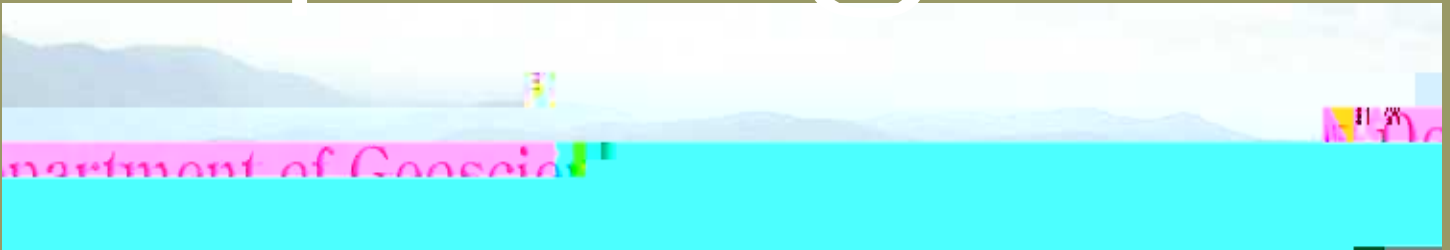


# The Springs



SPRING 2009 | No. 1

# Message from the Chair: Kyle Nichols

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Dear GeoAlum,

I know the newsletter has been on long hiatus, but we are going to do our best to make this an annual event. I hope that if you haven't done so already, you will get in touch with us and provide a few updates of your own so we can continue to include a

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- 1 Faculty and Staff Updates
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# Faculty and Staff Updates

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## ***Brian Bird***

Greetings. For those whom have not heard of me, I am a guest lecturer, teaching Glacial Geology and Structural Geology. I am completing my PhD at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan studying the pervasive deformation of glaciogenic sediments in southwest Michigan. As the Lake Michigan Lobe of the Laurentide Ice Sheet moved out of the basin and across Michigan. I am

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# Faculty and Staff Updates

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Greener is not always gooder. Knock on wood. Fast forward to the Late Holocene. Although Sir Mick and Keith are looking a bit worse for wear of late, we all know that a rolling stone gathers no moss. Department of Geosciences must be really rolling along for there is no moss on us. During the past decade we have changed our name from Geology to Geosciences, changed requirements for both the major and the minor, changed our faculty (except for me), and significantly altered our overall curriculum to better meet the needs and expectations of this new century's students and professionals. While individual course titles have not changed much, course contents have been, and are being, upgraded to reflect the rapidly emerging Earth System paradigm. While I am still busy at naming and describing new species of microscopic Devonian zooplankters, it is now being done within the contexts of sequence and event stratigraphy to better interpret the drivers and very nature of global change. This continues to be a very dynamic time in which to be involved in research and teaching in the soft-rock geosciences. Right now the only end in sight is the end of unfilled space on my book shelves here on campus and at home.

## ***Kim Marsella*** (now in Environmental Studies)

Kim Marsella and her husband, Blue Neils, were blessed with a healthy baby boy recently! Finn Ryder Neils was born in the early morning of January 19, 2009 (just in time to witness the inauguration of our 44th president), weighing in at just under 7 lbs and 20 1/2 inches long. Mom & baby are enjoying the semester off together and are excited to get out hiking as soon as the weather allows. We are pretty sure that Finn loves the river and is planning on being a fluvial geomorphologist!

## ***Kyle Nichols***

I am continuing my line of research using cosmogenic nuclides to quantify rates of Earth's surface change. This past spring break I collected samples in the Rio Chagres basin (in central Panama) with one of our students to determine the link between landsliding and

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# Times, they are A-changin...

Dick Lindemann

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During the spring of 2001 we changed the name of the department from Geology to Geosciences, in part, to move away from the “study of rocks” stereotype and to highlight our courses in the atmospheric and oceanographic realms. Early in the following summer of the administration informed us that the tenure lines held by Ken Johnson and John Thomas would, upon their respective retirements, be excised from the department and placed in the Environmental Studies Program. We lobbied vigorously against this out-of-the-blue pronouncement and were successful in restoring a tenure line for a hydrogeologist/geomorphologist/environmental geologist to the department. The following year we hired Kyle Nichols to wear those hats and Jim McLelland on a two-year contract to teach the hard rock courses that had formerly been John Thomas’ domain. Jim’s contract was extended to a third year after which we were compelled to delete the hard rock side of our curriculum from the college catalog. During this interval Lecturer Kathy Cartwright developed a strong and very popular course in Oceanography and Climatology to augment Kyle’s courses in hydrogeology and geomorphology and to move the department toward our planned Earth System initiative. Visiting Assistant Professor Audeliz Matias joined us for three years to teach in GE 101 Earth Systems

# Welcome, Dr. Amy Frappier!

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I'm the newest full-time faculty member in the Geoscience Department. I grew up in the 'snow belt' of Rhode Island, attended University of Maine, and then moved on to graduate school at University of New Hampshire. After three years at Boston College, I am very happy to be joining the Skidmore community this summer!

As an environmental geologist, I like to pursue open questions about natural hazards and human-climate interactions. I am interested in "paleo-environmental change"; that is, I use the geochemical and stratigraphic records in stalagmites (mineral formations that grow up from the floor of the cave) to study how the Earth's climate has changed over time. My field sites in Central America and the Caribbean are in climatically sensitive regions with large and growing numbers of people where relatively little is known about how global climate change is likely to affect risk from extreme events such as hurricanes and drought. I'm involved with two broad research groups, one focused on quantifying past hurricane activity in the Caribbean and the other on resolving the climatic context of the rise and fall of the Maya civilization in Mexico's Yucatán peninsula over the last three millennia.

**Although caves might seem like the last place to look for evidence of hurricane history, it turns out that stalagmites do contain outstanding records of hurricane rainfall events, volcanic eruptions, and climate variations such as El Niño events. What I like to call the 'Paleoclimate Underground' is a rich but relatively under-utilized paleoclimate archive. My research aims to evaluate past hurricane-climate links by developing long-term records of past hurricane activity from sites around the Atlantic Basin. Ultimately, in conjunction with my colleagues in the Caribbean Paleotempestology Collaborative Research Network, this work will inform projections of future hurricane risk for decision-makers and other stakeholders in affected coastal areas. In the Yucatán, lake records show evidence of a severe 'megadrought' 1000 years ago around the time of the so-called Maya collapse, but the radiocarbon dating is not precise enough to discriminate various causes to which the decline is attributed.**

# What's New in the GIS Center?



# Geo Club Happenings!

Matt Shrensel and Morgan Violette

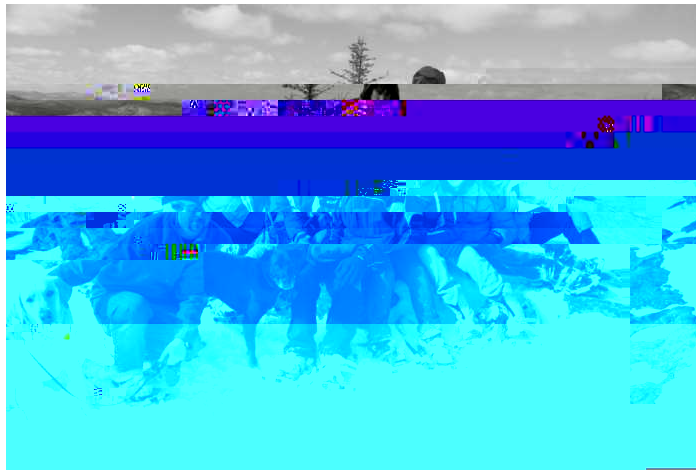
Hey everybody, Strudel ('09) and Morgan ('10) here. Geology club is seeing a big resurgence with additional interest from new majors and even many students outside the department.

We've already had a successful snowshoeing trip, a caving trip, and our annual Leister Park cleanup with our very own Professor Lindemann, bringing the fun of geology to the rest of the community.

We're eagerly awaiting this spring's annual Rock Concert, and hope to put on a great show for everybody. The Rock Concert is scheduled for Friday, April 24 at 3PM in front of the dining hall on Case Green, and we hope to have papier-mâché volcanoes to show off our love for Geology.

We are also planning on one more spelunking excursion in Clarksville Cave and whitewater rafting down the Hudson River.

Most students think Geology is great fun. They just don't know it yet.



Geology club members at the top of Hadley Mountain  
Front (left to right): Bill Stelmack, Aurora Pinkey-Drobnis, Sarah Black, Matt Shrensel, Morgan Violette, Logan Brenner, Genevieve Brett; Back: Jonathan Straus



Geology club members in Clarksville Cave  
Front (left to right): Pat May, Ryan Ong; Back: Kevin Colmar, Matt Shrensel, Sarah Black, Alicea Cock-Esteb, Audrey Wronski

# Semester Abroad: New Zealand

Audrey Wronski

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*Editor's Note: During the spring semester, two Skidmore Geoscience students traveled to New Zealand to participate in the University of Canterbury's new Geology field camp and semester abroad program. The program runs as a two part course. The first five weeks of the*

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# Alumni Notes

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*Skidmore Geology alumni and friends, we need your help! We're in need of pictures for the "Remember When" section of the newsletter. If you have pictures from your time at Skidmore Geology, send them to us and we may use them in a future edition of our publication. You may submit them electronically to [sblack@skidmore.edu](mailto:sblack@skidmore.edu), or in hard-copy to Skidmore College Geosciences Department, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can return them to you!!!*

*We'd like to thank everyone for their information and encourage you to visit the department website at [www.skidmore.edu/academics/geo](http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/geo), where an online Alumni Notes section can be found. We encourage you to visit often and communicate with your classmates, friends, and professors.*

*If you have any pictures you would like to include in your alumni update or in the "Remember When" section, please email them to us at [sblack@skidmore.edu](mailto:sblack@skidmore.edu) along with an appropriate caption.*

*Alumni are listed in alphabetical order, by date of their degree.*

## 2000s

**Black, Erin (2004)** [Erin.Elizabeth.Black@gmail.com](mailto:Erin.Elizabeth.Black@gmail.com)  
Graduated from Dartmouth College in 2008 with Master's in Geoscience. I'm currently teaching science, english, and physical education to K-6 children in southern Spain

**Cleveland, Mike (2006)** [mike.cleveland@gmail.com](mailto:mike.cleveland@gmail.com)  
Working on a Masters in Geophysics under Chuck Ammon at Penn State University

**Drake, Courtney W. (2001)** [drakecw@cdm.com](mailto:drakecw@cdm.com)  
I work for Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc. which is an Engineering and Environmental consulting company. I am part of their Environmental Remediation Division and work mostly on Phase I site investigations. I have extensive experience with drilling (geotechnical and environmental) as well as soil and groundwater sampling. I'm getting married this September (to another geologist – but not from Skidmore). Our wedding will be in Mystic Connecticut.

**Feuer, Dan (2005)** [dwfeuer@gmail.com](mailto:dwfeuer@gmail.com)  
Currently in the first year of a two year MS program in Environmental Science at Oregon State University.

**Lisaius, Chelsea (2008)** [c.lisaius@gmail.com](mailto:c.lisaius@gmail.com)  
Currently I am living in Costa Rica working as a property manager at a surf camp hostel. I am also working as a surf instructor at the same location. I am loving everything about it. I am located on the Pacific Coast in Playa Grande and the place I work at is called Playa Grande Surf Camp. My friend, who is also a Skidmore Alum: Kacey Schneider, and I found the job with much luck and our boss was very impressed that we graduated from Skidmore. We both learned how to surf when we got down here and manage the hostel. I get to meet amazing people and actually two of the owners of the hostel are Geologists in Britain. I have also met about 7 others coming through the camp, so I still get to discuss geology more than I expected. I am

learning more Spanish every day and loving the 70 plus degree weather everyday!

**Lyons, Davin (2006)** [davinlyons@gmail.com](mailto:davinlyons@gmail.com)  
Currently looking for a job in San Francisco. I just got back from living in Manizales, Colombia where I was teaching high school biology and earth science and playing a lot of ultimate frisbee.

**Ng, Melissa (2008)** [melissang86@gmail.com](mailto:melissang86@gmail.com)  
Pursuing masters in Environmental Engineering at Tufts University.

**Polivy, David (2001)** [dave@tahoemountainsports.com](mailto:dave@tahoemountainsports.com)  
I own Tahoe Mountain Sports ([www.tahoemountainsports.com](http://www.tahoemountainsports.com)) so if anybody needs any outdoor gear, use checkout code Skidmore to get 10% off your whole order. I also just had a baby girl named Adina Clare Polivy and married Pam Jahnke this summer.

## 1990s

**Chesbro, Rob (1997)** [bessbeetle@yahoo.com](mailto:bessbeetle@yahoo.com)  
Teaching 8th grade Physical Science in Skillman, NJ; have published 3 articles on science pedagogy; writing a kids book on lizards; got teacher of the year!

**Goslee, George (1993)** [gfgoslee@hotmail.com](mailto:gfgoslee@hotmail.com)  
Currently a finance manager for NetApp, a high-tech company in California

**Grasso, Neal C. (1996)** [nealgrasso@gmail.com](mailto:nealgrasso@gmail.com)  
I am working as a Senior Geologist in environmental consulting where I apply my skills as a professional geologist (New Hampshire PG) to site remediation and litigation support. Married (Stacie Alimenti Grasso, class of 1996) with two kids; Mia (5) and Michael (2). Enjoying the beaches and history of living north of Boston.

## Alumni Notes (continued)

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School in West Roxbury, MA

**Butcher, Sam (1986)** sbutcher@goldmanenvironmental.com  
I am terrible at keeping in touch with classmates though I swapped emails recently with Ted West (86) and Liz (Mahoney) Roberge (86), both of whom are doing well. With me in the Northeast, Ted on the West Coast and Liz in Florida we are about as far apart as classmates can get and still be on the same continent. Based on my limited contact, they are both doing well. I am sorely tempted to make up a story about Liz being tour fixture on the professional gator wrestling circuit and Ted fulfilling his career ambition as a perpetual reality TV show contestant but I suspect their lives are much tamer. Though none of us are really doing any geology in our current vocations, I suspect I am working in a field that is most closely related to geology – that is, environmental consulting. With that said, I do too little real science and spend most of my days being hassled by lawyers and arguing with other consultants. I still fondly think back to the summer field camp between Junior and Senior year. Now those are pictures that can never see the light of day! With that said, I must say that I do like my job and I owe a great deal to all that I learned at the Geology Department in Skidmore. Great colleagues and great professors.

**Halpert, Jonathan (1984)** jhalpert@nycap.rr.com  
Married with two kids. Currently working as a medical director for Prime Care Physicians, a large multispecialty practice based in Albany, NY.

**LaMothe, Wayne (1982)** wlamothe82@skidmore.edu  
Since graduation I have been with Warren County (Lake George, NY) in various capacities and now serve as special projects director. That means they find all sorts of projects and I have to find a way to make them work. I am married to a wonderful woman and we live on a mountain top in Bolton Landing. She is no longer able to work due to an illness and we take the opportunity to raise awareness about her illness. An article from a Sept 2006 Post Star is at <http://www.superglider.thinkhost.com/Lisa-1.jpg> and <http://www.superglider.thinkhost.com/Lisa-2.jpg>

**Taylor, Laura (1983)** ltaylor@relevanttechnologies.com  
I have been living in Columbia, Maryland with my 15 year old son Sammy since 2002. I work in computer security and am the owner and founder of both Relevant Technologies ([www.relevanttechnologies.com](http://www.relevanttechnologies.com)) and the FISMA Center ([www.fismacenter.com](http://www.fismacenter.com)). Aside from keeping the day to day operations of the company going, I write computer security articles for various publications, do consulting for U.S. federal agencies, and teach various companies, U.S. federal agencies, and universities on how to comply with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). Last year I went up and taught my class at Yale University. Other students of my class include the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, Pentagon staff, IRS, NASA, Australian Department of Defense and others listed here: [http://www.fismacenter.com/default.asp?inc=training\\_clients](http://www.fismacenter.com/default.asp?inc=training_clients). I authored the leading book (*FISMA Certification and Accreditation Handbook*) on how to comply with FISMA which was published in 2006. A picture of my book is here: [www.fismacenter.com](http://www.fismacenter.com). It's available on Amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Noble and most major bookstores.  
When not working, most of my time is taken up with driving my son to lots of swim meets and water polo practices and games, and trying to keep him from spending his life playing World of Warcraft. It

seems I never have much free time, though last summer I managed to squeak in a trip to Europe and visited Paris, Milan, Rome, Florence, and the Amalfi Coast.

I recently was back up at Skidmore for an afternoon in February when I had a meeting at RPI. I went into Case Center and had a Diet Pepsi but then had to run off to catch a plane. All of the Internet kiosks were certainly new. With the exception of some new buildings, the campus looked mostly the same though the trees were bigger. I don't know if my son will want to apply there or not, but I'll probably bring him up for a tour just in case.

**Waldman Kotkowski, Alyson (1982)**  
alysonwaldman@rcn.com  
Management /IT Consultant, married, mother of a 5 year old boy, own 47 acres of woods on top of hillside in NH with sweeping views of the mountains where I hope to build a log cabin & retire some day and in the meantime have a house in the woods with views of the mountains & near a beautiful lake where I try to visit as much as possible, when I'm not in a hockey rink watching my son play

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### 1970s

**Eldredge, Sandy (1978)** sandyeldredge@utah.gov  
Program Manager Of the Geological Information and Outreach Program at the Utah Geological Survey.

**Hegemann, Ingeborg (1976)** IHegemann@BSCGroup.com  
Vice President, BSC Companies

**Kirkpatrick, Steffenie (nee: Oliver) (1974)**  
Steffokirk@aol.com  
I have been retired from my professional career for 12 years, after 10 years in environmental consulting, 5 years in petroleum exploration geophysics, and 5 years in marine engineering consulting. I like my current job the best!  
My main hobby now is weaving and natural dyeing. We also travel a lot and always check out the geology wherever we go. My husband Gerry is a geologist, too, so family trips were a trial for our daughter, Fiona, when she was younger! We had a great trip (without her) in 2007 to Scotland, including Lewis and Harris. The Lewisian gneiss is striking - we came home with several beach cobbles, which always seems to confound the security staff at the airport!  
My life has been filled with volunteer work the last decade, but this year I have started to cut back on those activities so I can spend more time with my looms and my dye pots. I have been very active in the Skidmore Annual Fund for more years than I care to remember - perhaps I will retire from that job soon, also!

**McKendree, Bill (1974)** mckendree@thelclariongroup.com  
After graduation I worked first for a boat builder in Maine for 10 months....something I had to get out of my system. I then was hired by the New York State Geological Survey to work on a NASA grant to study movement in the earth's crust. My chief geologist was a fine geologist and person, Yngvar Isachsen. From this work and over several years, I found myself being brought into addressing the woes of managing a large global team of researchers from different fields trying to work together. For whatever reason, I found I had a talent for knowing what to do. This eventually led me into more management and less research and eventually onto graduate school in Organizational Behavior.  
After graduate school, I went "corporate," wanting to understand the

## Alumni Notes (continued)

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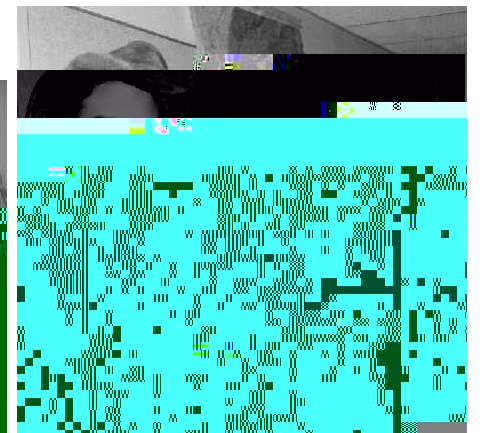
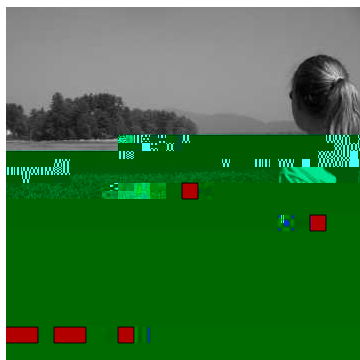
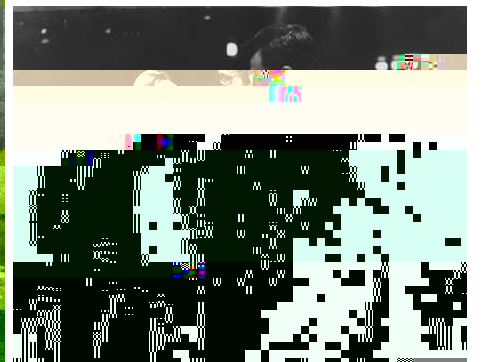
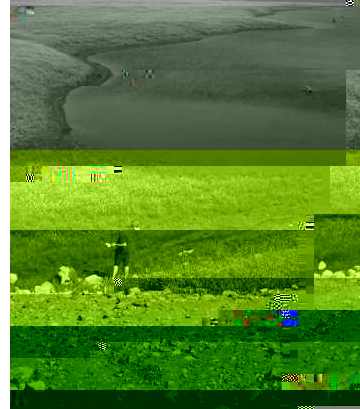
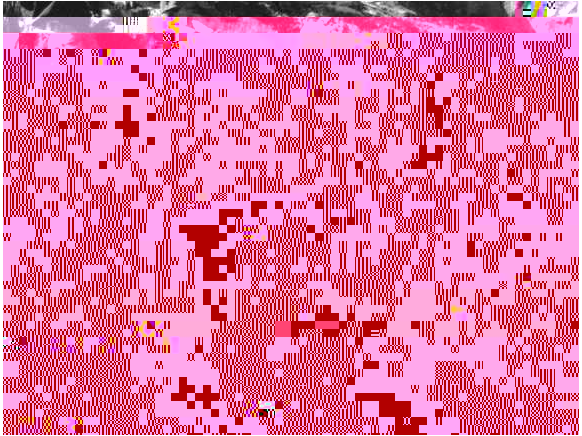
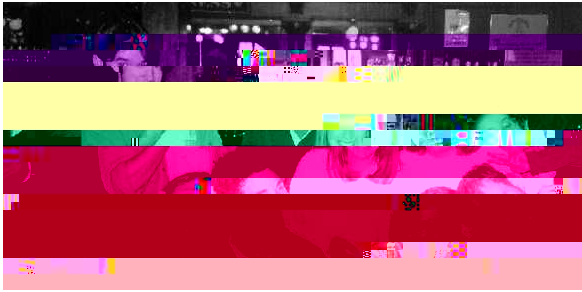
dynamics and challenges of working within complex organizational systems. I happened to do well in that setting so stayed longer than I ever thought I would (14 years.) Finally, I decided to go entrepreneurial and started my own consulting firm, The Clarion Group. We advise executives on issues related to their businesses being successful. It has been a long go of it since, and fortunately we have done well. Today we have an office in CT and one in Seattle. And it all started because of this dysfunctional global team of scientists in 1975.....

***Neville, Alec (1978)*** aneville@petrocap.com  
Oil and Gas private equity

***Riehle, Hudson (1975)***  
Senior Vice President, Research & Information Services Group,  
National Restaurant Association

***Roach, Deb (nee: Gosnell) (1976)*** dgroach16@aol.com  
I have 2 great part time jobs: I'm the Librarian at the US Geological Survey Pennsylvania Water Science Center, New Cumberland, PA; also, a Reference Librarian at New Cumberland Public Library. I was very saddened at the death of fellow '76 geol. major Marsha Ward in a car accident in Dallas last spring. Reunions won't be the same without her...

# Remember when...?



## Alumni: Want more than just an annual newsletter?

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Check out our new department alumni page!

[www.skidmore.edu/academics/geo/People/Alumni/Alumni.htm](http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/geo/People/Alumni/Alumni.htm)

Read and submit alumni updates

Complete our alumni survey

Find out about alumni events you can get involved with:

Reunions and parties

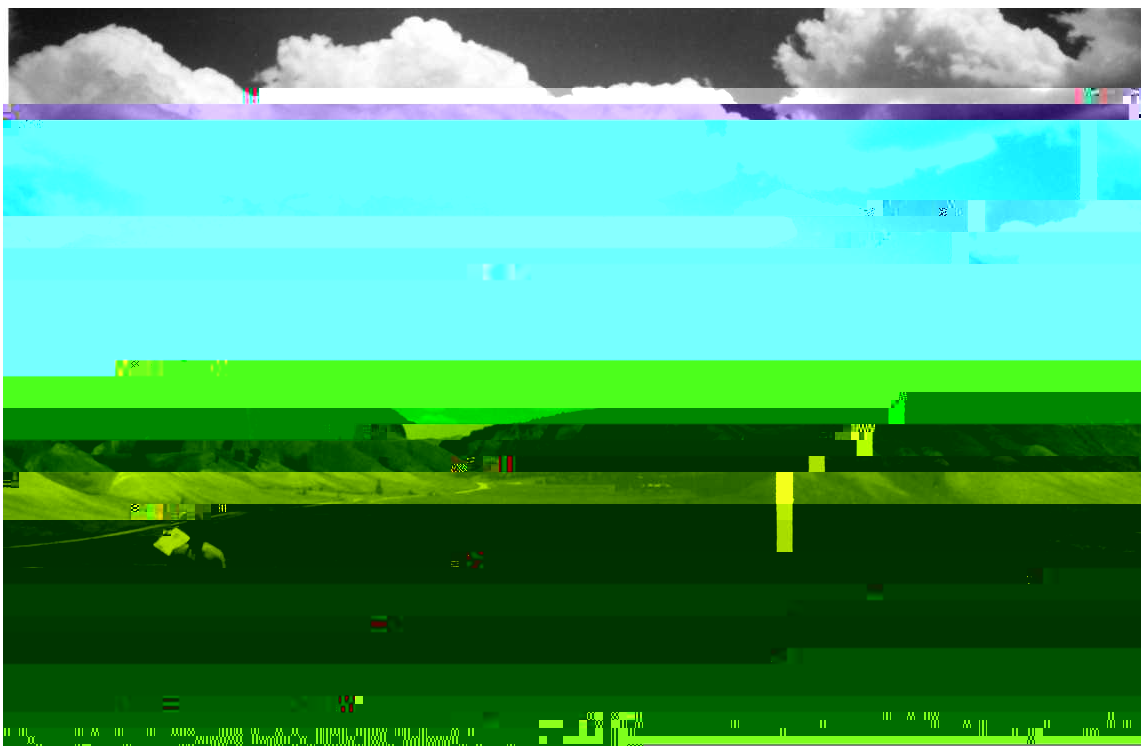
Mentoring

Trips

Alumni panels

Skidmore Geology Alumni are on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/pages/Skidmore-Geology-Alumni/90584566895](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Skidmore-Geology-Alumni/90584566895)



# Lost Alumni

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Please help us build our alumni information! If you know where any of these GeoAlums are or their current contact information, please let us know so we can get in touch with them!

Do you see yourself on here? Take a minute to fill out the alumni update form in the back of the newsletter or online so we can hear from you!

Ellen Weinstein Adnopoz	Charlotte I. Goddard
Luke W. Amoroso	Elizabeth Alligood Good
Sara Nolan Arnell	Melissa Garlock Goodspeed
Thomas G. Arnold	Ruth Scheufele Gorman
Linda Cooke Ashley	Melissa A. Grant-Hatlee
Ian C. Asmussen	Benjamin I. Green
Patrick S. Baker	Kimberly R. Greene
Marianne Prins Baz-Prins	Daniel E. Haar
Emily H. Belt	Jennifer Ryan Hagar
Nicholas E. Berkun	Karen Traugh Hajdarwish
Katherine M. Bither	Catherine A. Hambleton
Geoffrey R. Booras	Steven E. Hanson
Dianne Webster Bordoni	Karen Esselstyn Hardy
Alan D. Bouknight	Carrie Schillinger Hare
Katherine Durham Brechner	Sandra Seniff Haskell
Keely M. Brooks	
John H. Broomfield	
Adam B. Brown	
Gregory C. Bruno	
Alex C. Buerle	
Lisa Romano Burkhammer	
Jennifer Richards Burns	
William Y. Campbell	
John J. Canzeri	
Cynthia Blum Carroll	
Jennifer Warner Carter	
Catherine Gosnell Carter	
Mary McAvity Cerulli	
Megan E. Chadwick	
Christianne Clancy	
Frederick P. Cocca	
Mary Bennett Conboy	
Alyssa Moss Cunningham	
Matthew De Luca	
David G. Dempsey	
Anne Vinal Denison	
Christopher R. Detwiller	
Tina Rimmer Deveny	
Daniel E. Dietch	
Janet Olotka Dugdale	
Derek F. Eaton	
Tavis C. Eddy	
Jodell Carlson Egelson	
Katherine Kelly Ellins	
Jennifer Yingling Farron	
W. Ross Foniri	
Andrew M. Forrest	
Peter W. Frautschi	
Craig M. Frederick	
Brian K. Gabriel	
James R. Gascoyne	
Heather Johnson Gelwick	
Caroline Brustman Gilbert	



# Alumni and friends, we need your help!

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*Skidmore Geology alumni and friends, we need your help! We're in need of pictures for the "Remember When" section of the newsletter. If you have pictures from your time at Skidmore Geology, send them to us and we may use them in a future edition of our publication. You may submit them electronically to [sblack@skidmore.edu](mailto:sblack@skidmore.edu), or in hard-copy to Skidmore College Geosciences Department, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can return them to you!!!*

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# Would you like to receive an electronic newsletter instead?

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Please fill out the following and mail to:

Skidmore College Department of Geoscience  
Geoscience Newsletter  
815 North Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

OR email the following information to:

sblack@skidmore.edu



Name:

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Mailing Address:

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Email Address:

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Thank you!