A Homecoming Update

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Homecoming Week — October 11–16

Leonard Award Day, October 15
— Noon seminar
— Student luncheon with speaker, 1:00 p.m.
— Advisory meeting, 2:00 p.m.
— Social hour, 5:30 p.m.
— Banquet, 6:30 p.m. (see next page)

A Note from the Chair

Greetings to all friends and alumni of the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering. I am very excited about the coming academic year because there are many positive things happening for the department. Initial enrollment data show increasing numbers in all three undergraduate programs, and we have three new Ph.D. applications. Our research activities have grown to an all-time high as a result of the faculty actively seeking external funding. We presently have ten externally funded research awards totaling $706,348, and we have three pending proposals requesting $935,953. These awards play a key role in providing our graduate and undergraduate students with hands-on research experience, thesis topics, and financial support through assistantships. Of course, the publications resulting from the research are helping to build the department’s reputation. Six of our faculty are presenting their research results with their students at the GSA meeting in Denver in November.

We are continuing to build and strengthen our engineering program, and in our recent ABET evaluation we satisfied all criteria. Last year, we added a new M.S. program in Geological Engineering, and we are presently searching for a new Geological Engineering faculty member. If you know of any good geological engineers who want to be part of a growing program, please have them contact us.

Our geology programs are strong and are showing a slight increase in the student numbers. I must say that I am impressed with the quality of students entering the program. They show a genuine interest in geology, and I believe we will see good things from them as they pursue their careers. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming and at GSA.

Will Gosnold
Announcing the 2004 Leonard Award Recipient

On October 15, the Department will host its annual Friday banquet during Homecoming Week, and Gerry Groenewold will be presented with the Arthur Gray Leonard Medal. All alumni and friends are cordially invited to the noon award seminar and evening banquet. The Medal Award Banquet will be held at the Ramada Inn (near the junction of I-29 and U.S. HWY 2), with a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. For those who cannot attend, you are welcome to forward letters, slides, or photos to be used as shared memories at this event. All images will be returned.

2004 GGE Alumni Advisory Meeting

UND Homecoming affords the opportunity for GGE alumni to advise the Department on any and all issues that concern its well being. Please feel free to stop in at the Conference Room next to the departmental office in Leonard Hall at 2:00 p.m. to be apprised of current department events and future plans.

Contributions to the December GGE Newsletter

Send Your Alumni Notes to
Joseph Hartman at joseph_hartman@und.nodak.edu.
Feel free to include photos or other images you feel alumni might find memorable.

Joseph would like to specifically thank
Harry Short (Geol 1958) for his submission of Geology “art” to the Department.

Or Visit
http://www.geology.und.edu
and send us updates via the Web, phone, or e-mail.

To Acknowledge with Thanks

The Department thanks its many friends who continue to support its activities on behalf of the education and scholarship of students and the intellectual growth of faculty through financial donations. Your generosity represents a significant aspect of the success of our students and faculty. Feel free to visit with faculty at homecoming or any time you are in Grand Forks and ask for a tour.

2004 Denver GSA

This year’s annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held in Denver, and GGE will be well represented. As of this writing, we are not certain of everyone who will be going (Fall semester has yet to commence), but we are aware of four students and at least six faculty with abstracts accepted by GSA. Our present intention is to have a room in which to gather on Tuesday evening at about 5:15 p.m. We will announce the place later. Let us know if you have any comments on timing, but we assume Tuesday is better than Monday when all of the other alumni gatherings draw people to other alma maters. We will post the place on the GGE Web site (see box), and if you send us your e-mail we will let you know directly. Send your e-mails to Connie Larson at connie_larson@mail.und.nodak.edu.

Fall LEEPS Seminar Schedule

The Department will continue to host LEEPS (Leading Edge of Earth and Planetary Sciences) lectures throughout the 2004 and 2005 academic year. These seminars are always open to alumni. The schedule for these presentations is always being updated as seminars are added (check the GGE Web site). The following is a sampling of seminars currently planned:


- Kevin Burke, University of Houston. Research interest: Hot spots and their impacts.