It is with a sad heart we pass along the news that Alice Lu Quackenbush died unexpectedly Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 at Canton-Potsdam Hospital at the age of 72.

Alice was the Geology Department Secretary for 27 years. She went above and beyond her duties as such and in 2007 she was recognized by the alumni as a W. T. Elberty, Jr. Medal recipient.

The Quackenbush family requested that the Geology Department share some thoughts on Alice at her memorial service. Below is the text of what Cathy Shrady shared:

Alice served St. Lawrence University for 27 years as secretary in a variety of departments. Many of those years were in the Geology department from which she retired in 1995. To say that she was a great secretary is to barely graze the very tip of the iceberg of her truly extraordinary contributions. Let me explain.

It is no exaggeration to say that in the years that she worked with us, Alice was the mortar that held us together, not only did she keep us running efficiently, she kept us running, period. One of my colleagues wrote: “Alice knew what it was all about and she made it happen as if she could read our minds.”

But what she gave us runs much deeper than that. For many generations of Geology students Alice and the Geology Department were simply inseparable concepts. You think of Geology, you think of Alice. She remained connected to many of those students and attended all 6 of the alumni conferences the department has held. For her part in the many successes of our program and students and for her steadfast support, the geology alumni awarded Alice the William T. Elberty, Jr. Medal in 2007.

As a matter of fact, Alice was the best teacher in our department and, she taught the most important lessons. Alice Quackenbush showed us in her joyful, honest, unassuming, and humorous way how to be a good and authentic human being. Probably the hardest thing in the world to teach. Now, I don’t have quite the right presence to do a really good Alice impression, but I know you can all see her saying right about now in her self-deprecating way: “Oh pulease…!”

How did she teach us? One of our Geology alumni wrote, “Alice was much more than department secretary to us, she filled in as mom and listened to our stories and problems, she gave advice and she could always make the day better by offering a smile and a laugh.” Alice was both mom and friend to her faculty as well. Her shoulder was always there for support or to cry on and one of the special things about Alice was that she wasn’t afraid to cry right along with you. She embodied the ideal of empathy. She also wasn’t afraid to tell you just what she thought about things in her very forthright manner. Can’t you just see the way she’d purse her lips, narrow her eyes and wag her finger or put her hands on her hips when she was about to give you a piece of her mind?

Alice was one of those rare and precious individuals who just by being Alice made the world a better place. Another member of the St. Lawrence community wrote, “Alice would light up a room and make you laugh just by standing there, smiling.”

Someone else said, “Alice was a joy to be around, with an infectious laugh, droll, unpretentious, caring, a beautiful soul.”

Her laughter was, indeed, infectious. And loud.

It didn’t matter where your office was in the Geology department. Everyone could hear Alice laugh. Until she’d suddenly become aware of that fact and she’d (oop!-hand gesture to mouth) and then burst out laughing even harder. Much of the time her laughter was at herself-another important lesson she taught us- to take yourself lightly.

Alice showed us how to be whole-heartedly and enthusiastically human, sharing her generous spirit and enormous heart with all unreservedly. I can’t think of a more profound teaching or greater gift than that. Thank you, Alice.

Alice was great (It saddens me to have to speak in the past tense). She was the one person that saw all of the comings and goings of professors, students, department chairs, politics and alumni. A return to SLU Geology Department always meant a stop in with Alice. May she live on in our memories.

Gary Thomas ’73

Really sorry to hear this news. Certainly all of us that went through in the 70’s will remember Alice fondly. Who else could have gotten along equally well with all the Geology faculty. I guess if we are smart we learn from everyone around us.

Charles Kerans ’77

Sad news indeed. Of everyone I remember as a student Alice was always the most kind and welcoming at a time in our lives when we were pretty hard to love.

Jeff Chiarenzelli ’81

We last saw Alice at a school function quite recently and although she looked tired she was still as effervescent as always.

John Bursnall

I’m so sorry to hear about Alice. She certainly was a presence and a vital part of the department.

Charles L. Head ’79

This is indeed sad news. Alice was an institution.

Gordon Jenner ’78
I've been meaning to type something for awhile, but time seems to keep getting away. Yesterday, I heard from my mother that Alice had died, and that seemed like, well, not maybe a GOOD reason, but an important one. She was certainly a memorable person, and a distinct presence in the department. My mom had dealings with her daughter--Girl Scouts, maybe...?

Hope you're having a good fall, other than the news of Alice's death.

Hank Cerwonka '80

After 20 years with the Forest Service I retired at the end of the summer of 2008. Recent poor budgets and politics finally did in my tolerance and it was time to jump ship. I miss working with area ranchers and time in the mountains on horseback, but am keeping busy training and competing with my labrador retriever and researching old Forest Service ranger stations in Montana. I spent the winter training my dog in Texas and the rest of the year in the Helena MT area.

Vicky MacLean '73

I've been meaning to type something for awhile, but time seems to keep getting away. Yesterday, I heard from my mother that Alice had died, and that seemed like, well, not maybe a GOOD reason, but an important one. She was certainly a memorable person, and a distinct presence in the department. My mom had dealings with her daughter--Girl Scouts, maybe...?

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Hank Cerwonka '80

Trent Hubbard '94 recently returned to the office after spending his summer in east-central AK doing field work, then taking a trip to SE Illinois to see family. Permafrost features are just fantastic and it's a classic area in terms of linear sand dunes.

He got a poster together for GSA. It was be related to flooding out of the northern central AK range.

Soon he will have 3 publications coming out about the work that he completed in summer of 2008 (permafrost, surficial, and engineering geology). Trent is busily preparing his house for winter and training for the equinox marathon this weekend. Winter is inching closer every day and peak fall is upon us. Lots of wood left to split.

Trent Hubbard '94

I'm sorry to hear about the loss of Alice. Her smile and friendly demeanor made it a pleasure to be in Brown Hall.

Glenn B. Kays '96

It is certainly sad to hear of Alice passing. My best wishes go out to her family. She was one of many good things I remember about the department. Certainly pass along my condolences to her family when you see them.

Trent Hubbard '94

I heard the sad news about Alice via Phyllis. Gosh, she was such an integral part of the Department, I can picture and hear her like it was yesterday. Give my regards to those who knew her, and her family.

Grant Nelson '79

Looking forward to having GSA in my hometown, Portland. I've returned from a great sabbatical, working overseas in England and Austria with a number of trips in the continent. Believe it or not, I'm chair of the Portland State University Geology Department. Who would of thunk it. Not me! In 2008, I was awarded Oregon's outstanding scientist of the year, from the Oregon Academy of Sciences, for my work with glaciers, and glacier change. Would have not thunk that one either.

Andrew G. Fountain '75

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Hank Cerwonka '80

Hello All:

All the very best for the holidays season and the new year.

Cheers.

John Bursnall (totally buried in grading emeritus lecturer!)

Hello All:

All the very best for the holidays season and the new year.

Cheers.

John Bursnall (totally buried in grading emeritus lecturer!)

Gordon Jenner '78 is doing exploration for a privately owned oil and gas company call J-W Operating. He is doing a lot of work in Pennsylvania on a Marcellus Shale project. Gordon keeps in tough with Mike Hayes '81 who is still living in Midland.

Cody LaVack '10 checks his peels in Paleo lab Fall of 2008 with classmates Rafferty Sweeney '09, Mike O'Connor '09 and Forrest Schwab '10 and Sea-mus Hannan '10 also working on their Cincinnati fossils.

Fall 2009 inductees in Eta Xi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon and St. Lawrence University.

L-to-R are Paul Stapell '10, Cody LaVack '10, Bryan Pepper '10, Hannah James '11, and Hannah Cowan '11.
Dear Friends and Colleagues,
I'd am pleased to report that I am now fully recovered from my heart operation and feeling fine with only a zipper down the middle of my chest to remind me of the experience. Part of the euphoria I'm feeling is no doubt the freedom that comes from a sabbatical, which I am enjoying immensely. This is my first ever opportunity for such an academic holiday and whoever thought of it is a genius! The chance to focus on research, writing, and planning for the future is invaluable. One catch though, I have to put together my case for tenure and promotion, which I am warned can be an arduous task!

You might ask what am I doing this year with all this time on my hands? Well most importantly I get to put my five-year old, Ariana, on the bus for kindergarten. While we wait, we spend every morning drawing on the driveway with chalk. Yesterday was jack-o-lanterns, today it was a massive and challenging hop scotch pattern. The dogs also get a daily walk, something they normally don't get until after dark when I'm working.

I am doing a fair bit of traveling. Most of it involves travel to consulting jobs, meetings, and to use analytical facilities but I took a trip in September purely for fun with my former roommate, Mark Commaratta, from St. Lawrence University. He has a place in Big Sky, Montana, near Yellowstone, and we spent the week mountain climbing, trout fishing, and just admiring the scenery. During one of our climbs in the Spanish Peaks I noticed an Archean garnetiferous amphibolite similar to Adirondack garnet deposits, although the garnets were not quite as big.

I returned from the national GSA meeting in Portland, Oregon this week with a side trip to Tucson. At the meeting I spoke about some new ideas on the tectonic setting of the Adirondack Lowlands. While in Tucson, senior geology majors Sean Regan and David Mosher, assisted me in a detrital zircon study of lower Paleozoic sandstones in New York and Ontario. We worked in the Arizona Laserchron laboratory and had a blast (actually quite a few laser blasts). It was my third trip to the lab and I cannot help but be impressed with the facility and its competent staff. Sean and David and Cody LaVack are finishing their senior theses with me this year. All three of these guys and Wendell Caesar and Joe Chiarenzelli worked with me this summer on various projects. Wendell began a study of the geochemistry and isotopic systematics of the Utica Shale, while Joe processed samples and wrote shale and igneous rock data reduction programs for us.

In addition, to collecting data I will also be working on a few grants this year. I am currently considering submitting to the NSF-RUI program which emphasizes research at undergraduate institutions. As you may know we recently received funding for, and took possession of, a new scanning electron microscope. We also submitted a grant for $1.4 million dollars to NSF in late August to help build the next generation of research infrastructure for the geology department in Bewkes Hall. The intent at this time is for Bewkes to be renovated and geology and physics to share the space. Speaking of space, work this summer was briefly interrupted by the installation of a new roof and a new tile floor in Brown Hall. With the painting that also occurred, these changes have really brightened up our main hallway.

I recently was appointed to the Geochemistry review panel at NSF and will travel to Washington in December to participate in the awards deliberation. It should be interesting to see the process from the inside instead of wondering exactly how these decisions are made. I hope to use the knowledge I gain to help prepare grants for my next round of research projects and student research opportunities. In December I will also travel to Alaska where I serve on several technical assistance grants to various communities located near formerly used defense sites. This work has brought me to out of the way places like Savoonga, Elim, Unalaklet, and Brevig Mission in the past. I also received a contract, with my former boss Ronald Scrudato, to work with the advisory group at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works near Niagara Falls, New York.

In the spring I will be going on the lecture circuit hitting several colleges including SUNY Oswego and RPI. Pending final funding notification, I will be participating in the StateMap program with David Valentino from SUNY Oswego. We will use Dave’s summer field camp as a logistical base and student manpower to help begin our mapping project in the Glens Falls area in our continuing (should I say eternal?) efforts to piece together the geological history of the Adirondacks one quadrangle at a time.

Bridge Associates LLC Announces Energy/Oil & Gas Expert Scott M. Pinsonnault ’92 Joins the Firm

Dallas, TX- August 3, 2009 - Bridge Associates LLC, a leading national turnaround, crisis management and financial advisory services firm, announced today that energy / oil & gas expert Scott M. Pinsonnault has joined the firm as a leader in Bridge’s growing Energy Turnaround and Restructuring Practice.

“We are delighted to welcome Scott to the Energy practice team,” stated Louis E. Robichaux IV, Managing Director and Co-Managing Member of Bridge Associates. “Mr. Pinsonnault’s breadth of experience as both an operator and financier in the energy and oil & gas sectors will be a tremendous asset to the firm’s growing energy restructuring practice.” Scott M. Pinsonnault joins Bridge as a Director in the Dallas office. Mr. Pinsonnault will be part of the senior management team focusing on Bridge’s energy practice.

Mr. Pinsonnault is a 15-year veteran of the oil & gas, energy and energy financial services industries. Mr. Pinsonnault began his oil & gas career as a geoscientist with Texaco in New Orleans, Louisiana. For the last nine years he advanced in a career of principal investing and lending to oil & gas and energy companies with two large publicly-traded investment companies.

Mr. Pinsonnault received a BS in Geology from St. Lawrence University, an MS in Geology and Geophysics from Texas A&M University and an MBA from Tulane University. He is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Turnaround Management Association, the Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors, as well as numerous oil & gas industry and professional associations.

Dan Peppe’03 moved to Texas to take a job at Baylor University, having completed his Ph.D at Yale.

Karl Fleischmann ’83 left ConocoPhillips and is now with Shell, still based in Scotland.
Hi Geo Dept!
I hope everyone is doing well and that the Fall semester is moving along nicely in the department! I have been bad at staying in touch with everyone so I felt like taking some time to catch up.

I have been working as an SCA GIS and environmental science intern in Massachusetts since May. We have a variety of responsibilities, but most recently we have been canoeing to sites to identify plants and map natural plant communities in the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area. Along with this project we are surveying invasive plant species and their effect on the community, and searching for amphibians and reptiles which haven't been too abundant this summer. We have been extremely lucky with the lack of ticks, probably because they all drowned from the rain in June and July, but the mosquitoes are ravenous. Other than clumsily grabbing hold of poison sumac and tripping over hummocks in hip waders into mud, it's been a great experience and I will be here until May. After that, hopefully grad school for conservation biology.

As much as I love geology, I have learned that I appreciate it more as a hobby than a future career path. I have always loved everything about the natural sciences and was always conflicted on what to study in grad school. That is the primary reason I didn't go to grad school immediately; I wasn't sure what to focus on. After getting some job experiences, I now know that I want to head into the conservation biology field, most likely focusing on wetland ecology.

The great thing about geology and the SLU geo dept. is that it prepares you for any field because it can be applied to all the natural science fields. With wetlands especially, geomorphology and hydrology will and do play a huge role. My time in the geology dept was some of the best years of my life and I miss it so much! The last couple of months I have had mini reunions with geology alums and it made me nostalgic for the tight-knit community.

Emilee spent a week or so with me before heading back to NC; I spent some time with Fuller before she moved to CO; got to see Adria in NH and have kept in contact of course with all the girls from my year, plus Sean, Will and others.

Please let me know how everything is going up there! I know I will visit again at some point, but can't say for sure when. Have a fun semester (and good sabbatical)!!

Hillary Siener '08

William R. Hackett ‘07 defended his thesis on May 1st and passed, then handed in the final document last month so he is officially done at UVM. He will be in Burlington at least through the fall as he is teaching intro geology labs at Norwich University this fall. Lauren is doing well here still with Char, and at Will’s urging Jo Palmer actually decided to apply last minute to work with Andrea Lini here (limnogeology) and after setting up a meeting with the two of them they decided to work together. So hopefully that will go well, SLU’s presence here is definitely growing now that there will be 3 SLU alumni around UVM’s dept. this fall.

Will was the TA for UVM’s regional geology trip to Colorado (3 weeks of paid hiking in Colorado, sure!) in May/June, then Will took a trip to Ireland with some friends, his sister, and a cousin. He also taught for some environmental science day camps here in July and have been painting houses for August to keep busy.

Will managed to get one more trip with UVM’s support, and was at GSA in Portland giving a talk on his thesis work.

I did graduate this past May from Kansas State with an M.A. degree in Geography. A major highlight of that project was being awarded the Graduate Student Paper Award (Master's level) by the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers for my presentation of my thesis work at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in March. There are some more details if you click on the following link to a Kansas State press release: http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/april09/meade10809.html

I have recently moved back to the Northeast and I am actively job searching (as well as doing a little fly fishing ). As you said last December, there are little Geology-related jobs because of the ongoing recession. However, I am working hard on it, and working the SLU connections. I met with Rick Standish last month in Connecticut, and this week met with Joanne Newell and Brendan Lennon in Massachusetts. A note recently says Ben is now happily employed in Boston!

Ben Meade ‘06
Dear Friends,

Many of you read my notes on the Geology Alumni Web page announcing the death of Alice Quanckenbush. Her funeral was on the day the paleo and sed classes left for Cincinnati at 7 so I missed it. I am grateful to Cathy for representing us so well. She said much of what I would have said. Alice was a true professional secretary. Today we would call her an office manager and that is just what she did, making the transition from IBM select to IMB computer in the process. Alice typed, organized, filed, wrote, received guests, answered the phone, keep the books, ordered supplies, kept schedules and by doing this she made it possible for a small geology faculty at a small college to rise to teaching and research excellence becoming 5th in the nation among peers. Believe me, having Alice as department secretary had much to do with that. I never thanked her enough. Her passing closed another era in our history.

Thinking about other things that happened since the last newsletter is a bit anti climactic; summer was spent trying to accommodate the fire marshal by building bookshelves in my garage and moving my entire journal collection there. Its absence has already interfered with my teaching a dozen times! Summer was not pleasant—too much rain again. A week of fishing in VT and few rounds of golf while camp got a new paint job was vacation this year.

GSA was a west coast event this year being in Portland, Oregon. This meant visiting with people like Andrew Fountain and Ron Metzger whom I do not get to see very often! Good fun! Again, St. Lawrence was well represented with all the faculty and several students presenting. More than 30 papers were contributed by SLU people. My poster corrected some misrepresentations about Sanctum laurentiensis that have been published by Key and Wyse-Jackson. Portland had a good public transport system that took us to the Lucky Lab Pub for a very excellent SLU reception arranged by Cathy. Attendance was good with 23 present.

On return we went directly into inauguration mode to bring Bill Fox into his new role as SLU President. Dale Chayes visited for the event and stayed to present a talk about oceanographic research in the Arctic that Dale has made possible. It was informative and great to visit with him.

Now we are awaiting the arrival of Dr. John Hoganson who will present a Ferguson Lecture on Hell Creek Dinosaur Ecology. Then the semester will begin to wind down. It has flown by as they seem to do. I have enjoyed the very motivated students we have in the department these days. Alumni who return next fall to help with SLUGAC 7 will find an unusual group of well directed, focused students presenting. More than 30 papers were contributed by SLU people. My poster corrected some misrepresentations about Sanctum laurentiensis that have been published by Key and Wyse-Jackson. Portland had a good public transport system that took us to the Lucky Lab Pub for a very excellent SLU reception arranged by Cathy. Attendance was good with 23 present.

Wishing you all the best of the Holiday Season.

Mark

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Dear All,

I have just completed my ninth month (October) here in Ghazni, Afghanistan as a soldier and geologist with the Texas Agriculture Development Team (143<sup>rd</sup> Long-Range Surveillance, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division). My position as a geologist, in this 12-man counter-insurgency team (60-man unit), requires me to travel to many locations in eastern Afghanistan. For instance, a trip I have made a few times to the progressive, western-friendly Hazara tribes in the high Hindu Kush—a short 60 miles away—takes up to 12 hours of drive time one way! Due to these austere conditions and travel times here in the mountains, I have spent nearly 30 nights “outside the wire” completing Key Leader Engagements with local officials (e.g., mayors, agriculture extension agents, etc.), developing, implementing and QAQC'ing many agriculture-related projects.

Overall, the unit has developed over 75 projects ranging from entire demonstration farms that highlight “new” and “improved” farming practices to the Afghans to more “simple” projects like livestock-husbandry training programs. A collaboration I am exceptionally proud of has been helping the nascent, 500-student University of Ghazni, which opened in the Fall of 2007. I have been privileged to aid with increasing their female enrollment (up 31% to nearly 50%), curriculum development, teaching their agriculture students outdoor laboratories (e.g., grape trellising) and even develop and implement a research library (with books in both Farsi and English) and computer laboratory. I have also personally developed and implemented a unique (to Afghanistan) environmental park, various earthen retention dams, the conservation and preservation of the Ghaznavid minarets and a dam inspection and hazard assessment program for the province of Ghazni.

As far as pure science? Well, the army has no time for real science, so my geology skills have been put to use as a subject-matter expert concerning surface and groundwater studies (e.g. watershed analyses, etc.) and how they may help/hinder our agriculture projects. I was able, however, to do real science by continuing my research on scorpion biology in the Middle East and Asia. This project was part faunal survey and part behavioral study. There has not been a faunal survey in Afghanistan for over 50 years and that one was collected in the lower altitude Kabul region and is stored in Paris, France. My collection, although meager (scorpion biomass is very low at 2200m+) will be only the second from Afghanistan and the first from this region and altitude. I nearly beat the highest altitude record for living scorpion collected by a mere 500 meters! The behavioral portion of the study involves the combination of high altitude, cold winters and anthropogenic affects on scorpion population. All in all, it kept my mind scientifically acute during my limited down time.

Most importantly, I will be completing my mission here in latest December (of course, I’ll miss the holidays with family), putting “boots on the ground” in the United States by early January. My wife and I will co-ordinate our departure from San Angelo, TX and Angelo State University and make the 3-day drive back to Canton and SLU! We are so excited about rejoining the SLU family! Look forward to seeing you in latest January/early February, or, for Alumni – SLUGAC in the Fall!

Alexander Stewart
Despite the general economic woes everyone is experiencing, things are going pretty well here in Brown Hall (except that, yes, we are still in Brown Hall). The roof of Brown has been repaired, we have new tiles down the main hallway and there has been some painting, so the place does look better and so far we haven’t needed to catch any more drips in buckets. Though drawing your attention to the condition of Brown drew us some heat, it did result in these improvements. Thank you. And, we do have an NSF grant pending for creating new lab space for us in Bewkes which would be the first step in renovating Bewkes and moving the whole dept. there. We have our fingers crossed for that grant. It’s competitive, of course, but we think we have a reasonable chance. We have also recently received an NSF grant (with Biology) for a new SEM which is now here, and resides in Johnson Hall of Science in the microscopy lab there. We have also received funds from a couple of private foundations for a new XRF which should be here this spring and are part way towards being able to purchase a new XRF as well! And we have a new large slab saw in our rock prep. lab. Jeff Chiarenzelli was honored this fall by receiving the J. Calvin Keene award from St. Lawrence. An honor well-deserved. Jeff is up for tenure and promotion this spring, so if any of you who know him would like to write letters they may be sent (e mail is fine) directly to Dean Valerie Lehr.

Colby Smith ran a very successful field trip to BC to study glaciers last spring and Antun Husinec took students to the Bahamas to study carbonates. The Bahamas geology tour will run again this spring and John (who is currently filling in for Jeff who is on sabbatical) and I, along with alum, Steven Alexander, will run a trip to Yellowstone/Craters of the Moon/Tetons.

I continue to work on Adirondack Lowland structural geology and writing up the work I’ve done in Peru. All the faculty have been active in their research and working with our students; you can read about their activities in their letters here. We will likely have a crew of students attending and presenting at the NE/SE GSA section in March.

We thank all of you very much for your generous contributions to the various Geology funds. These make student research, travel to conferences and field trips possible and make a real difference to the quality of education our students receive here.

As you are probably aware, planning is underway for SLUGAC and we hope to see as many of you as possible on campus next fall. Our women undergraduates would especially appreciate knowing what the women alumni have been doing and have specially requested that you come and talk with them about your paths after SLU.

Cheers,
Cathy

A voice from the past:

When I read the geology newsletter, I am always impressed by the accomplishments of the faculty and graduates, especially the women who go on for graduate degrees. I am thinking you might like to learn how I as the first woman to major in geology, handled it was.

My strategy was that I would quietly prove myself. Each time we went out to survey a plot, I would take the most precise, meticulous measurements possible. When I went into the lab to draw up my plot, I always had the smallest error of closure. Halfway through the course the professor asked me to tutor a geology major who was failing the course. I hope the professor changed his mind about women in his classes. A lot of women came after me. I never told anyone my strategy.

After graduating with highest honors in geology, I had 16 firm offers from petroleum companies, USGS and state GS. I became the first woman subsurface engineer for Royal Dutch Shell. There was no bias among those engineers from the Netherlands, Switzerland and England. Dr. Brown had been a petroleum geologist. I learned to correlate schumberger logs, make surface and subsurface maps.

My precise work in surveying paid off. Some of my first assignments was to redraw subsurface maps of a producing oil field. I thought the original maps were sloppy. I turned in my subsurface maps saying that the well they were drilling would be a dry hole, it was.

We drew contour maps by hand. Then a drafts person inked in the contour on cloth maps.

I still write longhand. In my day a career woman did not learn to type or she would have to add secretarial chores to her work. I would have my own secretary when needed.

With warm regards,
Irene Fraser Patton ’43
Hi all,

The summer here has been pretty busy. Following Croatia, and the AAPG Convention in Denver, my students Katie Hoskinson and Kyle Marvinney and I went to North Dakota. We spent entire month of July in Grand Forks working in the Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library, and enjoying the hospitality of manager Julie LeFever and a great help of technician Kent Hollands. While in North Dakota we also made two fieldtrips. The first one was to the fascinating Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota, and second one to the largest operating quarry of the Red River “Tindall” Stone near Winnipeg, Manitoba. Although at that time without sedimentological background, Kyle and Katie did core logging very well, and turned out to be real quick learners. As part of my American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund (ACS-PRF) project, we’ve logged many cores through the Ordovician Red River and sampled for stable isotopes and trace element analyses. There’ll be lots of work to do in the coming months, including microfacies and sequence stratigraphic analyses, and we hope to present part of this research at the AAPG convention in New Orleans.

Sedimentology course has been going pretty well this Fall. It’s mostly thanks to a nice group of 14 students (yeah, big number this time!) who have been very easy to get into discussion with on various topics that we covered in class. Besides visiting some classic localities in the North Country, we also went on a four-day fieldtrip to the Tri-State region of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. This was a joint Paleontology-Sedimentology fieldtrip organized by Mark Erickson, and we visited several excellent outcrops of the Cincinnatian Series.

In September I went to Sardinia, Italy to attend the 27th International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting. This was a very successful meeting with more than 700 sedimentologists and lots of interesting presentations. I presented combined sequence stratigraphy and stable isotope analysis results from the NSF-funded research on Jurassic-Cretaceous Adriatic platform, entitled High resolution sequence stratigraphy of a Late Jurassic Adriatic Platform: carbonate isotopic signature and greenhouse vs transitional eustasy. This conference also included a carbonate sedimentology fieldtrip to Sicily, and we were all amazed by excellent outcrops, spectacular scenery and superb cuisine.

This year’s GSA Meeting in Portland was a bit of disappointment, mostly due to a lack of sedimentary geology topics (and sedimentologists, too!). Consequently, the traffic around sedimentology posters was very light and with very little discussion and feedback. Sean Regan and David Mosher presented results of their research in Croatia, entitled Peritidal and Subaerial Exposure Facies of Late Valanginian to Late Hauterivian Platform-Interior Carbonates, Mljet Island, Croatia (Sean), and Albian Facies Within a Cyclic Peritidal Platform-Interior Sequence, Adriatic Platform, Southern Croatia (David). My presentation was on A Fifty million year (Late Jurassic – Early Cretaceous) climate record from the Bahama-type Adriatic platform, Croatia. Sean, David, Jeff Chiarenzelli and I took a one day off during the meeting, and made a short trip to the nearby Mount St. Helens. Too bad we all forgot cameras since the weather was picture-perfect!

But, the most important news and the best thing that happened to me this year is not related to geology: my family recently grew bigger. Tomislav Husinec was born in Potsdam on June 23, welcomed and loved by his older sisters Mirna and Nika!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Antun

Thank you for writing, Mark. As you probably knew, I attended medical school in Syracuse. After first year I married Liz Polzl, class of 1998 SLU. Since then I became a radiologist and moved out to Lewiston Idaho for the big skies and freedom. My wife Liz is from Oregon, so we figured we would try the west again. I am in a busy private practice and I love the atmosphere out here. The weather is phenomenal. From my backyard I look at a 2000 foot vertical grade and have a view of the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers. The geology is quite interesting. The snake river is the deepest river canyon in North America and there are parts... Hell's Canyon, that you can only get to by river boat. It was formed during the Pleistocene? I think, glacial period where Bonneville lake (glacial lake) broke free and funneled all the water through this steep river canyon. The average size sediment is larger than a Volkswagen. I have seen some amazing sites. The two days that Lake Bonneville was flooding it had more fresh water than all the rivers in the world combined. I personally clocked the speed of spring runoff at 28 miles per hour. And that was the surface speed, not the thalweg. Lizzie and I have Joey, Pauly, Anna, Sophia and now Matthew. They are great kids. We home school them in a traditional Catholic curriculum.

Paul Sanchirico ’97

A letter from Gary Thomas * 73 to Mark Erickson... Bob Purcell has retired as the Fire Chief of Homer (Alaska) and now works for FEMA traveling around the country from disaster to disaster. He still calls Homer his home and his wife lives here waiting for him to return from each disaster assignment. I enjoyed meeting and getting to know our mutual friend Palmer Bailey. He always spoke of you with the highest regard. He is a true gentleman. That grey stuff on the vehicles is the ash.
Hello Geofolks,

Hope this finds you all well and in good spirits. As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday all is busy here at St. Lawrence and your geology department is no different. Students and faculty are working hard to complete projects and research, at least to a satisfactory point, before the holiday.

We have been enjoying some rather fine mild November weather here in the North Country this year. Mornings have been frosty and cold with temperatures often dipping down into the teens but, the afternoons have been sunny and warm for the most part. Guess we had better enjoy this mild weather while we can as things can change quickly to harsh weather at this time of year.

All is well on the farm and Shirley and I have fallen back into the routine of starting our day sitting in front of the woodstove with fresh hot coffee, listening to the morning news, and enjoying a bit of small talk before starting the cars and getting ready for work. The evenings too often find us in front of crackling fire with a different beverage in hand, talking about our day and making plans for the future. The 3 boys, Cypress, Aspen, and Balou, (a 10 year old golden, 3 year old golden, and year and a half old black lab respectively) seem to be drawn to the warmth of the fire as much as we are and often lie at our feet enjoying our company. I love sitting in front of the fire and feeling their warm fur on my feet. How could life be much better?...

The horses too are doing well. All 8 are fat and furry and in good health. The 3 foals are adorable with all that extra fur to protect them from cold winter and they are full of spunk and vinegar. It is medicine for my soul to watch the 3 young ones rac ing about, cutting and bucking and sprinting around the older horses trying to get them to play along. Watched with lots of amusement recently as Abukcheech, the middle foal, was trying to get a lying steer to get up and play by nosing, chewing on, pushing, and stepping on the poor fellow who just wanted to lounge in the sun. We gave the three foals Native American names and each was born on the first Sunday of the month, starting the first Sunday in April when Miakoda was born. She is a Paint horse and has a beautiful scene of a moon and star on her left flank. As her dame is also a Paint and named Dakota we gave “Mia” the name of Miakoda meaning “Power of the Moon”. Abukcheech, meaning “mouse” was the second born arriving on the first Sunday of May. Both his dame and his sire are Arabians, he is small and mouse colored so hence his name. On the first Sunday of June Satinka was born. She is bay in color and seemed to dance on her toes her first few weeks on earth so we gave her the name of Satinka, meaning “Magical dancer”. She is now as big as Mia and possibly the most head strong of the three. If you ever want to experience a most amazing thing please stop by and come on out with me as I grain the horses and cows. Once I give them a whistle they come running, hooves pounding like plains thunder, and race by and around me waiting for their ration of grain. It is exhilarating and never fails to amaze and bring broad smiles to friends and family who accompany me with that chore.

As winter approaches Shirley and I are ready for that long dark cold season with lots of hay up for the horses and cows, a home grown pig freshly butchered and in the freezer, a nice buck taken from the farm in the freezer, and two cows about to go to the butcher shop this December. I hope this note finds you and yours as prepared and ready for the holidays and the winter season. Do stop by and visit your department if the opportunity presents itself, or just drop and email. I will be sure to respond.

Season’s greetings and many blessings wished to you all.

Sarah Zimmerman McElfresh ’98 - December brings lots of Christmas concerts for my husband and I to play in - 14 in all if we double count the few we are doing together split between 4 groups. A busy time for me and I’m sure for you all as well. I wanted to let everyone know that the Dr. J. Mark Erickson Geology University Fellows Fellowship has been formally established with the Development Office. Check out the alumni web site for details (http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/). We are also in the planning stages for the next SLUGAC as I’m sure you’ll read elsewhere in the newsletter. It would be great if we can make this the largest one yet, I hope that many of you will plan to return to Canton next October for the conference - and remember even if you haven’t been doing geology the students still want and need to hear from you. Last time I spent some time talking to one of the students about how to show that her geology training and experience related to arts and theater and I know several students benefitted greatly from talking with the Science Librarians among the alumni ranks who were present. We have a lot to share with the students about the geology and other things that we do.
The 7th St. Lawrence University Geology Alumni Conference will be held October 8-10, 2010. We welcome all Geology Alumni to share their experiences. The conference is a student-oriented event designed and originated by Alumni to inform Geology students about all aspects of the profession. In our experience, this is a unique hallmark of our department and University because it is driven by Alumni volunteerism and altruism in support of undergraduate education. It is where the theoretical becomes practical so that students can imagine themselves “doing that” after St. Lawrence.

Many alumni come to the Conference to reunite with fellow graduates. About half of the alumni present very brief talks about their professional projects. Some lead discussions, answer questions from students or reminisce. The meeting is casual and generally allows networking between alumni, students, and faculty. Students get first-hand information about careers in Geology and related disciplines, and they learn pathways to career goals and graduate programs. Alumni use the occasion to inform themselves about department and university programs, goals and needs, and to network with their peers.

Important Dates For Responses:
- Intent to present a talk: ASAP
- Abstract submission deadline: July 15, 2010
- W.T. Elberly, Jr., Medal nominations: July 15, 2010
- Alumni resume submission deadline: August 15, 2010
- Alumni brief description deadline: September 1, 2010
- Early registration deadline: September 1, 2010
- Current student resume deadline: September 10, 2010
- Early registration $75/ Late registration $90

The theme of SLUGAC 7, “St. Lawrence Geology From Pole to Pole” is exemplified by the achievements of Albert P. Crary (‘31). Crary (seen above) was a polar scientist and SLU Alumnus who was the first human being to have stood on both the North and South Poles in 1952 and 1961, respectively. Among his many achievements, Crary was the chief scientist for the Arctic Ice Island, T3 (’52-’55), the deputy leader of the US International Geophysical Year (’57), the Chief Scientist of the US Antarctic Research Program (’60-’68), the Deputy Director of the Environmental Science Division of NSF (’69-’78), and expedition leader of several groundbreaking seismic programs in Antarctica. At SLUGAC 7 we proudly acknowledge the achievements of Albert P. Crary and hope you will join in sharing your experiences and accomplishments at, and between, the poles and around the world.

Conference website: http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/slugac7.html
Contacts: Sarah McElfresh (’98): sarahmcelfresh@gmail.com or Mark Erickson: meri@stlawu.edu
WE ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO HEAR FROM ALUMNI. PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO US. WE'LL SEND YOUR NEWS TO OTHER ALUMNI VIA THE NEXT NEWSLETTER. (Remember—we have an E-Mail address list of geology alums. Please include your E-Mail address or send it to Mark at MERI@MUSIC.STLAWU.EDU)

Name: ___________________________________________ Class of: __________ Phone: ____________________
Address: ___________________________________________ E-Mail: ______________________________________

I am interested in attending SLUGAC 7. Yes ________ No __________

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER — YOUR ACTIVITIES, CLASSMATES' WHEREABOUTS, ETC.: 