Attendees of the 2013 spring geology picnic at the Wachmeister Field Station. Alumnus John Murphy ('10) gave the final seminar of the spring on his master’s thesis work in Wyoming on the Green River Formation.

Caleb Booth – Geographic Information systems Internship with the New York State Museum

Ashley Durham – Entering graduate school at Queens University, Canada

Senior Thesis Projects for 2013

The experience of conducting research, and then writing a thesis, is still a new one for most undergraduates. Often they do not recognize the time and effort required for the second half of the process, and, frankly, learning that is what makes the Geology senior thesis such a particularly valuable undertaking. After 40 years of theses, we can say that students who have completed this challenging process have repeatedly demonstrated the skill and confidence with which to meet even larger challenges later in their lives, whether in graduate school or in career positions. By the time our honors thesis students cross the commencement platform, they have taken possession of a body of scientific work and they have presented it publicly to peers and members of the wider scientific community. This year these seniors researched and synthesized the following projects:

- **Aaron Chesler** attempted to make some progress on the difficult issue of Adirondack glaciation in a thesis titled *Juneau Icefield Model of Glacier Flow: Evidence for Adirondack Valley Glaciation?* Dr. Stewart worked with him on this project.

- **Deformation Structures of the Carthage-Colton Shear Zone (CCSZ) at Stone Valley, Colton, New York** was a field and lab project conducted by Peter A. Christoffersen under the direction of Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. David Kratzmann.

- **Ashley K. Durham**’s senior thesis describing aspects of the *Archean Volcanic and Sedimentary Sequence in the Tyrell Township in the Southern Superior Province* was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Chiarenzelli.

- **Samuel W. Lagor** completed a thesis with Jeff Chiarenzelli which he titled *The Transition from Coronitic Metagabbro to Garnetiferous Amphibolite in Newcomb, Adirondack Mountains, New York—Implications for the Grenville Orogen.*
Wow, like a flash winter is over and finals are upon us. This semester has flown by, perhaps because we had one of those lingering, old fashioned, eternal winters which are becoming less and less common even here in the North Country. As the weather has changed, so has the department. Currently we have over seventy majors! Along with this increase in enrollment comes a variety of issues such as space, resources, class size, and a host of other concerns linked to our desire to serve as students in the best way possible.

The typical geology student graduating from the department this spring:

- Was in a cohort of fourteen majors.
- Has had nine core courses and several electives (with an average size of 10-15 students).
- Had four to six of those classes with visiting faculty.
- Has gone on two or more extended field/research trips to Costa Rica, Croatia, Alaska, Jamaica, Bahamas, Acadia National Park, Yellowstone, etc.
- Has studied abroad for at least one semester.
- Has served the department as a paid teaching assistant at least once.
- Has given one or two department seminars (and sat through many more – nine this past semester for example!).
- Attended one or more professional meetings and at least one SLUGAC event, and
- Has participated in research ranging from independent studies to a senior-year experience or a senior thesis.

However, change is upon us and will require new innovative and more efficient ways of serving our expanding student population. One of these changes unfortunately is the never ending shuffling of personnel. I am very sad to report that after two and three years, respectively, both Drs. John Huntley and David Kratzmann will be leaving us for tenure track positions. John will be joining the geology graduate program at the University of Missouri in Columbia and David is off to Santa Rosa College in California. Both of these young men will be sorely missed and I wish to personally thank them for their tireless service to our students, the department, and the greater University. Their presence has made what could have been a very unstable and difficult situation (40% of our faculty are visitors) into a positive experience for all. We wish David and Meredith and John, Lauren, and Lydia all the best in their new endeavors. They have truly been stellar and we look forward to learning about the great things they will be able to do with some roots to support and nurture them.

In the meantime it is my great pleasure to announce that Dr. Judith Nagel-Myers will be joining us in our renewed tenure-track paleontology position. Judith has held a variety of positions at the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca, New York and has taught for the Geology Department at SUNY Cortland. Judith’s research focuses on fossil marine mollusks including the Devonian section of New York State. Please join us in welcoming her and her family to St. Lawrence University and our department.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

C. Jefferson L. Mason ’99 is now Hydro-geologist at Formation Environmental, LLC

Tori Kohn ’04, left the US Forest Service and is now work as a geologist-mining compliance specialist for the Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management based out of Fairbanks.

We would like to thank both David Kratzmann (right) and John Huntley (left) for their excellent service to the department and its students. John and David will be starting new tenure track positions in the fall and we wish them well.

Eric Deratzian ’99 is working for an environmental consulting company at the moment. They do a lot of environmental investigation/remediation projects, brownfield redevelopment and wetland work. Although he misses the east coast, a lot of his work is outside so California is the place to be. This place is so dynamic that every hike/fly-fishing trip is like a geology field trip.

There is so much to see in California that he has only scratched the surface and he has been there over a decade. Eric suggest if you ever have the opportunity, visit Death Valley and the Owen’s Valley. Every time he is there it feels like you’re standing in the pages of a geology textbook...you can see everything for miles and miles.

Professor Judy Wakhungu ’83 Has Been Nominated For Cabinet Secretary Of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in the Kenyan Government.

Judy has been known for her many firsts including first woman geologist in the Ministry of Energy and Regional Development, where her duties entailed exploring for geothermal energy in Kenya’s Rift Valley, first female petroleum geologist in the National Oil Corporation of Kenya, first female faculty member in the University of Nairobi’s department of geology, and recently, executive director of the first Africa think-tank (African Centre for Technology Studies) on the application of science and technology to the environment.

Al Bloomer ’64 occasionally stops by the department on summer visits to Canton but we never hear from him the rest of the time so we have to get our news from the Plaindealer. Al is largely retired from his career as an independent geologist working in Red Lodge, Montana. We sometimes forget that he was a hockey star at SLU, playing on two ECAC title-winning teams and was co-captain of the team his senior year. It is not surprising, therefore, that in his “other life” he was active for 30 years in USA Hockey of which he is a Director Emeritus, having served as National Coach in Chief and Director of USA Hockey’s Coaches Section between 2004 and 2010. A recent article points out that he was presented the Walter Yaciuk Award by USA Hockey at its recent Annual Conference. Congratulations, Al, from SLU Geology.
Hello everyone,

The spring semester is over, graduation complete, and students and faculty are moving on. It has been a great but very busy semester (aren’t they all?). Peter Christoffersen ’13 completed his senior thesis on the Carthage-Colton Shear Zone. Peter, Ashley Durham ’13, Jeff and myself visited the Laserchron Center in Arizona to age date some zircons. This was a great experience and I want to thank Jeff and Bruce Selleck (at Colgate) for the opportunity to join them. Both Ashley and Peter have since graduated and we wish them the best of luck in future endeavors. Several students, the venerable Dr. E., and myself attended the GSA Northeastern in NH in March. The conference was well attended and we ran into a number of SLU Geology alums. I also taught a course on resources in the inaugural Sustainability Semester. I think it went well but we’ll have to wait for the student evaluations. In June I will be teaching a field-based summer course for St. Lawrence with Sue Willson from the biology department. Tropical Ecology and Geology of Costa Rica will be a 2-week intensive class involving a lot of bird netting, plant identification, and visits to at least three volcanoes.

Now to the leaving. I have accepted a position in northern California (north of San Francisco in Sonoma county) and this is/was my last semester here as a Visiting Assistant Professor. I have enjoyed my time with SLU students immensely and truly appreciate the opportunities afforded me through the department, colleagues, and alums. Thanks very much, I’m sure that we will see each other at GSA in the future.

David Kratzmann.

This spring semester was quite busy and productive teaching Glacial Geology and my third First-Year Seminar: Science Communication. I also completed my third year at St. Lawrence (and up for mid-probationary review this fall).

Aaron Chesler ’13 wrapped up his senior thesis, Juneau Icefield Model of Glacier Flow: Evidence for Adirondack Valley Glaciation?, where he related valley glacier evidence from Canada to the Adirondacks. Turns out the relationship may not be as clear-cut as imagined. Complexities in the ADK high peaks make glacier-flow evidence difficult to find and, if found, difficult to interpret as glacial in origin (e.g., structural crackle zones or glacier strations?). Aaron is heading to a Seafloor Mapping Internship on the Nautilus this summer in the Gulf of Mexico, a full-time, temporary position with the Vermont Planning Commission (GIS) and, hopefully, graduate school in Volcanic Hazards in Leicester, England. We wish him the best.

Terry Cox ’14, has been awarded the Donald K. Rose Fellowship to continue his McNair Program summer research (Summer 2012) as a Senior Thesis/Project. He will continue to test our hypothesis relating geomorphology with weather signals and windthrow in white pines. He is eager to get started.

Bryn Keenhold ’14, has been awarded the Dr. J. Mark Erickson Fellowship to complete summer research on unlocking post-glacial landscape changes at Fox Bog in the Adirondacks (that big bog a few kilometers north of the NY3-NY56 intersection in Sevey Corners). With Dr. Don Rodbell ’83, we collected a >17-meter-long core from the deepest section of the bog – recovering the early glacial silts from the then-recently retreated Laurentide Ice Sheet. Bryn will be working with two of Don’s students from Union College to capture and analyze the core. Bryn is hoping to unravel a bit about the deglaciation and possible climate signals preserved in this core and will take these data and use them for her senior thesis in Geology.

Saddie Serviss ’14, a north-country native (Fowler Township) and recently returned Australia program attendee was awarded the Piskor Family Fellowship, which will fund her summer research working to extend the meager instrumental weather data back two- to three-fold using tree-ring techniques on white pine at Crooked Lake in the Adirondacks. Saddie will take these data and use them for her senior thesis in Geology-Environmental Studies.

Personally, I have been quite busy this semester. Dr. John Warren Huntley and I recently led a GEOL320 field course entitled, History of Geology: United Kingdom where we traveled with eight students to southern England and Wales seeing what the original workers in geology saw – Durdle’s Door, Chalk Cliffs, Tors of Dartmoor, Stonehenge (of course) and more. In June, I presented two military-geology projects at the 10th annual Internation Military Geosciences Conference in the Caringorm, Aviemore, Scotland. This one-week meeting is a great opportunity to network with fellow soldier-scientists and to see what is going on in this very small subfield of geology. Later in the summer, in addition to working with students, I will be collecting tree-ring data on a sugar shack in Norwood Township attempting to find the cutting date of the structural timbers. In addition, I’ll be preparing for the NYSGA annual meeting next year with a military-geology field trip to Sackett’s Harbour Battlefield!

In addition to working with students this summer, taking a break in Luckenbach, TX for my unit’s (143rd LRSD) fourth annual memorial BBQ, I will be enjoying the north-country life with my wife and little boy, Henry Knox.

2013 AAPG Convention, Pittsburgh

- Bonnie Govoni ’13 received the Mobil Student Travel Grant to present her poster entitled Upper Callovian to Oxfordian Muddy Supersequence of Southern Adriatic Platform, Croatia.
- Antun Husinec was member of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) Organizing Committee and served as the Awards Chair (SEPM Awards Chair). He also presented on Recurrent Cooling Events in Aptian Greenhouse: Stable- Isotope Trends and Sequence-Stratigraphic Evidence From Southern Tethyan Adriatic Platform Carbonates.
- Also attending the meeting were Tyler Harris ’13 and Roselyne Laboso ’14 who volunteered at the AAPG Bookstore.
Greetings Geo-Friends,

Hope this finds you all well and ready for summer. Currently, it is pretty quiet here in SLU-Land with graduation behind the campus community. Some of the geology faculty and students are still busy however. During this last week of May there is a trip happening in the United Kingdom and a trip soon to head out to Costa Rica. Geology never sleeps! But I will leave all that department stuff to those better suited to the task and simply up-date you all with a short North Country Weather Report.

This summer has been much slower to come than the past two summer seasons, but things seem more seasonable and normal as I remember the seasons. We have been enjoying a good mix of sun and rain lately and the countryside is greening up nicely. Noticed the corn coming up in many corn fields in the region 4 or 5 days ago and the corn in our back meadow is already 2 to 3 inches high. Shaping up to be a fine growing season. After a cool and wet Memorial Day weekend, temperatures this week are back into the 80’s and the sun has that summer heat to it.

My summer activities will be much the same story as what you folks have read about for the past half dozen of my summers. Not real exciting but a nice way to enjoy the season. Have plenty to keep me busy and out of trouble for the most part. Through last summer we marked a couple a dozen fence post that needed to be replaced and then replaced them before winter. This spring we changed the fence over to the new posts and removed the old ones. Already began marking posts for replacement this fall, but for now, the fence is in good shape for the summer. You are never really finished with fence work … Have about half of our winters firewood blocked up and in numerous neatly stacked rows in the woods out back. On track to have our firewood all blocked up before the 4th of July. My brother and I are selling a little firewood again this summer, not a lot but enough to help pay for a few property improvement projects we have lined up for the woodlot we own and enjoy. Still no sugar-bush set up but we are slowly working toward making that reality happen. My brother and I will begin cutting saw logs this weekend on that lot in preparation for building a small camp we hope to begin building there later this summer. Also hope to build a saw-log pile on our farm so that we can saw out boards and begin to put new board and bat siding on the garage. And just maybe, finally, get a roof and walls secured onto the poles we had put in the ground 2 years ago. And then there are the 4 young horses that really need some attention this summer. With some patience, a lot of time, and a little luck, that process will lead to a few more saddle horses to enjoy. To round out my summer fun there will be some motorcycling. Have already enjoyed a nice ride north in and around the Calabogie region of Ontario over their Victoria Day long weekend. Will be riding next week down through Pennsylvania and into Virginia to visit family, had hoped to make it as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee to enjoy a nice ride north in and around the Calabogie region of Ontario over their Victoria Day long weekend. Will be riding next week down through Pennsylvania and into Virginia to visit family, had hoped to make it as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee to make a visit but that doesn’t look likely now. From Virginia will likely be heading west through West Virginia and Kentucky into Ohio to visit other members of my family, then home and back to chores. I hope you all have a wonderful summer season with lots of fun plans and visiting of family and friends in store. If you are ever in the neighborhood, please do consider stopping in to say hello. Always enjoy an excuse for a good visit and maybe a beer. Take good care.

Best Matt
Hello Friends,

Sherrie has asked me to drop a line to keep you informed of my life so here is a rundown of activities since the Winter Newsletter. Seems to me it used to be easier to remember what I had been involved with while I was still in the department every day. I have been in most weeks but I have also traveled a bit more so I have freed myself of the daily routine somewhat.

I made the NE GSA where I attempted to present a poster that correlated all of my Glovers Pond data, but that was a miserable failure because, even though I started well in advance, I simply had too much data in too many formats to allow me to easily bring it all together! I should have known better I guess. Anyway I did present the pollen study that I have had sitting on the back burner for 20 years, so at least that can get cited legitimately now. It was good to be at the NE meeting with some talented students and faculty. Visited with Molly Patterson ’12, Sean Regan ’10 and Don Rodbell ’83 among other alums who are doing interesting things. The meeting site at Brett Woods, NH, was classical and we even had a blizzard of sorts to make us feel glacial. I had a particularly good visit with Prof. Emeritus Bill Romey who is keeping busy as he is accustomed by writing and publishing digital works at his home on Cape Cod.

In April I made my normal pilgrimage to Colorado School of Mines for consultation with their library’s Visitation Committee. It is always instructive and a learning experience and I enjoy keeping up on library issues – particularly those resulting from the digitization of all modern societies records, thoughts, data – in short the entirety of civilized experience. My personal projection is that in 20 years it will seem as if we had accomplished nothing since the digital age began, but who am I to say such things! Oh yes, we are getting a new computer roll out here in a few weeks by the way. Any way I visited with Brett Palmateer ’96 briefly while in Golden, but this trip was one of the “short ones” so it went by quickly.

I gave a talk to the annual meeting of the Indian Creek Nature Center in May. The idea there was to summarize the f.w. mussel research that I have been involved with over the last 40 years. I was able to bring it together and to explain the importance of mussels to our ecosystem well enough to have some favorable comments afterward. John Bursnall is the president at the moment and my brother Ray is a board member plus there were several friendly faces in the audience, so I had a good time. I had given a similar talk to the biology seminar at SUNY Potsdam earlier in the semester at “young” Bill Romey’s request, so I had something to build on for this one.

Finally, I just returned from my reunion at Johnsonburg, N.J. where I gave a talk on my moth research conducted there at Glovers Pond while I was an undergraduate. I summarized some ideas that I have not yet published for that. Ray spoke on his work with butterflies at Johnsonburg, including his photographic documentation of the presence of a breeding population of the Giant Swallowtail which had been a southern swallowtail until recent climate change influences. He has evidence of breeding populations all the way up to Canton now! Anyway, those talks went well and again were fun to put together. (I worked on the moth talk for quite a long time b/c I had not looked at those data since 1978 or so!) It was again good to visit with old friends and to get to play a round of golf with both my brothers for a change.

So you see I am keeping busy. I correspond with those alumni who write me and have heard from Chris Stevens enjoying his job in Alaska, Alice Hart ’80 in her new job in D.C., Ben Rendall ’11 finishing his MS., David Waugh ’99 who just successfully defended his dissertation last month, Trisha Smrecak ’06 who passed her comps, and Wade Jones ’08 and Krystyna Kornecki ’12 who are working on doctoral and masters projects respectively at Kent State, and Brett Harvey sitting wells in Alaska. It is good to know you are out there, and I certainly enjoy hearing from all so drop me an email when you have a moment - meri@stlawu.edu.

E-mail is much more reliable than facebook or linkedin for communication with me...just so you know!...

I have my garden mostly in with an 8-foot deer fence around it and a three foot rabbit fence around that because the rabbit can eat through the plastic deer fence!! I hope the plants fare better this year than last when the deer ate far too much of the good stuff.

Well, that’s it for now. Keep in touch. We always are glad to hear from you or to have a visit, and I assure you we appreciate you support, financial and otherwise!! Now that we have 75 majors we are going to need your help even more!! Success is a double-edged sword in this environment! Thanks for helping us to be successful! Please have a good summer.

Warmest regards,
Mark E.

These few years since graduation have brought me to more than a few jobs, bringing me all over the country. This seems to be the fate of many geology majors and if you are the sort of person who seeks out new knowledge and experience (I would say this describes a lot of us!), I contend it can only be a positive experience. Most recently I have been working as a field geologist aiding in the search for natural gas in PA and now in west Texas. Every day I have the opportunity to use cutting edge and ever changing techniques to find reserves more than a mile below the surface. One thing I’ve really enjoyed in this work is how our geology “intuition” becomes so much better with every discovery and how essential it to creative problem solving. It’s really a very gratifying thing!

This fall, I plan to join GEOcorps - as a hydrologist in the redwood forest - and then move onto graduate school. It took me some time to get into the field and gain experience (an all too common thing these days for new graduates) but the struggles were worth it in the end and I’m glad I didn’t settle for something less. Now that I’ve gained a wider perspective, honestly it becomes very clear what an exceptional group have at SLU Geology!

Brendan Moran ’10