A Note from the Chair

Greetings from the Department. This issue of the newsletter marks our shift to two issues per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Please let us know what you think about the change.

This past year has seen several significant changes within the Department. In January, Dr. Joseph Hartman joined us as a full-time faculty member. Joe had been at the Energy and Environmental Research Center for many years, and had been teaching paleontology and related courses for us for several years. In May, Dr. Frank Karner retired after 37 years with the Department and the University; he will teach Petrology one more time this fall (for free!).

Besides personnel changes, we have also made some curricular changes. We have completely revised and strengthened the Environmental Geology and Technology program, and renamed it Environmental Geoscience. We anticipate good things from this program.

In the fall, another new faculty member will join us. Dr. Richard Josephs is a geomorphologist, and recently received his PhD from the University of Iowa. Our Homecoming festivities this year will be highlighted by the presentation of the Arthur Gray Leonard Medal to Dr. Rodney Feldmann, in recognition of his contributions to paleontology during his career. Please join us if you can.
Faculty Tidbits

Phil Geria is involved in a wetlands project with several agencies including The Nature Conservancy, Concordia College, US Fish and Wildlife Service the NRCS, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. They are setting up some real time monitoring of a wetland restoration project near Marcoux Corners, Minnesota. Grad student Mark Kiefer will be working there. Phil also has an NSF grant supporting the work of student Chris Laveau in his efforts to find methods to predict hyporheos.

Scott Korom is still studying denitrification. His work and that of grad student Alison Kammer are funded by grants from the EPA and various state agencies. He directs the Water Quality lab in the old Geological Survey space on the third floor which, according to lab manager Allen Schlog, is "doing quite well." Scott and students Paul Skubina and Tedros Tesfay attended the Spring AGU meeting in Boston.

Ahmad Ghassemi has a major DOE grant supporting his studies of geothermal energy. He keeps students Qiang Zhang, Santosh Satyan, Chris Wolfe and Derek Senn quite busy. Besides teaching in our department, Ahmad is also teaching soil mechanics.

Nels Forsman is mostly focused on teaching these days. This spring he taught Philosophy of Geology for the first time in five years. He is also directing a correspondence study section of Geology 101. And he continues to be the meteorite expert in our department.

Will Gosnold, who was also at AGU this spring, has set up and is maintaining a server that is a repository for global heat-flow data. The project is sponsored by the International Heat Flow Commission of the international Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth’s Interior and includes 24, 774 observations at 20,201 sites. With student Erica Peterson he is also investigating crustal flexure in the Devils Lake area as the basin continues to fill with water.

Frank Beaver is teaching field camp again. But the most exciting news is that he married Lisa Powell this spring. He continues to work on the Riparian Restoration Project, and has some specific studies going in Richland County, near Park River, and at the Grand Forks Country Club.

Frank Karner is now retired, but continues to contribute in the department. Next fall, with Ahmad Ghassemi, he will teach Petrology for the last time. He and Joan just returned from a trip to Greece.

Dexter Perkins, along with Joe Hartman, has a major NSF grant supporting GeoDIL. GeoDIL is a web-based geoscience photo collection that can be found at http://www.geodil.com. Geology students Darla Sondrol, Mike Davis, Nessa Eull, Greg Goetz and Twyla Baker are all working on the project in Leonard Hall this summer, while a battery of programmers do the design and technical work at the Center for Aerospace Sciences.

Won’t you help?

Our department is a campus leader because of all the extra things we do that support student education.

But, we could not afford LEEPS lectures, field trips, and the latest equipment for teaching, without contributions from our friends and alums.

Please send contributions to: Dept. of Geology and Geological Engineering The University of North Dakota Box 8358 Grand Forks, ND 58202-8358
LEEPS and Other Lectures

Our department continues to bring in more guest speakers than any other on campus. Our current LEEPS flyer is enclosed with this newsletter. We have had more than 100 speakers since we began our FOG (Frontiers of Geoscience) Lecture Series in 1988. After two years, FOG became LEEPS (Leading Edge of Earth and Planetary Science) and it has stayed that way since.

The enclosed flyer is not, however, complete. Since it was printed we have had other speakers visit us:

• Barb Tewksbury, Hamilton College: “Geology as an underlying influence on human events - examples from Egypt and the Sahara” and “Practical Strategies for actively engaging students in the classroom and for assessing their work.”

• Barb Dutrow, Louisiana State University: “Deciphering the evolution of metamorphic terranes: insights from 3D thermal and textural modeling” and “Where has all the silica gone? Metasomatism and thermal evolution surrounding an alkalic intrusion in subsurface Louisiana”

• Jay Fleisher, SUNY Oneonta: “When glaciers surge” and “Elusive evidence of an expanding Bering Glacier”

• Jennifer Smith, University of Pennsylvania: “When the desert was green: reconstructing Quaternary climatic oscillations in the Sahara and their effect on hominin populations”

• Jonathan Wynn, University of Oregon: “Influence of Neogene Paleoclimatic Change on Human Evolution Evidenced from Paleosols of the Turkana Basin, Kenya”

• Lesley Perg, University of California-Santa Cruz: “Life’s a beach - Cosmogenic radionuclides along an active margin coastline”

• Phil Brown, University of Wisconsin: “Gold Deposits: How Much or Little do We Know?” and “Synchrotron Infrared Spectroscopy as a Probe of Fluid Inclusions - Is Bigger Better?”

• James Teller, University of Manitoba: “Noah and the Greatest Flood of All Time”

• Richard Josephs, University of Iowa: “Legitimate Research at Bogus Cave”

---

Thanks for your help and contributions!
Here is a list of some recent donors, according to the UND Alumni Association. If we left you off, we apologize.

Mobil Foundation Inc.
Charles K. Petter
Joanne R. Lerud
Dan E. Hansen
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Hamilton
Texaco Incorporated
Kurtwood S. & Diane R. Hillman
Enserch Exploration Inc
ExxonMobil Foundation
Donald B. Achttien
Dr. Jonathon L. Hagmaier
Dr. Robert J. Sigsby
Dr. Frank J. Schulte
Matt & Susan Zimmer-Dauphinee
Dr. John E. Utgaard
William S. and Virginia Blain
Elmer G “Jerry” Meldahl
Eric F. Engbrecht
Samuel J. & Connie Tuthill
Mrs. Emil Stoltz
Exxon Education Foundation
Clarence “Kelly” Carlson
Bud and Marty Holland
Dr. & Mrs. Frank P. Caramanica
Henry & Mary Ann Ensminger
Newmont Mining Corporation
Odin D. Christensen
Dexter Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. Kent A. Johnson
Fischer Oil & Gas, Inc.
New faculty: Joe Hartman (left) and Richard Josephs (right)

Joseph Hartman comes to us from UND’s Energy and Environmental Research Center. He has been a part-time/temporary instructor in our department for a number of years, teaching Paleontology and Historical Geology. Now he joins us full time. Richard Josephs comes to us from the University of Iowa. His interests are in the areas of Quaternary Geology, Archaeological Geology and Forensic Geology.

***ALUMNI CHALLENGE: WHERE WAS THE ABOVE PHOTO OF HARTMAN TAKEN? (Get this right and win fabulous prizes! Send answers to dexter_perkins@und.edu)***