



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Geology & Geography



2022-2023
Annual Newsletter

Greetings from the Chair

Hello to our Esteemed Alumni!

One more year has come and gone, although much has changed in that time and is going to change soon....our President, David Glassman, steps down from his post at the end of this academic year, and a presidential search is commencing to find our next campus leader. I am quite interested as to who will be chosen, as the new President should be with us for many years to come. I, as well, will be stepping down as Chair at the end of this academic year and returning to teaching full time. While it is hard to imagine that 5.5 years have already passed since I took on this role, thinking back on all that has transpired puts it back into perspective.

During my time here, we have had to say goodbye to many wonderful individuals such as Dalias Price, Alan Baharlou and Jim Stratton. We also have had great successes, with endeavors such as the Articulation Agreement partnerships with IL community colleges sending students to EIU that we may not have attracted in the past. It has, however, been one of my most rewarding efforts to be more involved with you, our wonderful alumni. This has resulted in internship opportunities for our students, professional talks in our colloquium series and just getting to better know the quality people who have passed through these hallways. It has been a real pleasure, and I thank you for all that you have done on behalf of our students, faculty and department.



I wish all of you the best – if you are in town, come visit us at the CLAS tent for Homecoming!

Greetings from the Dean



Barbara Bonnekessen
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

It is again my pleasure to congratulate Dr. Burns and the faculty of the Geology and Geography Department on yet another successful year! Having successfully switched back to face-to-face teaching, the department is again abuzz with activities, from high school student events to the always crowd-pleasing minerals exhibit – and now that campus is all open, please do come by to admire that!

Again, I congratulate Dr. Burns and her colleagues for their achievements over the past year and am looking forward to celebrating their successes this year!

Amy Morris, Office Manager

Hello GEO Alumni!

Please let me take a moment to introduce myself- I'm Amy Morris, the new Office Manager! I am so excited to be in this office as I have worked on campus in Admissions, Student Insurance, and Department of Education. To share a little bit about me, while in high school, I got my CNA license and after graduation, I went to Olney Central College for 2 years and got my associate's degree in Music Therapy and Health Administration. EIU has brought me many opportunities since I started here in 2014. I got my Bachelor's in Health Administration with a minor in Business Administration and my Master's in Health Promotion and Leadership. I was involved in Student Government, Eta Sigma Gamma, Graduate Advisory Board, and Health Services Advisory Board. Along with all of my previous work, I have experience running my own administrative business, processing transcripts, taking care of insurance, and teaching college healthcare courses while raising my 2 kids. I love to play piano, sing, and volunteer at my church, read, spend time with family, and take pictures.

We have added a new technology display case that is great for everyone to view. I would love for you to stop by and see the display and meet you at the same time! If you have requests or questions, please don't hesitate to email, stop by, or call me 😊



In Memoriam

Miles Dwiggins, '11 (Geography B.S.) and '16 (PSM – GIS):



(Published by Journal Gazette & Times-Courier on May 13, 2022)

Miles Dwiggins passed away on May 10, 2022, in Urbana, IL, at the age of 34.

Services will be held Saturday, May 14, at 11:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston where he was a member, with visitation at 10:00 a.m.

Miles was born in Charleston, IL, the son of Mark and Mary Dwiggins. He made it his home after graduating from Charleston High School in 2005, and Eastern Illinois University in 2011. He had a keen mind for geography and coding, obtaining a Master's Degree in Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) from EIU in 2016. His hobbies were vast, but he naturally excelled at guitar. He could play any stringed instrument, make up a song on the spot, and entertain for hours. He was kind, smart, funny, a dedicated friend, and kind soul.

Miles loved many of his jobs, especially delivering Jerry's Pizza and using his GIS and coding talents for the Canadian National Railroad to implement its Positive Train Control system. Miles is survived by his mother and father, Mark and Mary; brother, Michael; sister, Maggie (Jeff Roth); and nephew Wesley.

My Memories of Miles – by Dr. Barry Kronenfeld

It is with much sadness that I report that our recent graduate, Miles Dwiggins passed away this past May. Miles graduated with a PSM in GIScience in Fall 2016 after completing his undergraduate degree in Geography. I remember when Miles joined the PSM, he clearly had been a troubled student as an undergraduate and later he freely admitted as much to me. But he grew into himself through the PSM. In my GIS Programming class, something clicked in him and he started to really get the idea of coding. He worked with me on a small project investigating the “poison fields” of colonial Virginia, which we presented at an annual meeting of ILGISA. Miles was mellow and fun to work with, and though he was nervous beforehand he did a wonderful job presenting his portion of the research.

The most memorable thing about Miles was his spirit and passion for life. He was an avid juggler—Miles could juggle literally with one arm behind his back – and his knack for entertaining went beyond showmanship. He was at heart a kind person, always wanting to make people feel good. Driving up to the ILGISA conference, Miles made for easy conversation the entire way. At the conference itself his curious but casual, friendly nature I think contributed to an engaging conference for other EIU students who participated in ILGISA that year.

After graduating from EIU Miles was hired by Canadian National up near Chicago. He was hired to do GIS/CAD work, but in the first month I heard that he had figured out how to automate an important process using python. CN kept him through the end of their contract and was reportedly very satisfied with his work. Unfortunately, his contract ended during the pandemic, and knowing Miles I think it was difficult for him to find his feet in the socially-distanced world we all experienced. His vibrant spirit and joy for life will be sorely missed.

Spotlight On – An Exciting day at Eastern!

(Original article by Allen Englebright, published in The Prairie Press, October 2021)

Ying Ching Kiang was a geography professor at Eastern Illinois University. To students he was known as Dr. Kiang (pronounced Shang). Faculty called him Harry. I never knew his background, but he must've grown up either in China or Taiwan. He was literate in speaking English, but it was with a strong accent. Sometimes his pronunciations came with difficulty. His wife was Chinese, also, and taught in another department on Eastern's faculty.

Kiang was a smoker. Sometimes we geography students passed his house at night. During winter months, we often saw him sitting on a footstool inside his garage, with the door open and puffing on a cigarette, while wearing an overcoat. His wife forbade him smoking inside the house.

Eastern's geography department in the early 60's consisted of four professors. Their classrooms were on the third floor of the science building. Each occupied a private office on the same floor. Kiang's office was located next to the large lab science room. Unlike the other offices, which had one door, Kiang's also had a side door which connected to the lab classroom.

Most students were unaware the little professor smoked in his office. That habit violated no rules, but he employed a unique disposal method that didn't demonstrate good common sense. Sat perched atop his desk, not an ashtray but a small brown paper grocery sack. Typically, it was fairly full of cigarette butts and ashes. When the

sack reached a certain level, he dumped the contents into the wastepaper basket next to the desk.

Apparently, he quashed live-fire butts in a small saucer before dropping or burying them in the ash sack. Most smokers know that tobacco can smolder stealthily for several minutes. It's like the chicken crossing the road oblivious to traffic. Sooner or later, you have a dead chicken. Thus, a smoldering fire can break into open flames, especially when exposed to paper.

Kiang had been a lucky man for several years. However, his luck ran out one spring day in 1965. His office caught fire. Dang the bad luck. I missed that fire. I was a student teacher that spring at Jefferson Middle School 10 miles west in Mattoon. My off-campus roommates Chuck Hand and Chuck Womack were there, though.

It was a day of final exams, and they were in the lab science room next door when they heard Kiang's office door rattling and saw smoke creeping outward. Womack was quick to vacate class and activate the fire alarm in the hallway. Hand grabbed a fire hose prominently displayed in a wall container, also in the hallway. Womack then turned a valve to provide a stream of water.

Hand entered Kiang's office. It was hot, so hot that ceiling light fixtures were beginning to melt. Flames were ablaze from the waste. The hose stream did its job. Smoke was thick at first but quickly diminished.

Meanwhile, fourth door floor classes from the physics and chemistry departments abandoned their rooms. Instead of leaving the building, they poured into the third floor to watch the action. Seemingly in no time at all, firefighters wearing turnout gear from the Charleston Fire Department showed up, alerted by an automatic alarm, but too late to battle flames. Some students from the lower floors also crammed into the scene of action.

Kiang, administering a final exam just across the hall, was told sternly by the department head to remain in his classroom and continue with the exam.

Kiang's office was heavily damaged from the smoke and water. Womack and Hand excitedly shared all the details with me when I returned home that evening. I felt extremely disappointed that I missed the turmoil.

Department Alumni

Louis Butkovich, '90

I pretty much exited the liner business a couple years ago except for sales of some polyurea liners. After I graduated EIU in 1990, I moved to Michigan and started working for environmental consulting companies. After a 8 year stint (1990-1998)

in the environmental consulting industry, I left and I became self employed. I ended up getting back into the environmental world this time as a liner installer. That began around 2003. Around 2009 we got involved with vapor intrusion liners for brownfields. We ran into some favoritism with some Michigan regulators, turns out they liked crappy liners that readily dissolve in gasoline and some other VOCs over our lower perm, higher chem resistant liners. I got tired of "fighting city hall" and sold my equipment and went away around 2019. Another hobby project was starting to take over as my main source of income and I walked away from the liner business as an installer. We have been working behind the scenes with my liner supplier and a large international supplier of resins to make the best possible vapor intrusion liner the world has ever known. I will take one more swing at "fighting city hall" before I go to my little hunting business and finish up my working career having fun instead of saving the world. Just a little update since I have been away from EIU since 1990.

One bit of advice I wish that I wish I would have gotten while I attended, was to start some business courses. Really all degrees should get some business courses under their belt. We had some fantastic professors in the Geology Department back in my time, my favorite was Dewey H. Amos, but I never received that bit of advice. As I started to move up, some business background may have led me to going for an MBA. I applied and talked to Walsh Business College up here in Michigan, and I didn't have any prerequisites, so ended up not going. Really I was working too much to go back to school and may not have went even with some business classes under my belt. Anyway, I have gotten a pretty good street education in business the last 32 year up here. Hope all is well at EIU, maybe I will give another update in 32 years.

Bonita Amenda

Thank you for the post card of snow and Old Main. Now I remember why we have been wintering in the Texas Rio Grand Valley (RGV). I did join a rock club at the resort we stay at and wonder around the desert and pick up what Dr. Amos would call "leaver rights." While they are shoveling snow around Old Main, I will be setting on our deck having a Ruby1 Red Grapefruit from our tree and sometimes a few oranges. It's hard to believe it will almost have been 50 years since my days at EIU. My classes there with Dr. Wallace, Dr. Amos, Dr. Ford, Dr. Price. Visiting with the secretary Vicky O'Day in the office. The many Field trips. I still find myself looking at the may road cuts when we are driving to the RGV. The pine tree covered hills, now did he say that was limestone or sandstone up there?

Even though my career was in law enforcement not geology I would joke with people if you get hit with a rock call me... Looks to me I'm going to have to stop in some day. Too many stories for an e-mail.

Doug Mateas, '13



Welcome to the newest member of the Mateas family, Meredith!!

Recent Graduates

Fall 2021

Xander R. Richards (Environmental/Physical Geography)
Emily R. Bosworth (Geology)

Spring 2022

Julia M. Contreras (Environmental/Physical Geography)
Stephen P. Elmore (Environmental/Physical Geography)
Mya E. Green (Environmental/Physical Geography)
Jaida V. Rosado (Environmental/Physical Geography)
Jacob B. Watson (Environmental/Physical Geography)

Summer 2022

Madalin Evans (Geology)

Student Award Winners, Spring 2022

Geology Awards

- Geology Alumni Award: **Colin Houser**
- Errett & Mazie Warner Geology Presidential Award: **Madalin Evans, Tony Kilber, Nathan Foster**
- Jon & Diana Giffin Geology Scholarship: **Harper Gerfen**
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship: **John Marron**
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship: **Madalin Evans**

Geography Awards

- Ruby M. Harris Scholarship: **Stephen Elmore**
- Geography Alumni Award: **Charlie Stewart**
- Errett & Mazie Warner Geography Presidential Award: **Jacob Watson**
- Annie Weller Memorial Scholarship in Geography: **Jonas Phillips**
- Grace Markwell Meier Scholarship in Geography Award: **Sarah Focht**
- Walter H. & Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship: **Ben Coleman**
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Award for Excellence in Geography: **Michael Otwirk**
- Richard Wise-Lester Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography: **Ryan Raef**
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship in Geography: **Ryan Lay**
- Belayet Khan Geography Award: **Jakob Reed**
- Robert Buzzard Memorial Scholarship in Geography: **Kevin Galindo**

Department Activities

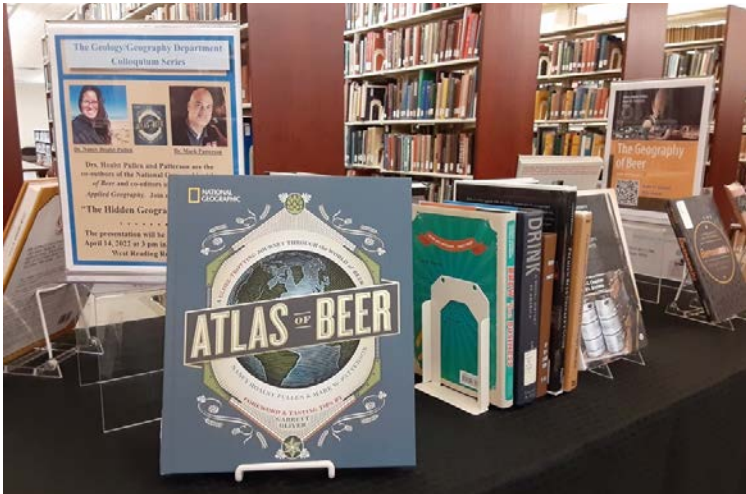
Scouts CAMPus Celebration!

Our department helped Jay Grabiec, EIU lecturer and a leader in the Scouting community in this area, in hosting dozens of Scouts this past summer. Housed in the dorms and living just like college students, these Scouts were enlightened as to how EIU would feel as a place to study and to live. The Scouts were not just experiencing EIU and all it has to offer, they also had opportunities to sign up and try to earn over two dozen different types of merit badges. Our department hosted three of these sessions, with faculty helping Scouts earn badges in Environmental Science, in Geology and in Weather.



***Left:** Cameron Craig exploring topics in Weather for Scouts in his badge session for Scout CAMPus week. **Top-right:** Chris Laingen leads his Scouts in a discussion of Environmental Science. **Bottom-right:** Diane Burns leading Scouts around the campus to identify types of rocks for their Geology badge.*

Colloquia and Student Activities



Dr. Nancy Hoalst-Pullen and Mark Patterson presented "The Hidden Geographies of Beer" as part of our Department Colloquium series this past spring. Friends and colleagues of Provost Gatrell, Nancy and Mark talked extensively about their careers in Geography and how they came to author a National Geographic book entitled the "Atlas of Beer."



Ryan Lay (pictured, Geography student) and Cameron Craig spoke to students at St. John's School in Mattoon in September 2022 about water resources.



Right: Ryan Raef, Jacob Watson, Ryan Lay, and Michael Otwirk at the Charleston Water Treatment Plant, GEO 3550 - Surface Water Processes and Resources, April 4, 2022. **Bottom-Right:** Sarah Focht, Harper Gerfen, John Marron, Jacob Watson, Kevin Galindo, Ben Coleman, Colin Houser, and Madalin Evans at Kickapoo Creek, GEO 3420 - Geomorphology: Surficial Processes and Landforms, April 21, 2022. **Top-right:** Geoscience teacher Anthony Thomas and students from Garrett High School, Indiana visiting Woodyard Conservation Area to observe tree phenology, March 21, 2022

Student Organizations

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)

Gamma Theta Upsilon continues to regrow, slowly but surely, from Covid lows. We've noticed a definite (and welcome!) uptick in cross-pollination with other clubs and even other departments this year. Still being fearlessly led by Michael Otwirk, with assistance from Ryan Raef, we are busy planning our year's activities. First up is a camping trip in early October to Walnut Point State Park, near Oakland. From "Globe" challenges at our bi-monthly meetings to the ever-popular meals (and ice cream—looking at you CJ), I believe it is safe to say a fun time is being had by all. We plan on inviting more professors to forums in the coming months, to widen our perspectives on Geography. Finally, a trip to Southern Illinois is tentatively set for some time this Spring. It looks to be a great year ahead!

Geology Club & Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)

We have had a great year with most all of our activities back to being in person and all of the energy that imparts. Students donated many service hours to helping keep our stretch of Highway 16 between Mattoon and Charleston clean for the Illinois Department of Transportation through the Adopt a Highway Program. The Geology Club – in conjunction with the Geography Club – will be collecting plastic bottle caps and lids to divert those items from landfill. The Club donates these caps to the LIFE Academy in Mattoon, IL. This group has them recast into park benches, which are then sold to raise the money needed to support their community programs. Last, Gamma Chi won the National Office's Outstanding Chapter and Service Awards for the eleventh year in a row – best record of any student chapter in the nation.



Giving up a Saturday to keep our highway clean! L to R: Lex Watts, John Marron, Ashton Pietzman and Nathan Foster.

Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Geographic Information Science

Enrollment in the GIScience Masters degree is up this year with several new students joining us from across Illinois as well as the United States. While we saw a post-COVID graduation lull (just one student, Farouk Olaitan, completed his degree this past year) we welcomed seven new students to the program since the last newsletter, including department alumnus Alisa Gray. We also have two students working on their GIScience Certificate at the Masters level.

We continue to adjust class offerings (Cartography and Geographic Data Visualization, GIS Programming, Advanced Lidar Mapping) to try to best serve our students. Both the Masters degree as well as the Certificate program can be completed fully online to address the needs of working professionals. If you know someone interested in furthering their education in GIScience, and looking to study in a small, personalized environment, we'd love to hear from them.



For more information on the PSM program, scan this.

The Faculty

Diane Burns

I am quite happy that we appear to have COVID and all of that behind us now. Time to focus on what a university should really be about – providing a good education for this generation. I will be more directly focused on that after June 30th, as I will be returning to my position as a faculty member. I have been Chair for two terms now, and it is time for one of my colleagues to take over the administration of the department. Never good to have someone at the helm for too long!

On the home front, Jasper the Wonder Dog is doing fine and now he has a “girlfriend.” We have been taking excursions to the Lincoln Log Cabin for our regular walks, and there are farm animals on the site. Three sows reside in one pen, and – despite the fact they are odiferous, cannot see Jasper well and basically ignore him – he is in love with the oldest piggy. I have never seen him this excited to visit ANY animal, so it is quite entertaining. I am, however, unsure if he intends to marry or maul the sow, so it’s best I keep him respectfully separated from his intended.

I hope you all have a most wonderful coming year.

Craig Chesner (emeritus)

Greetings Alumni! I hope you are doing well and succeeding in your careers and lives. My Charleston and Keweenaw woods keep me seasonally satisfied, while Toba research/writing keeps me geologically engaged. My latest project has been writing and illustrating a chapter for a book on Toba targeted for visitors to the new Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark. Explaining the geologic history of Earth’s largest Quaternary caldera to the general public, while remaining scientifically accurate, has been a new challenge for me. Photographing my extensive Toba sample suite, making new maps, and creating updated, yet simplified figures is satisfying as it brings a career’s worth of research into a product that hopefully will be used to guide visitors to this stunning geologic site. Hopefully I can return to Toba for another field season or two after this endeavor is completed! Wishing you all well in 2023!

Mike Cornebise

Greetings from EIU! I hope the newsletter finds you well, wherever you are in the world. I continue to serve as Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), and I have also been appointed Acting Chair for the Department of Economics for this academic year. The new responsibilities are keeping me busy, but I’m learning a lot! I also continue to teach in the department: this semester, I’m offering GEO 1200G-World Regional Geography and it’s great to be back in the classroom without a mask requirement. Campus is hopping once again and EIU is

excited this year to welcome record numbers of both graduate and international students. We hope you are able to join us at the parade and at Tent City this year for Homecoming on October 15th. The CLAS tent will be lively, so please stop by for some food and drink and to say hello. My family is doing well: Sam is a sophomore here at EIU and Sofia is a senior at Charleston High School with plans to attend EIU in the fall. Roxanne recently retired after 25 years of teaching and counseling. Best wishes on a safe and prosperous year!

Cameron Craig

Salutations! All is well and in great spirits for another year to serve my community, university, department, and students! I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Spaceship Earth, Broadcast Meteorology, and next semester I have been asked again to teach my course in the Honors College entitled, "Our Goozle-Goggle: Exploring Unknown Landscapes."

As always, I continue to work closely with my broadcast meteorology students at WEIU's EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch." We have a strong team of Broadcast Meteorology students who keep viewers informed of their daily weather situation and possible severe weather across the region: Will Redden, a former EIU Panther football player, and local lawyer, Mr Scott Ealy. We are very blessed to have these two on the team. The future is bright with new students, close and far, that will join the team soon...keep watching for our new talent from the department!

I must give a shout out to some of our students that continue to protect lives in the field of meteorology: Kevin Jeanes is in Detroit, MI; Joseph Dames in Portland, OR; and Darren Leeds in Champaign, IL. We are very proud of these former students and appreciate their generosity in giving back to the department!

Culturally, I continue my role as Assistant Conductor in the Eastern Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Maestro David Commanday who is also the music director of the Heartland Festival Orchestra in Peoria, Illinois. Eastern continues to provide an important foundation of culture and music to the community and region.

We appreciate all that you and the other alumni and donors do for our department! Thank you for always being there to make our students feel special! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Jim Davis

Hello alumni and friends! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. Things are starting to get back to normal on campus. This fall is the first time since COVID that we have full classrooms and a full schedule of events on campus. Homecoming is just a couple weeks away, so hopefully we will see some of you on campus that weekend.

The 2022-23 academic year is my 20th year in the Geology/Geography department at Eastern. I continue to teach our introductory cultural geography class as well as many of our upper-level human geography electives. I have also kept busy in the sports world as well. I continue to conduct research and teach a class in sports geography. I am also in my 12th year as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for the athletics department. I have also started working as an instant replay technician for EIU and the Ohio Valley Conference. This past year, I was honored with the opportunity to work the Division II Men's Basketball National Championship game.



My family continues to do well. My oldest daughter is a senior at SIU-Carbondale majoring in Dietetics and Nutrition. She will be off to graduate school next year to pursue a Masters in Sports Nutrition. My youngest is a senior in high school and plans to attend Eastern next year. She also plans to major in Geography and work with Cameron Craig in the Broadcast Meteorology program. This past summer

the family took a two-week road trip to hike in the Black Hills of South Dakota and the Rocky Mountains. One of the highlights for me was hiking Black Elk Peak which is the highest point between the Rocky Mountains and the Pyrenees in Europe. Driving Trail Ridge Road across Rocky National Park was also an amazing experience.

I hope you all will stay in touch and if you find yourself back in Charleston, please stop by and say hello!

Belayet Khan (emeritus)

More than six years into retirement, I am happy to reflect on my delightful experience as a faculty member in the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Over the course of 36 years, I had the wondrous opportunity to interact with colleagues and students who made for a truly special career. Throughout the years, my fellow faculty members provided immense encouragement and support. I learned so much from others in the University, beginning when I was a newcomer and extending throughout my tenure. My involvements on various committees allowed me to strive for a positive impact on campus, and this meant a lot to me as someone deeply invested in EIU. Collaboration was key to our success on many fronts over the course of more than three decades. The chairs of the department

were great leaders from whom I felt endless support and comfort. These factors made for a joyous work environment that I will always cherish. Eastern is a great place!

Certainly, the highlight of my time at Eastern was the privilege of teaching our incredible students. I sincerely looked forward to teaching every one of my classes. Each semester, I was thrilled to teach students who greeted me with genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for the material. I found myself thriving off their engagement, and this made me feel a strong sense of purpose in my role as a teacher. For years, I looked forward to weekends for a reason different than most as I taught off-campus classes through the School of Extended Learning (Continuing Education). Teaching has always been a passion of mine, but it was over the years at Eastern that it became my calling. I am so honored now to be able to consider it my life's work. Beyond the classroom, I am eternally grateful to God for the blessed life I have had in Charleston with my wife and three children. It is amazing to think that Charleston is our beloved home.

By the grace of the God, our three children are doing well and they remain busy with their academic and professional responsibilities. Our older daughter serves as a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments with her office in Indiana. The younger daughter is an Emergency Medicine doctor and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College in Chicago. Our son, after graduating from Northwestern University and Rush Medical College in Chicago has now completed his residency from the University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago. He has recently joined Cleveland Clinic at Ohio to pursue his fellowship in oncology and hematology. I must say, the Charleston schools provided excellent education for our children, and we found a strong sense of community here that we know is unique to our charming small town. As we each pursue our respective endeavors, my wife devotes her efforts to caring for our family, and we would certainly be lost without her support.

With our lifelong love for traveling, my wife and I have made some trips since my retirement. In recent years, we ventured east to visit Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Bangladesh. In the past years we have traveled to Sweden, Finland, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh and Morocco. We also traveled to Tunisia and Czech Republic to see the historical sites. We visited Ecuador and we were thrilled to see the Equatorial Landmark in Quito. Although we are always seeking new adventures, we love coming home to Charleston, and our children know that home is the best place for all of us to converge whenever possible. The gratifications of my career at EIU will forever stay with me. Although I am retired, I periodically teach a class or two for our department. Early in my career I have hoped for an academic position where I would feel a sense of belonging and Eastern has been that place for me. I imagined myself sharing my love for geography and earth science with new students each semester. I must say, I had no premonition of the tremendous passion and fulfillment I would find at Eastern. I humbly want to state that by God's grace, my

vision has come to fruition, and I remain optimistic that the future will continue to provide treasured adventures.

Barry Kronenfeld

Hello alums! This year has been focused on teaching and developing courses – four new courses is a personal record! Last fall I introduced an advanced cartography and visualization course, and also taught a new seminar on web mapping using ArcGIS, OpenLayers and D3. In the spring I taught Geography of Asia for the first time, and it was really interesting to explore new geographies and share my personal experiences in China, Singapore and Japan. I also taught Spaceship Earth for the first time – how did I go so long without teaching this venerable department mainstay? As the new year starts, the PSM is still fully online and we are still mapping it up in ArcGIS Pro, coding it up in Python, and quanting it up in everybody’s favorite course GEO 3885. For research it has been a slow year, but I am almost ready to submit a study with alum Jason Yoo on animated Covid-19 dashboards. A pretty slow year travel-wise as well but we did manage to make it out to Gatlinburg and the Smoky Mountains over the summer. First taste of sassafras jelly... but still looking for fresh paw-paw!

Christopher Laingen

August 2022 marked the start of my fourteenth academic year at EIU. The previous year was enjoyable, both professionally and personally. Professionally, I continue to enjoy the courses I teach, and I remain active in research and publishing – most notably with a group of historians who are reviving interest in studies related to the Midwest. I couldn’t imagine a better job to have... one where I simply have to be interested in the world around me, and then talk to people and write about it.

Personally, things could not be better, either. My wife (Mary) continues her work on campus as the EIU Pre-Health academic advisor; and our two kids, Kenny – a 5th grader, and Edy – a 3rd grader, keep us busy with sports, Scouts, and the planning of summer adventures. This past year we were very fortunate to be able to go on a bunch of trips, all of which revolved around us being outdoors. In January, a graduate school buddy and I hike across the Grand Canyon, and then turned around and went back (a Rim2Rim2Rim hike). And in the summer our family took an extended trip to the South Dakota Black Hills to hike and relax before my wife and I left the kids with grandma and grandpa to hike sixty miles in Idaho’s Sawtooth Wilderness... which is now my new favorite place.



Clockwise: With friends at the Grandjean Trailhead, Sawtooth Wilderness; My family at the Willow Creek Trailhead, Black Hills National Forest; North Kaibab Trail, Grand Canyon National Park; Unnamed pass below Glen's Peak, Sawtooth Wilderness.

Katie Lewandowski

Greetings Alumni!

Things are slowly, but surely, getting back to a new normal! The last two years sure have had an effect on all of us, though!

I'm teaching a new major elective class on Marine Geology. I'm really enjoying it! It's fun to tell students about all the cool stuff we know about the ocean. I have a really good group in that class. I'm also teaching GEO 2450G (Oceanography) and BIO/PHS 3400 (Science Methods for Middle and High School Teachers). The semester is going along pretty well so far.

I had a few students work with me doing research last year. Madalin Evan, who has since graduated and started graduate school at Texas Tech this fall, worked with me both in the fall and spring last year. She picked 2 samples from Ocean Drilling Program Leg 189 Site 1168A to add to the material that my research students have been working on since 2010. She was able to write an accepted abstract and present a poster at NCUR (National Council on Undergraduate Research). It was a virtual meeting in late April. John Marron, who is a senior this year, also worked with me in the spring. I have some nodules that look a lot like Mazon Creek material that I inherited from Kathy Bower. We decided to try opening them up by freezing and thawing them. A few of the nodules did open up by the end of the semester. It was kind of a fun project but didn't generate much data. John has returned to do research and we are working on defining that. More than likely, my research students this

year will work on a different site from ODP Leg 189 which is a bit south of Tasmania, as compared with Site 1168, which is just west of Tasmania along a slope. The goal is to compare the foram assemblages from Site 1168 to those of the new-to-us Site. In addition to John, Lydia Howard and Colin Houser, sophomores/juniors, are working with me to investigate this.

I continue to do Outreach and Education stuff. I worked with the Boy Scouts last year and did a Zoom presentation to a high school class in Indiana. I missed out on the Boy Scout Badge Fair in June, because I had plans for traveling then, but a number of faculty from this department were involved.

My husband and I did manage to finally check out Door County in Wisconsin this summer. It was lovely. The geology is quite nice.

Take care,
Katie Lewandowski

James Riley

The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down
Of the big lake they called Gitche Gumee



Spray Falls dropping over the sandstone cliffs of Lake Superior, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Betty Smith (emerita)

Hello colleagues, friends, and students. The July highlight of 2022 was attending the International Geographic Union (UGI-IGU) Centennial Congress 2022 held in Paris, France! The meeting was held at various venues including the Sorbonne University and culminated with a 3-hour floating dinner cruise on the Seine River with views of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, and other skyline highlights. Prior to the IGU meeting, I travelled with my Swiss friend around Lake Geneva, visiting his family and viewing terraced vineyards, ancient medieval small towns, and some close-up views of the Swiss Alps. We rode beautiful, clean Swiss trains including a very fast train from Geneva to Paris. After the IGU congress we rented a Peugeot (that is a French car) and explored vineyards and castles and medieval towns to the south of Paris along the Rhone River Valley and surrounding hills, staying a couple nights across the river from the historic city of Avignon in lodging that was an ancient castle, once the Cardinal's residence. This was my first time visiting Switzerland and France and the food and people were great!



***Clockwise:** Dr. Smith prepares to board the Yate Diamont Bleu (Blue Diamond Yacht) for the International Geographic Congress 3-hour dinner cruise on the Seine River, Paris, France; Arc de Triomphe Monument in Paris, France, at midnight July 16, 2022; Ancient medieval town of St. Ursanne, Switzerland, July 2022 (two photos); beside the Rhone River in the south of France; Betty with friend Alain at Paris Gala.*

In the spring I spent March and May in Charleston clearing out my house to sell. I drove two memorable road trips in large, rented SUV's full of my stuff from Charleston to my new home in northern California, a couple hours north of Sacramento. On the March trip I took the northern route along Interstate 90 through Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, dropping down to Nevada and through Reno to California. I do not recommend doing this trip in March, it was very icy, stormy, and cold. Got stuck a couple nights in Buffalo, Wyoming at a

historic old hotel, fun place to be stuck during a storm. Also got to see some real roaming buffalo in Custer State Park. In May I was ready for a straight shot easy drive along Interstate 80 to California with a few interesting stops along the way, most especially at a historic Basque Restaurant in Nevada.



Top: Heidi is my new livestock protection dog who lives with the sheep, an Anatolian sheep dog, to protect sheep from predators such as mountain lions and coyotes. I lost two lambs to predators last spring. Fortunately, I had 15 lambs left. **Bottom-right:** New ram purchased last year. His name is Orion. He has beautiful horns. He looks forward to getting back in with the females in mid-November. Gestation is 5 months so that will produce lambs in April. **Bottom-left:** The Jacob sheep are a heritage breed, have horns and tend to be small, so were never bred commercially for meat, thus their small numbers and heritage status. It is believed they originated in the Middle East. They tolerate dry heat well, such as the northern Sacramento Valley.

Other than my European adventures and US road trips, I am settling in to raising Heritage Jacob sheep on my Southfork “ranch” of 25 acres located on the Southfork of Cottonwood Creek. I had 15 lambs in April and have two dogs, recently acquired Heidi, a livestock protection dog (Anatolian Sheep dog) that lives with the sheep to protect them at night from predators such as mountain lions and coyotes, and Lucky Zeke, a medium sized dog, half Swiss Mountain dog and half Border Collie, that stays with me mostly around the veranda of the house. I still occasionally poke into my research interests, driving around a recent forest fire in the Sierra Nevada Mountains impacting Ponderosa Way. All for now. Wishing you the best. And I recommend whenever you are able... to take a trip somewhere.

Kind regards to all,

Betty Smith

Dave Viertel

Greetings! I've had a busy and fulfilling year since last Fall, teaching my old familiar classes as well as adding a few new ones to the repertoire (World Regional Geography, for instance). It's always fun to teach a mix of general education classes, undergrad majors, and graduate students and this year has been no exception. It is also rewarding to hear from past students and see them moving upwards in their careers. Drop me a line and let me know how you are doing. I'd love to catch up with you.

Things are going great for my family as well. My daughter Ella is twelve going on twenty now and thinks she needs to pick colleges during the seventh grade! My wife continues to advise over in the Education department—it's nice to have her on campus. My biggest trip of the year was visiting a Michigan beach cottage (got to check Lake Huron off my geography to-do list). We are looking forward to taking a more extended trip to Canada next Summer.



Through an interdisciplinary effort spearheaded by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson (left), Dr. Dave Viertel (right) and his student, Farouk Olaitan, helped determine economic and demographic patterns for Arcola, IL as they embark on city-wide planning to reinvigorate their local economy. The report was well-received, with an article outlining the project and EIU's contributions dominating the front page of the Arcola newspaper after the results were announced.

Support the Students, support the Department – all are welcomed and appreciated!

We have great students, solid programs and meaningful impact on people's careers. You have experienced it, and your support helps to keep it going. Support comes in many guises – passing along job opportunities and internships, visiting the department to give colloquia, equipment and specimen donations and, of course, monetary contributions. These funds are used to afford educational and research materials for student investigations, fund travel to present their projects at conferences now that this is permitted again, provide scholarships for deserving individuals and more. They have many more opportunities due solely to your generous support.

If you are interested in a monetary contribution to our department, please visit <https://www.ciu.edu/giving.php>. Once you accessed that page, you will see the first part where you enter the amount you will be given and a drop-down menu to the right of that to direct your gift to Geology and Geography. It is on the second page of the menu under the “College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” about one third of the way down on that second page. Unfortunately, the Foundation has reworked the website and made it a little more difficult to navigate, but we Geoscientists will not be dissuaded! If you are directing the money to a specific scholarship/fund, please make note of it at the bottom where the instructions ask if the donation is in memory of someone. As always, checks made payable and sent to the Geology and Geography Department will be processed exactly as you direct.

Existing scholarships and funds:

- General Gift Account – unrestricted use towards student support, recruiting, etc.
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- Geology Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geology
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – outstanding junior in Geology or Earth Science
- Robert G. Buzzard Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in Geography
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – at least sophomore Geology major with plans to continue in geology
- Vincent P. and Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – any student majoring in Geography
- Ruby M. Harris Award – senior in Geology, Geography or Earth Science

- Robert and Mary Jorstad Scholarship – junior or senior Geology student or junior or senior in Phys
- Belayet Khan Geography Scholarship – junior or senior Geography student
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship – junior in Geography or Earth Science
- Grace Markwell Meier Award – outstanding member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship – seniors in Geology attending field camp
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in obtaining daily climate data for the National Weather Service
- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography or Earth Science
- Annie L. Weller Scholarship – junior or senior in Geography
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either Mathematics (even years) or Geogrpahy (odd years)
- Troyt York Memorial Scholarship – junior or senior in Geography
- Wise and Stoner Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography – junior or senior in Geography
- Others – establish your own scholarship or memorial fund!

We would especially like to encourage alumni to check for the possibility of matching funds from their employer, as any donation is then multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1 match. Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are appreciated but please contact the department beforehand to ensure optimal use as well as conformance to University regulations. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email or call me – thank you so very much!

Diane M. Burns, Chair
 Email: dmburns@ciu.edu
 Phone: (217) 581-2626

Feeling social? Come see what is going on in social media!

We have Facebook pages and groups – pages are public, but the groups need to have you invited to join. Besides “shout outs” and various GEO-related postings, we also use the groups as a clearinghouse for all job opportunities and internships that come to our attention. If you are looking for a position, you should definitely join! If you know of opportunities, you can either join the group and pass along the information or just send along in an email and we’ll get it posted. To join or to send job opportunities, please email Diane at dmburns@eiu.edu.

Coming soon – Instagram and YouTube!!

More information on the department, faculty, and student opportunities can be found on our website:

eiu.edu/geoscience