

# The Springs

Department of Geosciences

SKIDMORE  
COLLEGE

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# 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 robust "Alumni Notes" section every year. It doesn't have to be geologically related, just something to keep all of your friends updated. While we will try to update you on the latest events in the department, please check out the department website (<http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/geo/>) once in a while to see other things that we are up to. I hope this greeting finds you all well.

## Department Updates

The 2008-2009 academic year is just about completed and another class is added to our stratigra<sup>du</sup>ate column. The past two years have been very busy in the Department of Geosciences. Kathy Cartwright, after serving as chair from 2006 to 2008, decided to retire from Skidmore last spring to pursue her exploding art career (check out <http://www.kacartwright.com/>). Kathy had been with us since 1995 and was integral to the life of the department and inspired countless students. This spring Kathy made an encore performance and taught Oceanography one last time. Of course, Kathy's excellent teaching will be missed and will be difficult to replace. But, because of her success we were able to convert her position into a tenure-track line and this year we conducted a national search. We are excited to announce that Amy Frappier, previously from Boston College, will be joining us in August, 2009. Amy comes to Skidmore with a wealth of research experience and excellent teaching. Although we are sad to see Kathy leave, we are very excited to welcome Amy to our team. With Amy's addition, as our new climate scientist, Skidmore is constructing a new research laboratory. In her lab, Amy will analyze the isotopic ratios of stalagmites and reconstruct climate signals, among other things.

Amy is not the only new addition to the team. In 2007, Kim Marsella moved into a Lecturer and Environmental Coordinator role in the Environmental Studies Program. While Kim no longer teaches in Geosciences, she is only down the hall and is still a great Geoscience resource on campus. This past fall Sarah Black joined our team to teach GE 101 and GE 102 labs. In her short time, she has already proven her worth through her teaching and recruitment efforts. Again, we are too lucky to have found such a skilled and enthusiastic colleague. Please read Sarah's contribution to see what she has been up to, besides breaking her ankle playing rugby.

This past academic year we were also the lucky to have Brian Bird teach a couple of courses for us. He taught Glacial Geology and Structural Geology and the students loved him. He is finishing his dissertation from Michigan Tech and will remain in the area. So, hopefully he will be a talented resource for us for years to come.

Lastly, a few personnel 'non-updates'. Eleanor Hutchins is still keeping us all on track. Eleanor continues to work her magic in the departmental office and smooth over all of my mistakes. Her competence allows us to focus on our tasks while she takes care of the not-so-fun aspects of the departmental duties. And finally, Dick Lindemann is still in the Devonian, or should I say doing his research in the Devonian. It only seems fitting that he always offers the baseline perspective for our recently changing department climate.

Sincerely,



Kyle Nichols

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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 it advanced over older glacial deposits and in doing so folded and faulted these sediments. There is a strange satisfaction in solving a puzzle by digging through the dirt, collecting some data with a Brunton compass, and deciphering that data in order to get a picture of the dynamics of a glacier that has been removed from the area for at least 15,000 years.

I have truly enjoyed each of the groups I have taught here at Skidmore. The opportunity to teach here has been very rewarding. I am currently teaching glacial geology with a lab this summer. We have been able to get outside each week to get our hands dirty. I am awed each time I go into the field around Saratoga and see the wealth of geologic features, both glacially and structurally, right here in our backyard.

## **Sarah Black**

This is my first year here at Skidmore and I am absolutely loving it. I am a volcanologist and planetary geologist. I study geologic processes occurring on any solid body in our solar system, but my particular interest is in volcanoes. Before coming to Skidmore, I worked for Malin Space Science Systems where I operated the Mars Orbiter Camera on the Mars Global Surveyor before that spacecraft was lost in October 2006. I then began operating the Context Camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. It was extremely interesting and exciting to be one of the first people on the planet to see the images as they came down from the spacecraft every morning, and I loved being able to decide what to image next. After a year "on Mars," we returned to the east coast so I could pursue a teaching degree and I was lucky enough to end up here at Skidmore. I joined the faculty in September 2008 to teach GE 101 and 102 labs. Kyle and I had a great time creating new and exciting 101 labs during the fall semester, and I just finished teaching 102 with Dick this spring. This summer I'll be busy teaching 101, competing in our first agility trial with my dog, Jade, recovering from annoying rugby injuries, and getting married to my best friend and fellow geologist, Bill Stelmack, in August!



## **Kathy Cartwright** (retired)

After thirteen and a half years teaching Geoscience courses at Skidmore, I decided to move on to pursue my interests in the world of fine art as a professional painter. I entered the art world in the 1960's and never really left it. At this point, my full-time attention is needed to handle the large number of annual exhibitions and commissions of my work. However, I continue to be excited by all things geologic and have returned to teach GE 112: Oceanography during the Spring '09 semester while the department searches for new faculty. It's somewhat like a rock group's reunion tour after their farewell tour. However, I'll permanently depart Skidmore in May. During my years in the department, I had the privilege to meet and get to know those of you from the classes of 1995 to 2008 and many continue to keep in touch, which gives me great pleasure. It's good to know what you've done with your lives. Dan and I enjoy our homes in New York and Maine and hope that you'll stop by and say hello if you're nearby. You'll find me at an easel, brush in one hand and beverage in the other. Life is good!

## **Eleanor Hutchins**

For twenty-three years I have been the secretary/administrative assistant for the Geosciences/Geology Department. I began in 1985, the first year the Department separated from the Chemistry and Physics Departments, when Kenneth Johnson was the Department Chair. In addition to working half-time for the Geosciences Department during the academic year, I also work half-time as Administrative Assistant for the Health Professions Advisory Committee, coordinating the Pre-Med Program. Getting to know the students and our unique majors as they journey through Skidmore and beyond is the most rewarding part of this job. The most rewarding part of my life, however, is being "Nanny" to my four beautiful grandchildren and "Mom" to my beautiful bearded collie mix, Annie. My Daughter Elizabeth is a stay-at-home Mom to Michael and Isabella and my son John is a partner in a Washington, DC law firm and a great Dad to Matthew and Charlotte. It's always a pleasure to hear from and see the Geo Alums when they return for a visit.

## **Dick Lindemann**

Not so long ago in a place not so far away life in the biosphere was good and the global climate was mild. Back then biodiversity was high and tropical reefs thrived into what are now the upper temperate latitudes. For millions of years the seas rose and fell, species evolved and went extinct, but all was in balance. Then something started to get out of whack. The first signs of this are fairly abrupt faunal turnovers that coincide with the deposition of black shales. Over time the faunal turnovers intensified and become more frequent and the black shales grew thicker. Before long most of the extant marine phytoplankters went extinct, followed by the zooplankton, and so forth up the food chain. This culminated in a mass extinction event that wiped out about three fourths of the species in the marine biosphere and was approximately coincident with an abrupt drop in Earth's mean annual temperature dropping to the point that the planet entered a protracted ice age. How long ago was this, you ask? The Late Devonian, about 370 million years ago. And what caused it? The primary driver of the Late Devonian mass extinction appears to have been a pronounced reduction in atmospheric carbon dioxide resulting from a global upswing in photosynthesis within the recently evolved and rapidly expanding coastal and inland swamp forests.

# 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 basin-wide erosion rates interpreted from cosmogenic  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data. The trip was a success and the samples are being processed as you read this. As a side note, our jungle taxi (an old helicopter) that was supposed to fly us out of the jungle decided not to start one morning and we had to spend an extra day and an extra night in the rainforest until someone realized that we were missing. All was well the next

day when another helicopter found us on a point bar playing 'Chagres bocce' as we passed the time.

This summer I am starting fieldwork in the Adirondack Mountains to quantify the impact of old logging dams (splash dams) on headwater stream morphology and on lake deposition. I will spend many summer days hiking Adirondack streams and trails and looking for old logging dam foundations and surveying the adjacent streams. This winter one of our students will start to core some of the lakes in order to quantify sediment deposition rates.

On the teaching front, I am still teaching my old stand-bys, Geomorphology and Hydrology. Recently, I have inherited GE 101 and Sarah and I are having ball teaching it. Last spring, I taught Geology of the American Southwest and took the class on a field trip during spring break. This past spring I taught Current Events in Geoscience Topics and the relevance of what we do even surprises me. Lastly, one of my favorite classes is the First-year student seminar, Hollywood's Perception of Science. I am always looking for new ideas for this course, so please send me your favorite ideas for movies.



It's never a good sign when you're stuck in the jungle and the pilot looks "under the hood."

## **John Thomas** (retired)

The day after I retired I started working at the Yaddo Rose Gardens at the Yaddo Artists Retreat. I have been working three mornings a week from the end of April to early November. I swore at the age of 12 that I would never garden again, but am having a wonderful time caring for over 1500 rose bushes in one of four gardens and working with wonderful people. Also, I have been building houses with Habitat for Humanity. For four years I continued to work the Girl Scouts of the Adirondacks, helping to raise over \$1,000,000 for a new service center. I was also a member of the committee that worked to consolidate four councils into Girl Scouts of Northeast New York. After that I gladly retired from Girl Scouting. Aside from working at home on a variety of projects, Barbara and I have been doing a lot of traveling within the U.S. The latest were a trip last fall to explore the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains and a variety of national and state parks there, and an Amtrak trip just completed from Albany to Chicago, New Orleans, Tucson, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Chicago and back home with stops along the way to explore. You can read about other trips through 2006 at <http://www.skidmore.edu/~jthomas/>. I have not kept them up to date for quite a while.

# Times, they are A-changin...

Dick Lindemann

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 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 courses 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 Science as well as courses in planetary geology, her area of expertise. Teaching Associate Sarah Black joined the team this past fall and is doing wonderful work in the GE 101 and GE 102 labs. A great deal of lobbying and a change in the administration bore fruit this past year in the restoration of the third tenure line. That position has now been filled by soon-to-be Assistant Professor Dr. Amy Frappier.



*Clockwise from left:*  
GE 101 students at  
the springs in  
Saratoga Spa State  
Park; Scenes from  
the Geoscience  
Department Spring  
Equinox Barbeque;  
GE 101 students at  
Stark’s Knob in  
Schuylerville, NY



# 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 one would look for evidence of hurricane history, it turns out that some stalagmites 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 by archaeologists. Cave formations can be much more precisely dated and are often annually layered, making it possible to tie key paleoclimate variations to the cultural record.

Because stalagmite-based paleoclimatology is a relatively young field, I am also engaged in studying modern cave processes to understand how short-lived events are recorded in the sedimentary record. In the field, we deploy battery-powered datalogging sensors that record cave temperature, relative humidity, and drip rate for 1-2 years at a time. My students and I use very high resolution stable isotope and trace element analysis of stalagmite calcite to extract information about environmental changes at inter-annual to weekly resolution. I am one of the few paleoclimatologists who still has one foot in the hard rock camp. Working with crystalline calcite material, I still use those favorite tools of the classical geologist: hammer and chisel, rock saws, polished cross-sections, and thin sections. I enjoy the challenge of working in cave environments, because their complexity requires one to draw from many subdisciplines in the geosciences: hydrology, biogeochemistry, geomorphology, stratigraphy, geochronology, mineralogy, and more.

It's going to be a tumultuous summer! My husband Brian and 1.5-year-old son, Luc, are very enthusiastic about moving to Saratoga Springs from Boston – we've already found a house and have made friends with the ducks in Congress Park. We're working on making the house energy and water-use efficient and planning an organic garden. My colleagues on the Maya project and I had planned fieldwork in Mexico this summer, but that trip had to be postponed because of the H1N1 swine flu outbreak. Instead, I'll attend a workshop in Virginia with Kyle Nichols and Sarah Black, and two meetings in eastern New York to get to know my new academic neighbors.

Looking further ahead, I anticipate engaging Skidmore Geoscience students in learning about the past, present, and future of the Earth System with courses in Climatology, Oceanography, Global Biogeochemical Cycles, and Paleoclimatology. I'll be taking students out into the field to better know the region. I will also be recruiting a few outstanding students for research on hurricane-climate interactions, tropical Paleoclimate, and cave depositional systems. The Department and I are working toward establishing a state-of-the-art stable isotope laboratory in new space on the north side of the Dana Science Center. The lab space will be complete by the time classes resume in the Fall, and I have already begun to seek funding to purchase the instrumentation. In the coming years, I am also looking to develop local projects on climate and ecological change in the Northeast and pollution in the Capitol-Adirondacks region. I hope to meet some of you on campus, biking through town, or around the 'geological block'!

Amy Frappier, Ph.D.

(Soon-to-be) Assistant Professor of Geoscience and  
Lubin Family Professor for Women in Science



The GIS Center for Interdisciplinary Research hosted a regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference on Friday, January 9. This is the fourth year that this intersession conference has been offered. Twenty-one people, from both academia and industry, attended the conference. The attending instructional technologists, faculty, and local GIS practitioners discussed how they are using GIS, new tools and statistical methods, and their experiences in general. Overall, the attendees to the conference enjoyed the mix of participants, the breadth of presenter expertise and content, and the chance to meet and converse with others.

There were three presenters visiting from academic institutions. Carol Cady, from St. Lawrence University, presented on "Mapping Existing and Potential Forest and Grassland Biomass Resources in St. Lawrence County, NY, Using GIS." Carol's presentation highlighted a vector-based approach to identifying croplands and pastures that may have potential for growing switchgrass for biomass. Jenni Lund, from Wheaton College, delivered her presentation (co-authored with Andy Anderson from Amherst College) titled, "Morans I: Are those clusters random or meaningful?" Her presentation looked at crime data from New Orleans and used the Morans I statistic to determine if the crime distribution was random or if there was statistically significant geographic clustering occurring. Sharron Macklin, from Williams College, presented "Developing, Managing and Supporting GIS: Spatial Technologies in the Liberal Arts." In her presentation she discussed the implications of managing GIS on a college campus, including licensing options, training/education philosophy, and other practical suggestions for GIS support staff.

Two conference presenters were from Skidmore College. K. Maeve Powlick, Department of Economics, offered a hands-on session titled, "Using Modelbuilder and Python Coding to Automate Demographic Analysis." Her workshop gave users the opportunity to work with a GIS model, to view how Modelbuilder integrates with GIS tools, and to understand how looping can be used to automate tasks. Sharon P. McLelland, a student in the MALS program, offered her presentation, "Meteorological Influences on Mercury Air Pollution in the Adirondacks." In her project, GIS was used for organizing a large amount of data from different sources, for determining sample sites, and for her environmental analysis.

There were two presentations from local professionals in the GIS industry. James A. Zack, from Saratoga Associates, presented, "Use of GIS, Landscape Visualization Software, and Applications Programming to Validate Visual Impacts and to Guide Regulatory Policy." He overviewed his process for visualizing potential development along a lakeshore, guiding potential policy decisions with regards to tree thinning, optimizing distances and angles for siting homes, and maintaining the natural visual character of the mountainside. His presentation sparked a conversation about GIS software and 3D visualization alternatives in the marketplace. Linda Rockwood, from Mohawk Valley GIS, presented, "Manifold IMS: An affordable, true GIS, internet map service." Her talk highlighted a GIS website that she completed for the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission. She went on to show how desktop Manifold GIS can create an interactive GIS website. For many participants this was a first look at Manifold GIS, and attendees seemed interested to learn more.



# 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

*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 course is spent in the field and covers several different sites across New Zealand. During this time, students collect data and develop a research project. Upon returning to campus, the students enroll as regular full-time students for the semester, and continue their research projects for the duration of their time on campus. The following is an update from junior Geoscience major, Audrey Wronski. Audrey is also joined by Vincent Weeks, another junior Geoscience major.*

Things are going really well here in New Zealand. Vince and I are starting our second week of classes at the University of Canterbury and it's looking like it will be a fantastic semester. As far as geology courses, we are both taking structure, I'm taking Mineralogy and Vince is taking Evolution of the Biosphere.

Field camp was FANTASTIC. The first two modules were mapping exercises in the South Island. We spent a week at Castle Hill Basin learning the basics of mapping. Castle Hill is actually the film site for part of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe (the battle scene). We then set off for the west coast of the South Island where we did more mapping exercises, and discussed basin evolution.

For the second half of camp, we went to the North Island where we did some great hiking and studied a lot about volcanoes. We mapped and dated lava flows from Mt Ngaruhoe which is Mt. Doom from the Lord Of The Rings movies. We also got to observe lahar deposits from I believe it was 2007 from Mt Ruapehu. We got to hike up to the crater of Ruapehu (my very first time on a volcano!) which was amazing. We also studied and mapped hot springs- and got to relax in them. Finally, we went to the Bay of Plenty to study the Whakatane Graben, and how it has evolved using augering and GPR.

So, it was a very exciting five weeks! We learned so much. Hope everything is going well at Skidmore. I hope it's not too cold- the weather has been fantastic here!



# 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

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**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

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**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. Slowly rehabilitating a 130 year old house, and enjoying every minute of it (almost!).

**Levenduski, K. Nina (1999)** [k11duski@hotmail.com](mailto:k11duski@hotmail.com)  
Currently employed as a Hydrogeologist with an environmental consulting/engineering firm in CT. Married in 2006, 2 "kids" (Golden Retriever and Border Collie/Australian Cattle mix). Other things I've been up to since graduation: I currently serve as a board member and do volunteer work, bird walks and geology walks for a local chapter of National Audubon Society. Former board member of one of the oldest land conservation trusts in CT. My husband and I lead hikes and teach basic whitewater kayak skills for the CT Chapter of AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club). My Border Collie mix & I have started dog agility classes (she's really motivated & would love to compete if only Mom had more time.....). Other jobs I've had since college: Geotechnical consultant specializing in blasting consulting, GIS technician for a power company consultant, English teacher in Hungary, groom/exercise rider for polo ponies, state park staff. Currently liking the pay/benefits/security of the current job, but I do not get as much job satisfaction from it as I'd like (except for weeks like this one where I supervised the removal of about 300 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil from a former gas station).

## 1980s

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**Beatrice, Diane (nee: Junghanns) (1982)** [ddnm4@aol.com](mailto:ddnm4@aol.com)  
Computer Science Teacher (grades K-6) at the Holy Name Parish

## 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](https://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  
Luke W. Amoroso  
Sara Nolan Arnell  
Thomas G. Arnold  
Linda Cooke Ashley  
Ian C. Asmussen  
Patrick S. Baker  
Marianne Prins Baz-Prins  
Emily H. Belt  
Nicholas E. Berkun  
Katherine M. Bither  
Geoffrey R. Booras  
Dianne Webster Bordon  
Alan D. Bouknight  
Katherine Durham Brechner  
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

Charlotte I. Goddard  
Elizabeth Alligood Good  
Melissa Garlock Goodspeed  
Ruth Scheufele Gorman  
Melissa A. Grant-Hatlee  
Benjamin I. Green  
Kimberly R. Greene  
Daniel E. Haar  
Jennifer Ryan Hagar  
Karen Traugh Hajdarwish  
Catherine A. Hambleton  
Steven E. Hanson  
Karen Esselstyn Hardy  
Carrie Schillinger Hare  
Sandra Seniff Haskell  
Brian K. Hastings  
Edward B. Hauser  
Wendy Hayward  
Thalia Hearne  
Andrew Henrikson  
Douglas A. Herbst  
Anne K. Hewes  
Meredith A. Higbie  
Dana Hayward Hooper  
Fraser M. Horn  
Ryan L. Hullings  
Sara L. Ike  
Kirk T. Jacobsen  
Elisabeth Huntington James  
Andrew D. Joy  
Anna L. Kaye  
Brendan K. Kehde  
Debra L. Kelsey  
Jennifer A. Khoury  
Karin Bohacek Kirk  
Brian F. Klingler  
Jessica M. Kobb  
Susan Wood Kopacko  
Mary Jank Kopydlowski  
Leeron Kuller  
Catherine J. Langley  
Arlette Schumm Levitan  
Eileen O'Neil Litts  
Jane MacAlla Livingston  
Frances Fuchs Lohnes  
George Longworth  
Francisco Lopez  
Douglas A. Lord  
Peter M. MacDonald  
Jean E. MacLeay  
Jacqueline Lazrus Maidman  
Judy Behrens Martin  
Marie Bunting McClune

James K. McCormack  
Richard W. McCoy  
Richard A. Mellon  
David A. Melycher  
Margo Pattison Menger  
Randy G. Miczek  
Tracy West Miller  
Edward S. Mills  
Gregg F. Moore  
John P. Moore  
Jeffrey S. Moore  
David P. Moran  
Michael W. Moss  
Jason A. Moulton  
John M. Naples  
Margaret Bloomer Naus  
Victoria Greenspan Newton  
David Benjamin O'Connor  
Jillian Z. Oldoerp  
Richard E. Ostrov  
John A. O'Toole  
Mary L. Passaretti  
Andrea R. Paternoster  
Mary J. Patterson  
Sarah Koether Patterson  
Simeon P. Pecchia  
Nancy Barbarino Pendleton  
Luca D. Peppe  
Susan Jurras Piatt  
Jesse M. Pitt  
Mary Barada Pond  
Judith C. Preston  
Susan M. Razzano  
Robert Reece  
Krista L. Reichert  
Lucas J. Reusser  
Ian J. Reynolds  
Charlotte Miller Richardson  
Lawrence F. Roach  
Elizabeth Mahoney Roberge  
William Robertson  
Dale K. Robinson  
Stephanie Neveleff Rockmacher  
Eric L. Rogan  
Larry A. Rosenmann  
Carley R. Ross  
Susan C. Routh  
Veronica J. Russell  
Jane Coken Ryan  
F. Douglas Schatz  
Frederik Schuele  
Elizabeth Scully-West  
Christina Hutten Selkirk

John W. Shepard  
Martha J. Shimeall  
Heather A. Short  
Gregory C. Simones,  
Elizabeth Blades Skinner  
Katrina G. Smith  
Laura A. Snell  
Charles Sperry  
Karen C. Staffeld  
Alexa M. Stolorow  
Stephen F. Sullivan  
Gerald J. Sullivan  
Siobhan C. Sutton  
Brook Tabor  
W. Lansing Taylor  
Jane Evans Tofel  
Susanna Keister Trammell  
Jeffrey R. Trudeau  
Hobart R. Van Deusen  
Earl B. Vaughn  
Kevin P. Vaughn  
Jonathan D. Vivanti  
Kim Ryan Voldseth  
Stephen R. Walbridge  
Tara Mandeville Walsh  
Elizabeth Walsh  
Ellen M. Waters  
Thurlow A. West  
Jamie deLemos Wilkinson  
Peter B. Wilson  
Barbara Wonson-Liukkonen  
Francy Forrestel Zingale

If you see any mistakes on this list, please email them to [sblack@skidmore.edu](mailto:sblack@skidmore.edu).



# 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!!!*

*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.*

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Don't want to submit an alumni update online? Fill out the following and mail it to:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! Please include my email address in my: (check all that apply)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter update  
\_\_\_\_\_ Online update

\_\_\_\_\_ No. Please do not include my email address.

Update Information: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you would like to include a picture, please email it to [sblack@skidmore.edu](mailto:sblack@skidmore.edu), or include the original with a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can get it back to you! Thanks!

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!