THANK YOU, ALUMNI!
SLUGAC 7 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

If you missed SLUGAC 7, you missed a very interesting and effective interaction with our present students. Some talked about research; others discussed pros and cons of graduate programs; some described internships opportunities while others took the time to interview students to get ahead on the upcoming hiring season. Alumni found an enthusiastic and informed group of geology majors eager to interact, to listen and to ask questions. The students hosted a mixer at the new university pub following the excellent Bloomer Lecture presented by Andrew Fountain. Forty-six alumni participated as did a group of first-year students who have an interest in Geoscience. Alumni dedicated a tree and plaque to former secretary and WTE Medalist, Alice Quackenbush. Severn Brown, Sally Street, Chris Stevens and Jeff Chiarenzelli were awarded the Elberty Medal for their service to the Geology Department and SLU. One of the interesting parts of the whole meeting for me was the reactions of the alumni who had not been to an Alumni Conference previously. Universally they were impressed. The points of origin were also impressive with 3 from Alaska, 3 from Louisiana, 2 from Colorado, 1 each from Kansas, Texas, Wisconsin and Oregon. Canada was represented by 2 from Calgary and 1 from Winnipeg. As may be expected the NE was well represented. Under represented was the SE and midwest. Fortunately Ned Baker was able to be here or Ohio would not have been in the mix at all! Lastly, I would have to say that Vermont was a "no show", a surprise given the number of alumni who live there! We will be delighted if there is such a turn out for SLUGAC 8 that includes a Vermonter! Thank you all for being here.

First-timers (as alumni) were:
Mike Armstrong  Loren Bailey  Janet Bailey  Naylor Stone
Andrew Fountain  Miriam Katz  Lynette Mokry  David Mosher
Connor O’Loughlin  Camille Partin  Sean Regan  Tom Wright
Donald Rodbell  Gary Thomas  Doug Waters  Susan Waters
David Hollibaugh Baker
This first semester (back) at St. Lawrence has been very busy and productive. I am settling into my teaching load (e.g., Dynamic Earth, Geomorphology, Glacial Geology and Hydrogeology) by continuing to redevelop labs and lectures. In October, I volunteered to begin teaching in the First-Year Program, which will involve a 1.5-unit FY seminar each spring. This seminar is entitled: “Science Reasoning and Communication” and will focus on thinking and relaying information as a scientist (and to help recruit freshman into geology!) – wish me luck!

Regarding research, I am continuing to develop my contacts in the military-geology field by presenting my experiences as a soldier-geologist in Afghanistan (2009) with the U.S. Army. This is becoming fruitful. After three colloquia (U. Cincinnati, U. Kentucky and SLU) and a national GSA presentation, I am beginning to get my feet wet in this small community of geologists. I have been invited to present at the International Conference on Military Geosciences at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas, NV (Summer ’11). Right along this vein, my student, Ross Klepetko ’11, is working his senior project on the “Influence of geology and terrain on the Battle of Sackett’s Harbour, War of 1812.” This project is moving along quite well with some interesting geological reins on the British attack. For example, the British were not able to support their land invasion with naval gunfire, which may have been due to: unknown and confusing bathymetry of coastal Lake Ontario and a 5-to-7-meter limestone cliff (Sugar River Fm. of the Trenton Group, if you are interested!). Fear of running aground, location of the American Fort Volunteer and the cliff limited fields of naval fire to beyond the American positions. Ultimately, these geological influences may have helped the American victory! Ross will be presenting this project in a special session at the NE/NC GSA meeting this spring entitled: “Geology and the War of 1812.” I will be, moreover, preparing some PhD data for the NE/NC GSA meeting involving the preservation of pre-Wisconsin glacial landforms under cold-based Wisconsin ice in NE Ohio using Optically Stimulated Luminescence. I will also be visiting Marshall University, WV to work with my colleague Victor Fet (Biology) to ID scorpion specimens collected in Afghanistan and to prepare a manuscript of those results.

This coming Spring I will be preparing to take select students to Alaska to learn about glacial and geomorphological field methods using the easily assessable glaciated terrain in south-central Alaska. In addition, I look forward to beginning work on a yet undetermined glacial project with rising senior, Emma Coronado ’12 and, possibly, looking into whether the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park, Texas were glaciated during the LGM.

**SLU Geology Alumni Online**

There are several ways to stay in touch with other alums and find out what is going on. If you use Facebook or LinkedIn please join the alumni groups. We would really like to use these resoures to their full potential, particularly for helping alumni and students find jobs and internships. So if you have such to offer - please post them on the LinkedIn group.

Alumni Web site: [http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni](http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni)
LinkedIn: [http://www.linkedin.com/e/-9pcf7r-gd3gx43c-62/vgh/3327948/](http://www.linkedin.com/e/-9pcf7r-gd3gx43c-62/vgh/3327948/)

*Facebook and LinkedIn are accessible from the alumni website as well.*

**Email Addresses:** Make sure Sarah McElfresh ’98 has a current email address for you. If you did not recieve any email about SLUGAC7 - that means she doesn't have an address for you. We have two lists - one public (on the web site) and one private that is used for mailings. Please indicate whether you want your email address available online. Contact Sarah at [sarahmcelfresh@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmcelfresh@gmail.com) or via the web site email links and make sure the subject has SLU Geology in it.

**Come Share Your News!!!**

It is always exciting to hear from alumni telling us what is new in their life. We have made it easy for you to share news with us, follow the link ([http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/programs/geology/form/1821](http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/programs/geology/form/1821)) to a form that you can send to me.

While you are there, check out our new website ([http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/programs/geology](http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/programs/geology)).

**Cody LaVack ‘10** has started his masters in the fall at Salem State. Going for a M.S. in Geo-Information Science, this year he will be working on a graduate assistantship that involves vegetation change using remote sensing. Cody will be living in Beverly, MA with his identical twin.

**Brett Harvey ’02** moved to Anchorage and took a job on the South Slope of Alaska doing oil and gas work (mwd/lwd engineer).
Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Students:

It is my pleasure to write to you as chair and to pass on some fantastic news. First of all SLUGAC 7 was a great success and well attended! Thanks to all who found the time and traveled to Canton on their own dime. I know the students really enjoyed meeting with you all, and your presentations and advice on many topics. Special thanks are due to Sarah MacElfresh, Heather Cunningham, Chris Stevens, and Kate Zubin-Stathopoulis, whose tireless efforts made the event even more special. I’d also like to thank John Murphy and the Geology Club for their role in hosting the event. Dr. Stewart kicked off the event with an informative and humorous talk about Albert Crary (’31), the “unfreezable man” and Canton native who was the first man to stand on both the North and South poles. Dr. Erickson will no doubt have much more to add about SLUGAC.

We had a wonderful trip to Denver to attend the Geological Society of America national meeting. Ten of our students attended the conference and presented eight posters, two of which, by Hannah Cowan (’11) and John Murphy (’11), won awards from Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the geology honorary society. This has become a habit of late and we are pleased for our students and all their hard work. Attending the meeting gave our students a wonderful chance to talk with potential graduate school programs and advisors. We also hosted a wonderful alumni reception at the Wynkoop Brewery on Halloween Eve. Four faculty members made the trip and gave presentations as well and we ran into many alumni and former SLU faculty such as Sean Cornell, Colby Smith and Diane Burns.

This year we are joined by Dr. David Kratzmann and again by Dr. Alexander Stewart. Dr. Kratzmann is a volcanologist and recently finished his dissertation work on the Hudson volcano in South America. Dr. Stewart rejoined the department after returning from his mission as a geologist and soldier in Afghanistan. Both of these young geologists bring excellent expertise and breadth to our curriculum.

Today a letter and check appeared in my mailbox announcing that Emma Coronado had won the 2010-2011 American Geological Institute’s Minority Scholarship. Needless to say we are all very pleased for Emma!

Finally, I’d like to note that Dr. Erickson has been reappointed as the James Henry Chapin Professor of Geology and Mineralogy.

Best wishes to you all! Jeff

Hello Geo Dept.,

I’ve recently moved to the North Country from Rhode Island with my wife Meredith and joined the Geology Department in a visiting capacity. I have almost completed my first semester teaching and am now preparing myself for winter. It has been a great experience so far. SLU students are a pleasure to teach, and I’m learning a great deal about the regional geology.

My research interests are centered on the study of explosive volcanism at subduction zones. Ultimately, the goal of my research is to reduce the impact of explosive eruptions on populations, livestock, and infrastructure. As part of my research I have conducted fieldwork in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, and New Zealand. I will be presenting the latest phase of my research on magma-water interactions at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in San Francisco this December.

I am also quite interested in agricultural practices, local CSA farms, green building technology, and alternative energy. It’s wonderful to be here, I’m really looking forward to teaching Introduction to Volcanism next semester!

Cheers,

David Kratzmann

Emma Coronado ’12, of Cazenovia, NY, has been awarded the American Geological Institute's Minority Scholarship for the academic year 2010-2011. A geology major, Coronado is a graduate of Cazenovia High School.

The AGI Minority Participation Program (MPP) committee selects successful candidates for the scholarship awards, in the belief that “good mentoring relationships help our scholars succeed in their academic careers.” In addition to the monetary award, Coronado will be assigned a professional geoscientist from the national MPP Committee as a mentor, as well as a mentor in the St. Lawrence geology department.

Coronado plans to study in New Zealand in the spring 2011 semester, through the University's International and Intercultural Studies program. She is a member of the Geology Club and the sustainable food organization Lettuce Turnip the Beet.
Hi all,

As we wind down to the end of yet another busy year at St. Lawrence, I reflect on the fact that the past summer and Fall semester have indeed been extraordinarily eventful. The summer started with a month-long fieldtrip to North Dakota, where Jake Colony ’11, Ben Rendall ’11 and I continued working on the Red River sequence and chemostratigraphy, and diagenesis. Besides logging in Grand Forks, we managed to visit the Badlands of western North Dakota and the Manitoban quarries with classic architectural burrow-mottled Tyndall limestone near Winnipeg. After return to Canton, I flew to Croatia to continue working on my NSF project there. Unfortunately, I did only prospecting since Fred Read, my former postdoc advisor co-PI from Virginia Tech was ill. Hopefully we’ll go next year, along with two students from St. Lawrence, pending funding.

At the beginning of semester I presented my research on Red River sequence stratigraphy and Croatian Platform at the International Association of Sedimentologists Meeting in Mendoza. This was an excellent meeting with many exceptional talks. Needles to say, the geology was also exceptional, and so were the breathtaking vistas of Chilean and Argentinean Andes, mouth-watering steaks, and superb red wines.

Once back to Canton, it was time for Mark and I to do now already a regular joint Sed-Paleo fieldtrip to Cincinnati. It again went very well and the two vans full of students were back to North Country right on time for the 2010 SLUGAC meeting with geology alumni. Following SLUGAC it was already time for the GSA meeting in Denver. Four of my students (Katie Hoskinson ’11, Kyle Marvinney ’11, Jake Colony ’11, and Ben Rendall ’11) presented posters on their Red River research; I gave a talk on importance of salinity-control on preservation of microbial laminites in greenhouse platform carbonates, and a poster on Red River sequence stratigraphy. The Denver meeting offered another opportunity to meet with the SLU alumni, and I was particularly happy to hear from my recent students (Sean Regan, Dave Mosher, Charlie Harman, and Raff Sweeney) about their current research, and experiences at graduate schools. They are all doing a great job!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Antun
Happy Holidays SLU Folks!

Hope this note finds all of you in good health and spirits and if not yet ready, then happily able and willing to enter another holiday season and a new year. As usual, I will leave the news and activities of your geology department to those more suited to the task and take just a bit of your time with a little North Country Weather Report. With November now behind us and autumn on the wane, the North Country is entering that season of snow and blow and very short days... at least as far as daylight here is concerned. We have had several reminders that winter is closing in. Had a little snow the last weekend in October that lasted several days and we enjoyed a few snow falls in November also. The last weekend of November we received a foot of snow at our little farm in Pond Settlement, a little less here in Canton. That snow didn’t last long but has been quickly replaced with a fresh blanket of snow that began falling on the first of December, and as luck would have it, we received light snow fall each day last week, and last weekend (December 4th & 5th) proved more of the same with light snow continuing to fall and beginning to really add up around our farm and even Canton now has the ground covered with a fresh blanket of the white stuff. The drive into Canton today was one through a winter wonderland with light snow falling. The weather seems fitting for this time of year as the mood becomes festive for the holidays. I wish for you all a wonderful and safe holiday season full of love, friendship, and good will.

Shirley and I have the farm mostly ready for winter... seems I am never really all the way ready for the season but easily accept and enjoy the fact that it’s here. The change of season still amazes me and brings much joy with the changes in life style and activity that the different temperature and weather brings. Our woodshed is well stocked with firewood and we have a couple of seasoned log piles that I will be spending some time on now that hunting season has ended. Our farm yard is full of hay for our family herd of horses and the one cow that will soon be a special dinner guest on many occasions around our kitchen table. We began the autumn season with an estimated 64,800 pounds of hay placed in 3 long neat rows of twenty and a small row of what’s left of the 800 to 1000 pound round bales. We began feeding two of these bales a week by mid September, and now that the frost and snow has stopped grass growth leaving little grazing we are going through two of these bales every 4 to 5 days depending on temperature and weather. Bringing the horses these large bales of hay is one of my favorite chores. Our two dogs Aspen and Baloo jump up on the bales and run on top of the rows of hay playing tag while I stab a bale with tractor and point for the horses... What goofs they are but they are goofs having fun and loving life. Once a large bale of hay is stabbed with the point on the 3 point hitch of the tractor, I drive the tractor to near the garage where all the twine is remove and discarded, and then I bring the large wheel of hay into the pasture with the two dogs following and tackling each other in the snow. But the best is yet to come as I watch in amazement and joy as the horses dance and rear and race around me and the tractor in anticipation of the new hay. At this time of year this mostly happens before or after work when it is still dark, limiting the view of this scene to that which falls within the light of the tractor. It is a dreamy surreal experience watching these magnificent animals materializing out of the darkness and often falling snow as they thunder by me with manes and tails flying like flags in a heavy wind while clods of snow and sot fly from their hooves and seem suspended in air for a few moments before falling back to earth. Then they fade back into the inky blackness from which they came. I know they are there... just beyond light and site. Even the dogs seem to love this high energy greeting and they run along behind the horses enjoying this new game with their big friends. With 8 horses this scene repeats itself many times while I make my way through one pasture or the other and until I drop the bale and head back to get another. Our nearly 2 and a half year old granddaughter likes to help papa with these chores, particularly now that she has discovered this world of horses. If she is at “Bama” and “Papa’s” house when it is time to feed the horses I have a little helper that will hang with me until the horses are fed and watered no matter what the weather might be like... She, like me, is in wide eyed awe of the entire experience and doesn’t want to miss it. She might be Bama’s girl but when Papa is working around the horses she is glued to my side.

Well friends, I should let you all get back to other demands on your time. It was wonderful to see so many of you during our last SLUGAC meeting. Warm holiday wishes from your geology department and from my little homestead in Pond Settlement.

Cheers
Matt

From Jonathan King ’02... Shortly after completing my applications the offer at Colorado State University was finalized. Bill Sanford in the Geosciences Department asked me to start work on a project at the end of January. I’ve been working on the project since then and just started classes a week ago. The project will fully fund me to get my masters. The project is a collaboration of Regenesis Management, the USDA, and various departments at CSU. My advisor is the principal coordinator, but our main interest is deep percolation. The purpose of the project is to figure out the minimum quantity of water that can be used to irrigate a corn field while still producing an acceptable yield and maintaining appropriate return flows. The result will hopefully be that the remaining water will be diverted to municipalities. Mainly I’ve been busy installing wells, sensors, and drainage lysimeters. Luckily my advisor has given me a lot of responsibility and freedom, which has created a great learning experience for me. Shortly I hope to put together a brief summary of the project and some pictures to share with those that have voiced an interest.

Jo Palmer ’09 is at UVM these days, just finished one year of the MS program.

Dr. E. missed meeting Booth ‘00 and ‘Kenzie Platt at reunion but Booth says son, William, is doing well and will have a sibling in the Spring. Way to go you guys!

Best of wishes from the SLU Geology.

Bill and Lucretia Romey have sent their Christmas letter saying they are as active as ever doing books, art, and scientific observation of Cape Cod. They are not traveling much so visit them in East Orleans if you pass through.

Best to all Romey’s from SLU Geology

Dr. E. has a Christmas card from Tori Kohn ’05 who is stationed in Moose Creek, Alaska where she is protecting our forests.