Stay in touch
We look forward to meeting you face-to-face at the GSA meeting later this fall.

As usual, we welcome and are delighted by any news, comments, and questions that you may have for us.

Please join us
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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
HAROLD HAMM SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY & GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

NEWS FROM JAAKKO PUTKONEN, DIRECTOR, HAROLD HAMM SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND MINES, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The world is changing and so is UND but one thing stays the same. We continue investing in new technologies and faculty to deliver first class education to our undergraduate and graduate students.

FALL 2016

UND GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING GATHERING
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING, DENVER, COLORADO

Our gathering will be held on Tuesday, September 27 at 6 pm
In the Hyatt Regency (near the Convention Center)
Please ask for Dexter Perkins at the hotel desk.
RETIRED AND NEW FACULTY
Two years ago (Fall 2014) we were happy to increase our ranks by welcoming the first Harold Hamm Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Geology Stephan Nordeng. Professor Nordeng comes to UND with years of experience working with Bakken rocks. We were also fortunate to hire three new Geological Engineers; Assistant Professors Dongmei Wang, I-Hsuan Ho, and Taufique Mahmood. We have now a young and energetic team of Geological Engineers to push the program to new heights. On the other hand we also had to bid adieu to our well liked Geological Engineers, Professors Scott Korom and Lance Yarbrough, who left UND for private sector careers.

This past June 2016, we celebrated the career of Rich LeFever who retired from GGE after more than 35 years of service to UND. Rich guided the research of more than 30 graduate students over the years and still continues to advise students as an Emeritus Professor. He has been one of the most active users of the core library and directed students in the analyses of the North Dakota core samples.

INSTRUMENTS AND BUILDINGS
With the generous gifts by Harold Hamm, Continental Resources, and North Dakota Industrial Commission the College of Engineering and Mines has acquired impressive instrumentation that directly benefits student and faculty research. These instruments include: NMR nuclear magnetic resonance imager, XRF X-ray fluorescence spectrometer, XRD X-ray diffractometer, and this last week we received a three dimensional (high resolution) microscope that will be used to study Bakken cores, paleontological specimens, minerals, and rocks of all sorts.

Our physical environment around Leonard is currently changing greatly due to the construction of the new Collaborative Energy Complex (CEC) and the expansion of the Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library. Both projects have been made possible by generous donations by industries and individuals, and the State of ND. The new two story CEC building will hold a dedication ceremony on October 14, 2016 and open the doors to students January, 2017. It is located on the former parking lot between Leonard Hall and Upson.

FIELD TRIPS
Geology and Geological Engineering are inherently field based professions therefore we emphasize the hands on learning that is done in the field. This fall we are running field trips to northern Minnesota and the Black Hills to study mines, petrology, geomorphology, and glacial deposits. Other trips visit energy installations in western North Dakota, and wetlands closer to Grand Forks. However, the highlight of the year is always the School spring break field trip. This past spring 18 students and one faculty traveled to the big island of Hawaii.

DESTINATION: MAUNA KEA
AUTHOR: KELSEY FORWARD
GGE GRADUATE STUDENT
Mixed feelings of apprehension and excitement crept in as we turned off of the main highway and up the narrow, cloud-covered road to the Visitor’s Center. Yesterday evening Dr. Putkonen had provided high altitude hiking tips and taught us about the dangers of altitude sickness. This being my first high altitude hike and now thoroughly intimidated, I attempted to follow his advice by moving slowly and steadily, taking small steps up the steep trail. Near the trailhead a bizarre alpine desert plant, called Mullein, greeted us with cartoonish hand-like spires growing out of the top as if to say, “Give me a high five! You can do it!” Trudging along, I lost sight of the encouraging plants as the already sparse vegetation continued to thin, until there was hardly a bush to be seen along the trail. Around 12,000 ft, it was nearly time to turn around and a linear outcrop of large boulders seemed inviting, so I stopped to rest and take in the view. Looking at the cinder cones and scoria around me, then down the mountainside to the band of greener vegetation and finally the coastline, I marveled at the profound sense of peace and calm in a place that had been formed by such violence.