

If you remember in my last correspondence to you all, Shirley and I were just bringing home a new Golden Retriever pup for the farm. My description of Reno at that time was of a pup that had way to much skin, ears that dragged on the ground and stout legs and feet that appeared as though they should belong to a much bigger dog… He sure was comical to watch. Well, he has grown into his skin, ears, legs and feet. At just a year old he is already 100 plus pounds. But he is a hundred pounds of pouncing love and has been a real joy to have in our family.

I had better let you good folks go. I do hear from a few of you from time to time and it is always a much enjoyed distraction. To those of you who have known me and take the time to say hello, thank you very much. We hope to see many of you during SLUGAG this fall when we will thank Dr. J. Mark Erickson for all he has given of his time here in your geology department. We look forward to seeing those that are able to make the trip and will miss those of you who can not. Warm wishes and a safe summer to you all.

Matt VanBrocklin
Dear Friends,

The best news is that Antun Husinec’s tenure was approved last month and will begin in the Fall! Antun has been a very active member of the department since his arrival, writing grants, researching with students, developing courses, and publishing in excellent journals. It has been a pleasure to work with him and to learn from him. I hope he will continue in the department as long as our students appreciate his presence with us and he enjoys being here. Congratulations, Antun. Keep up the great professing!

Time for the latest news on the JME front. This is the season that makes me feel as if it is official!! Just last night my last thesis student, Krystyna Kornecki, printed her thesis — and for those of you who have done one, you know what trials, tribulation and eventual joy that can be! We finished around 10PM. Systematics of Cannonball mesogastropods was the topic. I find myself getting closer to finishing work on the snails that I began far too long ago. That comes with having time to do the research that has been hanging around for so long!! Note that Kryzia attended theNEGSA and presented part of her thesis and she gave an oral presentation at the SLU Festival of Science last month. She is headed for graduate work at Kent State next Fall.

Recent calls and emails informed me that Kate Zubin-Stathopoulus is now a consulting paleontologist in CO., Dr. Stephanie Peck has a 3-yr position at Vassar, Dr. Trent Hubbard received honorable mention for the Governors Award in Alaska, Booth Platt is still alive in Detroit, Trisha Smrecak is beginning field work for her PhD, and I have heard second hand from Jake Colony but I don’t have his email address! Myron Getman in Albany, Sandy Taft by email, too many of you to enumerate at Christmas sent great cards, Matt Burton-Kelley ABD at North Dakota needed a rec letter, as did several of you — meaning the job search is on — and there were just several out of the blue contacts that I really appreciate. As I said at my last presentation to the faculty, geology alumni are the wind beneath my wings! Always good to hear from every one of you.

So far this semester I have been fishing twice and golfing once. That is an improvement over years gone by. After graduation on Sunday, I expect to be doing more of both. I hope to do far more soon. Bud Holland has planned a fishing trip for me in Devils Lake, ND, the national hot spot for Walleye! I look forward to that in late June. Also hope to plant my garden in a week or two as well. Will be visiting Grovers Pond for reunion over the Memorial Day Weekend too. Busy days these retirement days!

This past semester I also finished a paper on Cincinnati snails that I had begun in 2005!, got more work done on the shark paper, and finished revising the second edition of the oribatid paper. These all have been hanging around for a while so you see I have been making good on my vow to catch up! I have begun my ambitious project on my views of the Cincinnatian ecosystem as a book. Perhaps it will see the light of day at some point. I have no shortage of things to talk about, that’s for certain. In spare time I continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca. You should visit its Museum of the Earth if you are traveling Route 96 in Trumansburg just 5 min, N of Ithaca!

In between projects I have had many communications from you all. It really looks like SLUGAC this Fall is going to be a fun place to be and I am looking forward to it greatly!! Many of you have committed already to being there, and I appreciate that, knowing how busy your schedules can be. We will do our best to make it a worthwhile experience for all who attend! I am sure many of you have roasting experiences that you plan to share but don’t forget I have rebuttal rights as part of the Bloomer Dinner. Remember we will not have an Elberty Auction this year and the roast remembrances is in place of it. We are asking for personal and corporate sponsorships instead of the funding we get from the WTE Action. Some big names have already committed. Sponsorships are appreciated even if you can not be there — your corporate logo will still be presented and if your company does provide a sponsorship it entitles one representative to attend for each $150 of sponsorship!!

Your sponsorship will not only let our students know where you work, it will let you know where each other work —we should be seeing sponsorships from all sorts of industries out there!!! - Sunrise Exploration, Waters Exploration, Innova Exploration, Black Coral, Newmont, Pinnacle Exploration, Ltd., Brayton Operating Corp., Earth Science Engineering, Hanson/Van vleet, LLC., Jaron Consulting, Parker Environmental, Baker Hughes, SFC Energy Partners, National Grid, Northeast Geoscience Inc., Shell, WSP Environment and Energy, McCrone Associates, Paster, Behling and Wheeler, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Pitney-Bowes, Devon, etc. and probably fifty or a hundred others!! We still need sponsors in the area of water exploration, environmental cleanup, o & g exploration, coal, banking, minerals, insurance/real estate, and general fields (like auto parts or shades and blinds!). All will receive printed, public recognition of sponsorship at the B Banquet and elsewhere. Obviously, we need support to keep SLUGAC’s happening, and I feel it would be very useful for present geo students to see the diverse employment geology offers.

As I understand, it is there also the possibility that public and private educational institutions of all levels, libraries, state and federal surveys and museum logos will be displayed gratis if they are supplied well in advance and if they have a SLU geology as a registered SLUGAC attendee must be present at the meeting. Please remember this is a conference aimed at introducing students to the world of opportunities their geology degree offers them and your participation does very much make a difference in their lives. So sponsor, attend and roast Dr. E. a bit. Please register early for this SLUGAC so advanced planning can proceed successfully. Your Presence is Requested, by me! Thanks in advance!

Finally, Alexander called our attention to a study of publishing frequency and student research at liberal arts colleges the pointed out the strong relationship between it and quality education and we managed to be something like 18th on the list for the mid ’80’s to 1996! It’s a Jour. of Geoscience Education paper in the May, 2001, issue. Not sure how I missed that. I suspect we are a good deal stronger than that at the moment. Just something for alums to be aware of!

Clearly, I am looking forward to SLUGAC in a big way. Have a great relaxing, productive summer, and I will hope to see you in October if not before.

Warmest wishes,

Mark