



Cheers from the Department Chair

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Current Faculty and student info.
- Catch up with Alumni and former UNO Faculty.
- In Memory Of
- Scholarships and Awards
- Student organizations
- Contributions

It has been a long time coming but here it is...the first newsletter in approximately 5 years. With such a long time having passed since the last newsletter it is incredibly difficult to decide where to start with what is happening in the Department these days. I'll try to keep it short and sweet with the hope that we sometime soon cross paths and I can provide more details in person to those who are interested. Despite the lingering effects of Hurricane Katrina on the University, recent state-induced budget cuts, and loss of faculty there are positive things to report and I am optimistic that more good things are headed our way. I'll try to outline some of the good and not-so-good in the ensuing paragraphs.

Some of you may remember my name from past newsletters. For those of you who don't know me, I joined the faculty in 2002 after a two-year appointment as an Assistant Professor of Research in the area of sedimentary geology. In early 2008 I was asked to take on the role of Chair and consider it a real honor to help lead a Department with such an outstanding history of education, research, and alumni engagement. I sincerely hope that I am able to help grow the Department in the coming years and meet all of the student, faculty, and alumni expectations.

Undoubtedly the most significant change to our Department during the last few years has been change in name and curriculum. History does indeed repeat itself because we have gone from Geology and Geophysics to Earth and Environmental Sciences; as many of you are aware we were the Department of Earth Science during the early program days. The change surprisingly was approved by the Board of Regents just months after Katrina and was driven by a pre-2005 need

to consolidate our degree awards into one program. Our goal was to better meet the state-required graduation rates for a Department our size and, perhaps more importantly, create a curriculum that is appealing to UNO students and



Department Chair,
Dr. Mark Kulp

aligned with current employment and research trends.

Today in EES undergraduate and graduate students can pursue a degree concentration in one of the following topical areas: geology, petroleum geology, coastal science, and environmental science. Undergraduate students entering the EES program tailor their EES educational directions to one of these concentrations while completing required University and College of Science (COS) courses and a new suite of foundational EES courses. The graduate program benefits from this too as we provide a diverse offering of concentration-specific 4000G level courses that are also part of the undergraduate curriculum. Faculty still offer 6000-level graduate courses in their fields of expertise ensuring graduate students obtain both credits required for the graduate degree and courses appropriate to their research areas. The goal of this concentration-based curriculum is to ensure that stu-

dents are really prepared to engage in careers in earth and environmental science areas and focus on their own areas of interest. The success of our new approach is evident. Current estimates, including summer 2009 late enrollments, place the number of EES undergraduate majors at approximately 100. It appears that we have successfully captured the attention of the student body at UNO!

Many of you are probably aware that during the last several years, despite increased number of majors, we have been operating with many fewer faculty than in previous years. Just before the 2005 hurricane season Dale Easley and Matt Totten both moved on to new positions in Iowa and Kansas respectively. Enrique Reyes announced his departure for East Carolina only days before Katrina struck. Then there was the impact of Hurricane Katrina and dramatic changes in the personal circumstances of many of our faculty. This led to the departures of Terry Pavlis, Laura Serpa, Frank Hall, and Chris Parkinson. Shortly thereafter Ron Stoessel retired and just last year Bill Busch retired. The most tragic event however was the death of Shea Penland in late Spring of 2008. Shea's passing temporarily left multiple graduate students unsupervised and the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) without a director. It is no surprise that with the recent loss of so many faculty we will be in recovery stage for several years to come. On the bright side, we were able to make several outstanding new hires since Katrina.

Dr. Martin O'Connell currently makes a major contribution to our environmental efforts with research in fisheries biology, Dr. Ioannis Georgiou brings expertise in

Cheers (cont.)



Structural Geology
at Mt. Cheaha in
Alabama



Stratigraphy in the
Ouachita Mountains in
Arkansas



Deployment of an Acoustic
Doppler Current Profiler
(ADCP) in Coastal Waters.

coastal processes and hydrodynamic modeling, and Dr. Royhan Gani helps to round out our petroleum geology concentration as a stratigrapher. Dr. Nahid Gani, also brings an important suite of talents to our faculty as an adjunct professor and has helped out immensely by teaching several new courses during the past year. In the midst of current budget limitations and state hiring freezes, who knows when we will be able to add more faculty but nonetheless we continue to push very hard for more hires. I am certain that there are some administrators who are pretty tired of listening to me remind them that the future needs for well-educated earth and environmental scientists will not diminish any time soon. We're trying!

As a final, yet extremely important, note about personnel changes in the Department I'd like to add that Linda Miller is doing a wonderful job as the Assistant to the Chair. Linda started in the Summer of 2008 and has brought an

important air of professionalism to our Department Office and is doing a fantastic job of looking after Department needs, our students, and faculty.

It has taken me a bit more than a year but one of the things that I vowed I would do when I started as Chair is to try and reconnect with our alumni. I hope that all of you see this newsletter as a first step forward in that direction and recognize the role that you play in the welfare of our Department. I have truly enjoyed hearing stories about the Department from many of you and have gained important insight from just as many about what it takes to create a successful Department that extends beyond the confines of the University grounds.

As our department continues to get up on its feet and move forward we retain some of the things you probably remember about the Department. We still have a very active student organization, the Society for Earth and Environmental Scientists – yes the Mineral Auction is alive and well! We have also added a new student

chapter of the AAPG. Be sure to take a look at what these groups are doing in their respective sections of this newsletter. The students are still the heart of our Department and they have the most to benefit from engagement by our alumni – your lessons and experiences can help them. We hope to develop new ways for you to connect with them, our current faculty and your fellow alumni. Please spread the word about our desire to once again be in touch with the alumni. Unfortunately some records were lost in the chaos of the post Katrina world and if someone has been left from our mailing lists do encourage them to get in touch with us, I assure you that their exclusion was not intentional. I hope you have fun reading the newsletter.

All the best in the coming year!
Mark Kulp
Assoc. Prof. and Dept. Chair



Dr. Ioannis Georgiou, Assistant Professor

Is it with great pleasure that I contribute to this newsletter. I joined the Earth and Environmental Science department in the spring of 2007. Prior to that, I was a Post-doctoral researcher at the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) since 2003. During that time, I maintained adjunct status in both the College of Sciences and the College of Engineering, served on graduate committees and taught mid level courses in environmental sciences for our department, as well as senior level courses in open channel hydraulics and hydrology in the College of Engineering.

I have recently assumed

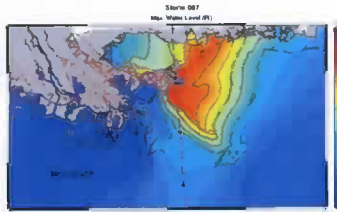
duties on the graduate committee, assisting Dr. Martin O'Connell as graduate coordinator, serve as the library liaison, and was recently elected member of the University of New Orleans Library Committee.

I was traditionally trained as a coastal and water resources engineer, with most of my research focus in coastal Louisiana and the Great Lakes. I direct the Coastal and Environmental Hydrodynamics Research Laboratory (CEHL) at PIES, conducting research in circulation and transport in riverine and estuarine systems, tidal channel and inlets,

barrier islands and the coastal ocean. I use numerical methods to perform computer simulations of physical processes, such as sedimentation and erosion, the transport of salinity, temperature and contaminants in surface waters, and study the interaction between riverine, estuaries and the coastal ocean. The use of numerical models allows me to conduct hypothetical scenarios of restoration and evaluate the performance and resulting impacts as a function of landscape or hydrologic change, or reproduce physical conditions numerically to study past, present and future response to this

change in physical forcing, and verify against the sedimentary record. To validate numerical models, my lab is equipped with acoustic and optical instrumentation that can quantify transport, currents, distribution of suspended sediment and size in the field. These measurements help us simultaneously further understand the changing processes operating on our coast in response to sea level rise, storm intensity and frequency, and anthropogenic and natural changes along the coast.

I presently support 2 full-time Masters Students on external research funds. I also have a part-time Ph.D. student who is partially supported by research funds, and 2 part-time Masters Students.



Peak storm surge during low intensity storms.

Alison Sleath Grzegorzewski (Ph.D. student) is conducting research to help understand and simulate event driven morphological response of barrier islands and headlands during storms. Alison is also employed at the Coastal Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) at Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) stationed here on campus, with previous industry experience in coastal engineering and the Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) at the New Orleans District of the Army Corps. Alison will employ her experience with

the advanced circulation model and quasi-steady state waves to fully couple waves and currents and integrate physics-based near shore models with both bed-load and suspended load transport of mixed sediments.

Chris Esposito (Masters Student, pictured here), with background in coastal oceanography and mathematics, is studying differential sediment yield and sediment loading and resulting sedimentation in river dominated vegetative systems with tidal influence. Drawing from research in differential sedimentation and transport along meandering channels, he will study the proportional sediment yield at a potential diversion site and resulting contribution to sedimentation rate and impact area as a function of River forcing and sediment yield. Results from this research will aid in the implementation of innovative diversions to help sustain coastal wetlands under rising sea levels.



Jennifer Schindler (Masters Student), a former undergraduate researcher in my lab with background in water resources and civil engineering, will conduct research to understand the cohesive and non-cohesive sediment response and resulting exchange between estuaries, bays, and the coastal ocean under wind straining, tidal forcing and during intermediate storm events. Her research will provide critical understanding of processes to help establish a mechanism for erosion of upper shelf sediments and shore face during storms, and to identify

transport pathways for sediments to the interior estuaries, bays and wetlands.

Luis Martinez, a part time Masters Student with background in remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) will utilize existing georeferenced imagery and historic erosion rates based on shoreline position, high resolution imagery, LiDAR and geologic data such as cores, borings, and stratigraphic cross sections, to develop an evolutionary response model for geologic change. He will correlated morphologic change to regional and local datasets, and estimate via statistical re-analysis and cross-correlations with physical data (wave and tidal forcing) the vulnerability and potential erosion of coastlines along coastal Louisiana.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the department, and I am confident that our increasing numbers in undergraduate and graduate students will keep us strong during difficult economic times and in the presence of State budget cuts.

Jenni Schindler measuring soil shear strength in the back barrier of New Harbor Islands, LA



UNO Student Chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, AAPG

In the Spring of 2009, the Student Chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) at The University of New Orleans was reactivated under the guidance of Dr. Royhan Gani (faculty advisor). Scott Wessels, Dane Fischer, Mary Ellison, and Chris Cook were elected as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Monthly meetings in February, March, and April were held to discuss upcoming events such as lectures, local events, and student expos. Two guest lecturers, Art Johnson and Nick Ashley, presented their works for the chapter. Art Johnson's presentation was titled, "Gas Hydrate: Reality and Myths Regarding an Emerging Energy Resource." Nick Ashley, a PhD candidate from LSU presented his findings titled, "In-Home Pollutant Analysis and Chemodynamic Modeling for Homes Flooded by Hurricane Katrina". Additionally, a spring student expo in Norman, OK, was attended by several students from UNO. At the end of that semester, new officers were elected for Fall 2009-Spring 2010. Mary Ellison, Chris Cook, Aimee Laurent, and Andrew Ranson were elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. In the fall, several students volunteered to help with a local event, the Annual Deepwater Symposium, hosted by the New Orleans Geological Society. Plans for attending a student expo in Houston are underway. Guest lecturers are being scheduled as time and funding allows. For example, Dr. Rudy Slingerland is coming on November 5th to UNO to speak as part of the Margins DLP Lecture Series. The next big event is the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition in New Orleans in April 2010, and UNO and the student chapter is counting on many student volunteers getting involved and helping out during the convention. UNO's Chapter is actively seeking donations to continue its activity year round.

Mary Ellison (Email: mellison@uno.edu) Student Chapter President



Above: Chad Ellinwood
(graduated Fall09)
Far right: Scott Eustis



John McKenzie



Chris Davis



Sunny Brogan

I joined the EES Department in January 2006 having been a researcher in the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) for the previous four years. Prior to my appointment I had already taught a few courses in EES and actually offered an EES online course after Hurricane Katrina in fall 2005 while I was a refugee (I live in Gentilly and lost my home, truck, and everything to the levee failures).

Within days of joining the Department I agreed to serve as Graduate Coordinator and I am still in that position today. We have done our best to bring back graduate students whose lives and research were disrupted by the storms. In the last three years many of these graduate students have been able to finish their degrees and move on with their careers. New graduate students continue to apply and currently the Department has 20 M.Sc. students and 8 Ph.D. students (through the Engineering and Applied Sciences Ph.D. program). Along with my Graduate Coordinator duties I have been involved with the development of the new curriculum for EES.

I am trained as a fish ecologist and ichthyologist with most of my current research focused in southeastern Louisiana. As Director of the Nekton Research Laboratory (NRL) at PIES I manage various research projects including fishery research on Lake Pontchartrain, fish habitat

Dr. Martin (Marty) O'Connell, Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Professor

studies at the Chandeleur Islands, and (more recently) assessing how fishes respond to hurricane impacts. My main research focus involves the use of multivariate statistics to determine how fish assemblages change over time and space in response to both natural and anthropogenic factors. This approach has allowed me to identify those issues that most influence local fishes and fisheries which, in turn, help direct recovery and conservation efforts. With our long-term ecological database we can compare historical trends with current events (e.g., hurricanes, Spillway openings, etc.) to determine if the aquatic ecosystem has been significantly impacted.

Chad Ellinwood, one of the graduate students I supported in Fall 08, defended his thesis on the response of Chandeleur Island fishes to two hurricanes (Ivan and Katrina).

As of fall 2009, I support six EES graduate students through research projects in the NRL. This fall, Scott Eustis will be defending his thesis on how discarded bycatch may be affecting local trophic interactions in the aquatic ecosystem. Sunny Brogan will also be defending her thesis which involved studying the habitat use of redfish that have been reintroduced into Bayou St. John, an historic urban fishery located in the heart of New Orleans. Graduate students Jon

McKenzie (Ph.D. student) and Chris Davis (M.Sc. student) are both studying different aspects of lemon shark ecology at the Chandeleur Islands. Jon spent the summer tracking lemon sharks using satellite tags while Chris studied the diet of these apex preda-



tors. I also have two new students joining my lab this fall. Celeste Espinedo (Ph.D. student) will be studying behavioral interactions between native fishes and the invasive Rio Grande cichlid which is continuing to expand throughout southeastern Louisiana. Rebecca Cope (M.Sc. student) is conducting research on how local fish assemblages will respond to the recent closing of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO). Her work will focus on both adult and juvenile fishes.

There are many stories of post-hurricane survival and perseverance associated with students and personnel connected with the NRL. Even our beloved Research Vessel Cavalla has a story to tell. When Hurricane Katrina struck, the Cavalla was in for repairs at a marine shop in St. Bernard Parish. The surge picked our vessel up and left it high and dry many feet off the ground.

Soon after the water receded, the Cavalla was fork-lifted from its precarious perch and (Continued on page 5) placed back in the shop.

The Dinosaur Man, Dr. Kraig Derstler, Associate Professor



It is a pleasure to contribute to the Alumni Newsletter again. I am delighted that Mark Kulp is department chair, and we are actively rebuilding from the trauma of the past few years. Now it is high time to reconnect with our loyal alumni.

Individually, I've continued spending my summers in the field, digging up dinosaurs. I've expanded beyond the Lance Formation in Wyoming. In 2003, I worked in the equivalent rocks (Hell Creek Formation) in North Dakota. The next year (2004), I continued working

the Hell Creek, excavating a huge Tyrannosaurus Rex nicknamed Peck's Rex. This is one of the largest and most complete *T. rex* skeletons ever found. Since then, I've discovered that I can get more research done (and have my students paid for their efforts) by serving as summer consultant for Triebold Paleontology, Inc. So, rather than organizing my own expeditions, I organize and run theirs. In the process, I have studied dinosaurs from the Hell Creek and the slightly older Judith River Formation and actually get paid for my efforts. (Who knew that dino-excavation skills were valuable!?) Anyway, I see more rocks and fossils, play with bigger guy-toys (bulldozers instead of shovels), and the fossils get prepared more quickly so I can study them now instead of waiting ten years.

I've been publishing my dinosaur papers, of course, but I've also been writing articles on modern plants called cycads. I've been growing these plants for thirty years, but in the past several years, I've expanded my efforts and started sharing my experience (as well as the plants). I currently serve on the Board of Directors for The Cycad Society.

Within the department, I've been Undergraduate Coordinator for several years. I am pleased to say that we have the largest number of majors (c. 100) that our department has seen since the early 80's. And last year, we met our quota for the first time in years (min. 8 graduated seniors per year). So, the traumas are past and we are solidly back on track! Ward, The Weed, Craig, Lou, Snowden, and the other old-timers would be proud of our department again. I know that I am.

O'Connell (Continued from page 4)



Days later when the even larger surge from Hurricane Rita hit the area, the Cavalla was again sent on a crewless trip, this time through the walls of the shop and out into the yard. Once again the Cavalla was rescued and nursed back to health by its captain and designer, NRL Senior Biologist Chris Schieble. Despite all its hardships, the Cavalla contin-

ues to serve both as our main research vessel and as a symbol of our resolution to stay and help UNO and New Orleans well into the future.



The R.V. Cavalla was left high and dry (upper left) by Katrina's flood waters.

The Cavalla after Rita. (Left) Cavalla back in Business (Above).

"We have done our best to bring back graduate students whose lives and research were disrupted by the storms."



Dr. Mostofa Sarwar, Professor, Geophysical Research for Oil and Gas Exploration

It is incredible that I am about to complete my twenty-five years of service at UNO (without counting my temporary eclipse from here while I was at University of Pennsylvania and at Shell Oil Company). Most of my colleagues of the past are no longer here. We have gone through several metamorphoses, and now I am a professor at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Currently the state of the department is fine again after Mark Kulp took over as Chair. I am teaching as usual, and last year I received the best undergraduate science teaching award from UNO. I am currently supervising Sean O'Brien. Our paper together, coauthored by our new faculty Royhan Gani, on

3D seismic interpretation is under review by GCAGS. I am also on the examination board and thesis committee of a physics Ph.D. student. As a lone researcher of theory, I continue my work on seismic imaging, especially regarding Curve-Let Transform. What about my poems? Yes, I cannot live without them.

Time is passing. I am almost not young after all these years. My wife is doing her medical practice at VA Hospital. Our eldest son, Turhan Sarwar, after graduating from Harvard with high honors, worked at Wall Street for two years, and now he is a first year student of Doctor of Jurisprudence at UPENN and an

Associate Editor of a law journal. I hope that his novel "*Figment*" gets published soon. He will also be an intern this summer under a federal judge. Our second son, Arush Sarwar, accepted Harvard as his future college a few days ago. He is a semi-finalist for the Presidential Scholars Program coordinated by White House and Federal Department of Education. We are waiting for the finalist result. Our little daughter is busy with piano, basketball, Literary Rally, and Science Olympiad. No doubt, life is wonderful.

PIES, Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences

The Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) was established by the UNO College of Sciences to foster interactions between professionals with expertise in basic and applied environmental research. PIES is a partnership of scientists and educators combining rigorous scientific analysis with education, outreach and planning to develop practical solutions to the environmental challenges facing coastal and estuarine systems. Our researchers have been very active in recent years and much of that effort is described in this newsletter in reports from EES faculty who also work under the PIES umbrella. However, we reach outside EES and well established relationships with researchers from the Department of Biological sciences as well as departments in the College of Engineering and the College of Liberal Arts. Since 2001 over \$19 million in research funds have come through the Institute. This funding comes from a variety of sources including the NOAA Pontchartrain Restoration Program, US Geological Survey, US Army Corps of Engineers, a variety of Louisiana state agencies as well as private companies.

PIES consists of researchers focused on system structure and dynamics, as well as technical specialists and educators. Our researchers seek to understand watershed and coastal system dynamics, detect and predict environmental change, and provide scientific support for conservation, management and restoration of natural resources. This is achieved through field and laboratory research, simulation modeling, planning and decision support, and education and outreach. PIES was identified as a Program of Distinction within the UNO Strategic Plan for 2007-2010 and we hope to continue that contribution in the years to come. A main challenge for the future is to make the whole more than the sum of the parts, and ensure that the work of the Institute contributes not only to environmental education and problem solving but to the Universities goal of being an urban research university of national stature.



Dr. Denise Reed, Professor and Interim Director of Pontchartrain Institute

For someone who studies the effect of storms on coastal marshes, the last few years have been quite interesting. Apart from the obvious disruption to our lives caused by Katrina, the research associates and students in my group fared well – thanks to LSU and LUMCON for temporary office space and support and the UNO Business School for on-campus space while we waited for the Geology building to reopen. From the research perspective we were fortunate to have conducted routine sampling on a number of our marsh elevation sites in mid August 2005. Thus once we could get back out in the field after Katrina and Rita we were able to capture the effect of the storms on marsh sedimentation and elevation. The results should be no surprise to those of you who follow the dynamics of our coast carefully – the marshes that survived were covered in a layer of sediment that will hopefully give them more of a chance in the face of continuing threats such as sea-level rise and subsidence. Gustav and Ike provided yet another opportunity and this time we were ready again with some pre-storm clay marker horizons which were put down in Cocodrie by Jen Roberts (left, taking cores), a graduate student who before we knew she would have actual storm deposits to look at was going to simulate storm deposition by pumping sediment. Jen looked at the effect of storm deposits on vegetation—whether there's a stimulus effect to plant growth, Interestingly there was. Jen finished her thesis this summer but there's lots more work to do on that topic.



The marsh team changed a bit. Dan Gill (who we recruited from the Ecological Engineering Program at Ohio State) completed his MS thesis despite the disruption and Dana Bishra (nee Watzke – BS UNO) came back onto the team soon after Katrina. Dana became the point person for an expert assessment of marsh response to

sea-level rise in the Mid-Atlantic which we lead for the EPA. The report and maps we produced became one of the foundation documents for the US Climate Change Science Program – it would be great to repeat the effort for the Gulf coast. Incidentally, Dana moved on after a year or so as her husband's residency took him to Baltimore and ended up working for one of my colleagues in Maryland who she got to know on the expert panel! More recently she has moved on again, this time to Memphis. That's a long way from the coastal marshes that she's now quite an expert on.



As well as the field work ably supported by Laura Dancer and now Ann Commagere (above), I have continued to be active in restoration planning. I worked closely with the Integrated Planning Team on the State's Master Plan passed by the Legislature in 2007, and this year I am again working with the State on how to prioritize the huge amount of potential projects there are out there. Of course look forward, with the rest of you, to getting more



things on the ground that make a difference. Soon after Katrina I had the opportunity with support from America's Wetland and BP, to bring in 35 scientists from across the country and around the world to think about the future of our coast. The 'Envisioning the Future of the Gulf Coast' technical group reported out on June 1, 2006 and stated very clearly that the only sustainable future for the coast requires a bold new

approach to managing the Mississippi River. Again, not a surprise likely to the geologists, but an important message to reinforce to our government. I am hoping to report in future newsletters that the approach is being seriously examined.....

Work in California also continues. I have been working for some years on restoration planning out there and this last year the processes and procedures we have been developing for integrating science into restoration decision-making are finally being used. Of course developing a plan for restoration is only part of the picture – we'll see if they are any more successful in implementing the plan for the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta than we are here in Louisiana.

In Summer 2009, we are looking at restoration effectiveness under storm conditions. Alissa Gros (right) is a new graduate student who is



looking at how buoyancy of marsh soils can influence their vulnerability to damage by hurricanes. This year so far we have completed a synthesis of what we do and don't know about subsidence, (coordinated by Dr. Brendan Yuill (below, center), a research associate in my lab) and a modeling study of links between climate change, fisheries, and the coast with RAND. We continue to try and apply what we know (I sat on the State's Review Panel for the Morganza to the Gulf hurricane protection project and am about to Chair a similar effort for another levee system project) and help move restoration forward. There is always a lot going on, too many ideas and not enough time. But year after year we chip away at trying to get science-based restoration moving by studying the marshes, presenting the information, and helping decision-makers see the path forward.



Dr. William Busch, Retired (hmmm)

Greetings to all in Louisiana and beyond. I am transitioning to my New Orleans afterlife on the Oregon coast. It has been an easy change so far. There is a lot to be said for summertime high temperatures in the mid-60's. My main preoccupation since moving out here in July has been building a house on the flank of Cascade Head, a one-thousand-foot-thick pile of basalt that juts out into the ocean. The

house is located far enough up the mountain to be out of the tsunami zone (a major concern out here). The site is foggy, windy, and sort of like being at sea, without the rocking and rolling. It will be a definite improvement over our semi-nomadic post-Katrina existence. When I haven't been focusing on the house, I have been working on catching the river running salmon and steelhead (sea-going

rainbow trout) and fishing for Dungeness crab. There is a lot to learn. I haven't given up on science completely. I plan to be a part of the drilling program cruise that is a follow-up to our 2001 Pacific equatorial transect. Beyond that and finishing the house, things are a little more up in the air. The one thing that is definite is our eclipse party on August 21st 2017. Everyone is invited to join us in total darkness.

MP2 Research Group-

***Dr. William (Skip) Simmons,
Research Professor
*Karen Webber
*Alexander Falster**



Karen Webber,
Skip Simmons, and friend
in Africa.

We are alive and well and still working actively in mineralogical research. We all returned and elected to stay in New Orleans and have been rebuilding the analytical laboratories (and the Simmons home). Four years post Katrina, the Electron Microprobe, the SEM, DCP, and X-ray Diffraction Labs are all now back up and running and the **MP²** group is cranking out research

again.

MP² stands for Mineralogy, Pegmatology, and Petrology. Our research group is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and research in the classical fields of Geology, Mineralogy and Petrology. Our specialty is in Pegmatology - the investigation of pegmatites, which includes their mineralogy, geochemistry and genesis. In addition to the UNO three, **MP²** consists of collaborators at several other international research institutions and a network of miners around the world. We are also involved in research on the mineral and chemical composition of colored gemstones, especially tourmaline and have collaborated with the Gemological Institute of America in research on a number of publications. We are

actively involved in field research on pegmatites in the US, Russia, Brazil, Madagascar, China, Scandinavia, Zambia, Namibia and Malawi and have recently published investigations of gemstones from these and other worldwide locations. Our recent computer modeling results have demonstrated that the cooling and crystal growth rates of highly evolved silicate magmas is dramatically more rapid than was previously believed. These results have changed the basic paradigm found in all geology text books that "big crystals are the result of slow cooling to allow time for crystals to grow to large size". In fact, our models indicate that in some shallow-level pegmatites the solidification rates are so fast that some of the world's largest crystals may actually grow in months to



years, not millions of years.

Another new teaching and student recruiting program that our group has developed is the Pegmatite Workshop conducted in Poland, Maine. We organize and conduct the Workshop, which is a weeklong short course on pegmatites. The course runs annually the first week of June and involves lectures and daily fieldtrips to Maine's most famous pegmatites. We have written a new book, *Pegmatology*, which we use as the textbook for the workshop. The course attracts an international audience of pegmatite professionals, aficionados and students. It is a great opportunity to learn about the latest developments in pegmatite research and investigate pegmatites first hand with some of the world's top experts. This workshop has been very suc-

cessful since its inception and has attracted several hundred participants, including students, miners, and professionals. Donations to support student attendance of the workshop are always welcome.

Alexander U. Falster is member of the MP² Research Group. He operates and maintains the instrumentation in the MicroBeam Laboratory which consists of an ARL-SEMQ electron microprobe with 9 spectrometers, an 1820 AMRAY scanning electron microscope, and a SCINTAG XDS 2000 X-Ray diffractometer. A Spectronics Spectroscan V DCP is also part of the instrumentation. Select classical wet chemical methods are employed for example for redox titration of the oxidation state of iron. A well-furnished sample preparation facility complete of



the laboratory.



Falster's own research interests center on granitic pegmatites, their mineralogy, mineral chemistry, and geochemistry. Unorthodox experimental approaches to pegmatite formation have shed some important insight into this problem. On an average of every 2 years, the MP² Research Group publishes a new mineral description. The most recent ones include samarskite-(Yb), londonite, and pezzottaite. Several others are close to completion.

Falster has an ongoing project of growing new synthetic standard materials for the microprobe and many of the successful synthetic materials are in use in a number of laboratories

Alumni at AAPG 2008

For the first time in many years, UNO had a station at the All-Alumni Party at the AAPG meeting in San Antonio in 2008. It was at the urging of John Scheldt that the UNO flag was flying at that event. Besides John, a dozen other alumni showed up to catch up on the activities of their old classmates. Former faculty members Matt Totten and Bill Ward also came.

Alumni who attended: John Cramer, Mike Gallagher, Mark Hanan, John Hill, Bob Marshall, Brad Prather, John Scheldt, Kevin Smart, Eric Stromboe, Iris Moreno Totten, Louise Totten, Hank Woods, and Marian Marshall Woods.

Look for the UNO gathering at the AAPG meeting in New Orleans in 2010.

Prather awarded first AAPG Outstanding Research Award

Brad Prather (MS 81) was the first recipient of the Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award, presented at the 2009 AAPG meeting in Denver. Brad also is the only person to have twice won the Sproule Award for best paper in the AAPG Bulletin. He is with Shell in Houston.

In Memory Of:



**Patrick "Shea" Penland
(1954-2008)**

TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICK "SHEA" PENLAND WHO PASSED MARCH 25, 2008:

He was a member of the UNO faculty since 1997 and held the Jules and Olga Braustein Professorship in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Shea spent more than 25 years of his scientific career devoted to understanding the geology and coastal processes of southern Louisiana. A primary goal during his career was to produce high quality science and then use the results to adequately educate the public and lawmakers about the need for restoration of Louisiana barrier islands and wetlands. During his career he amassed an impressive number of scientific publications, reports and abstracts that dealt with coastal geology from the North Sea to the Gulf of Mexico. His most well known work was his transgressive submergence model of barrier island formation, which describes the transformation of abandoned Mississippi River delta lobes into barrier island systems and helps to explain many of the geomorphic features now present across the delta plain. Mark Kulp

(See the "Shea Penland Tribute" on www.youtube.com)

TRIBUTES TO JIM STRAHAN: I do hope the new UNO dept. chairman follows up on the newsletter idea & contacts the alums. I miss getting the news on the old gang. I had to try emailing the news of Jim's passing to e-addresses in the NOGS directory & most didn't go through for some reason. I didn't hear back from anyone from school, except those at NAVO, of course. I know Jim had a bunch of old buddies who would want to know about him, even if they couldn't attend the memorials for him. The Celebration of Life that we had at my grandparents' home on Audubon Place (which is now my parents' post-Katrina residence) was a good party with lots of food & cerveza, etc...a fit-

ting send-off for Jim! Anyway, I sure will try to attend any reunion get-together in N.O. Picayune, where we landed after Katrina, is only an hour up the road from the city. Cathy Verlander Strahan

When Jim Strahan died after a long battle with multiple myeloma on May 7, 2008, one of his colleagues at the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center said, "Everyone knew Jim by his professional attitude and winning smile." That was the same impression he gave when he came to UNO, a serious student and an amiable person. He seemed a little more mature and certainly more clean-cut than most of his peers at UNO, but he fit right in, and he was well liked by all.

Jim came to UNO after a career in the Army. He was a graduate of the US Army Aviation School as a helicopter pilot with the rank of Warrant Officer. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and was awarded the Bronze Star.

During Field Camp in Saltillo, Jim got to know and eventually fall in love with Candace Verlander, a geology grad student. They married in 1981, and Candy became a loving stepmom to Jim's children. Eventually they had 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren (they were very young grandparents!). Jim and Candy managed to survive a harrowing night together in their Bay St. Louis house during Katrina. After that, they moved to Picayune.

Jim worked as an exploration geophysicist for Amoco and Texaco in New Orleans for 20 years. For a few years before his death, Jim worked as a bathymetrist for the Naval Oceanographic Office, and he surveyed and mapped the deep waters of the Western Pacific. Molly Haynes (BS 81) said of Jim, "When he went to sea as the Senior NAVOCEANO Representative, you knew the job would be done right and the data collection would be excellent." Jim was much admired by family, former classmates at UNO, former coworkers, and many other friends. They all miss that "winning smile." Cathy Strahan & Bill Ward

TRIBUTES TO M. GORDON FREY ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, 1978-1992:

When Gordon Frey still worked for Chevron, he wrote letters to the LSU System recommending that Department of Earth Sciences at LSUNO be allowed to initiate a master's program. His help was instrumental in getting the graduate program approved in 1972.

Soon after Gordon retired from Chevron in 1978, he came to UNO to teach Subsurface Geology and Geophysics



**Maurice Gordon Frey
(1913-2008)**

while Ray Stephens was on leave of absence for one year. It was soon apparent that the department would reap great benefits from an association with Gordon, and his appointment was renewed for 14 years. Because he was over 65, special permission for him to teach had to be granted by the university system every year. For much of that time, Gordon was the oldest professor in the LSU System.

One thing that made Gordon such a successful teacher was his depth of experience. He was one of the early geophysicists for Standard of California in Saudi Arabia, he worked in nearly every oil province in the US during the 1940s, he was Acting Head of the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Cincinnati during the early 1950s, he was Chief Geologist for the California Company Division of Chevron in the late 1950s, and he was Chevron's Geological Consultant for Environmental Affairs during the early 1970s. For 25 years Gordon recruited for Chevron on college campuses around the US. He was President of the New Orleans Geological Society in 1969, and the Transactions of GCAGS were dedicated to Gordon in 1978.

Gordon's kind and cheerful demeanor made him a popular teacher among majors and non-majors alike. For most of his "adjunct-professor" career, Gordon carried a full teaching load and he supervised 11 master's theses. He retired from UNO at the age of 80.

Gordon died in New Orleans at the age of 95. He made a real contribution to the early geology and geophysics programs at UNO. Bill Ward

In late 2008, our department lost a great friend and colleague, Gordon Frey. He joined UNO in 1976, serving as an Instructor for 17 years. During his time with us, Gordon taught freshman geology, served on thesis committees, and five

In Memory Of (continued)

times taught at UNO's International Summer Program at the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

Dr. Frey started college in his hometown of Cincinnati (1931) and graduated (1936 - B.S. Geological Engineering, Univ. Cincinnati) during the Great Depression! Three years later, he received his PhD in Geology, with a minor in Physics from the Univ. Minnesota (1939).

Upon graduation, Standard of California hired Gordon and sent him to Saudi Arabia. The following year, Axis bombing forced his exploration team to leave the Middle East; he was transferred to Australia, but the threat of Japanese invasion forced a second transfer. He immediately joined another Standard team in Canada. Between 1941 and 1948, he worked on a wide range of Standard projects throughout the United States. In 1947 he was promoted to District Geologist in Casper.

Despite being a rising star in the oil business, Gordon returned to an academic environment in the summer of 1948. He joined the faculty back at the University of Cincinnati, becoming acting chairman in 1952. But it was not to be, Standard wooed him back that same year. Within three years, he was promoted to Chief Geologist in Denver. He moved to New Orleans in 1957, where he served as Chief Geologist for Standard (which eventually became Chevron) for twenty years.

Gordon served as president of NOGS (1969-70), General Chairman of the AAPG-SEPM convention (1976), and worked on an endless range of professional and community committee.

Through it all, Gordon shared his adventures and achievements with the love of his life, Marjorie Wells Frey. They had two daughters, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren (so far). Marj survives Gordon, continuing to live in the family home in New Orleans.

Gordon left behind a crowd of admiring students and colleagues. Our lives and the University have been enriched for having known and worked with him and we miss him dearly.



Gordon in front of our building in 2004, doing two of the things he did best -- talking about geology and listening when someone else was talking. We should all be so dedicated, polite, and passionate about our science (And no, he wasn't trying to block

the camera in this picture; he was enthusiastically using his hands to emphasize a point.) By Kraig Derstler

TRIBUTE TO ELSA OCHOA FERNANDEZ: Known to many UNO alumni as the always-friendly and caring wife of Chairman and Dean Lou Fernandez, died of pneumonia on May 11, 2008. Elsa became ill and entered the hospital only one day after she retired from her job as Director of the International Center at Cal State San Bernardino.

Elsa was born in Columbia and came to the US to study languages at the University of Tulsa. There she met Lou, who was working on a master's in geology. They wed in 1965.

While Lou was doing post-doc work at Yale, Elsa worked in the Office of Latin American Studies. After they moved to New Orleans, she earned a BA in French and a master's in Romance Languages at UNO. She also was associate director and later acting director of UNO's Office of Student Financial Aid.

When Lou took the job as Dean of Natural Sciences at Cal State San Bernardino in 1991, she joined the International Center as its Director. Lou later became Provost of that University, while Elsa taught Spanish at CSSB and developed a variety of international education initiatives. She became a much admired and beloved advocate for international students.

Elsa is sorely missed by her family, her students at CSSB, and all of us who have such fond memories of this remarkable woman. By Bill Ward

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA FORD HALL, PASSED FEBRUARY 14, 2009 IN HOUSTON: (BS 80, MS 90) Her untimely death came from pancreatic cancer. Patricia was one of our bright undergraduate students during the 1970s. As I came to know her, it was obvious that she was a good person as well as a good student. At the last NOGS luncheon I attended just before retirement, I sat next to Patricia, and we discussed some of her many accomplishments and activities. Perhaps the only disappointment in her career was not being picked to join the astronaut program. Patricia, a licensed pilot, was among 26 finalists being considered by NASA for astronaut training. When she graduated from UNO in 1980, Patricia was employed by Gulf Oil, and later moved to Amoco, Shell, and finally BP. During the 1980s she

also managed to complete the MS requirements at UNO, doing her thesis under the supervision of Dr. Gordon Frey.

Among many other activities, Patricia was active in the National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists. She served as President of that organization from 1992-1995. It became her lifetime goal to expose students to the field of geology and to stimulate greater awareness of the career opportunities in the earth sciences. Patricia's short life was devoted to mentoring and encouragement of young people interested in geosciences. She made an impact for which all of us in the UNO earth science community can be proud. By Bill Ward

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. WOLLENBEN, MAY 6, 1933—AUGUST 26, 2009:

He was a member of the Faculty of the Department of Geology at UNO from 1968 to 1976. His early training was in paleontology at the University of Southern Mississippi, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation from UT in 1966 was entitled "Biostratigraphy of the Ojinaga and San Carlos Formations of West Texas and Northeastern Chihuahua"; it was supervised by Dr. Keith P. Young. After a year teaching at the University of Missouri, Jim joined the small faculty at LSUNO.

While continuing to teach paleo, he became fascinated with statistics and the application of quantitative methods to geologic and paleontologic phenomena. At UNO, Jim was a favorite professor among the students. He became Chairman of the Department in 1972, the same year of the geology-geophysics master's program was initiated. Jim, Bill Craig, Lou Fernandez, and Bill Ward went to Saltillo in late 1971 to arrange for a summer field camp, which Jim and Lou taught during the summer of 1972. Jim left UNO in 1976 to accept a position as Dean of the College of Science at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Jim left academia in 1979 for a brief stint with Gulf Oil in Houston, and as a partner in Eureka Resources, a geologic consulting firm based in Oakland CA. In 1983, he and his family returned to Austin, where Jim, with partner Dave Greenlee, founded Advanced Micromagnetics. He was active in the company's research and consulting until his death of acute emphysema, complicated with pneumonia.

My first encounter with Jim was in 1954 when he was a starting forward on USM's basketball team, and I was a fan rooting for Spring Hill in Mobile, AL. The next year, both

In Memory Of (continued)

of us wound up at LSU, me as a sophomore geology major, Jim as a Graduate Student. Although we had some classes together, I didn't really get to know Jim until we were picked in the summer of '58 as two of six LSU students to work on a project near Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. At the end of the summer, I left for Graduate School at UT, and Al Weidie (later to be my Supervising Professor and Head of the Department at UNO) joined Jim. Jim managed to court and then wed Margarita Mandujano of Saltillo. (The couple had six children and would have celebrated their 50th Anniversary this November.) Jim then came to UT, where we overlapped again, before I finished my Master's. I taught at LSUNO from 1965 – 1968, was a PhD student at Tulane, and then worked in west Texas when Jim was at Sul Ross. For the last 25 years, my wife Sofi and I have had Thanksgiving dinner with the Wollebens.

Our paths have crossed many times, and in different ways – classmates, colleagues, but always good friends. I'll miss him.

Bill Wilbert, New Braunfels, TX;

Bill Ward contributed

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS P. SMITH WHO PASSED JULY 10, 2009:

He graduated in 1970. This has been a year of many losses: Nick Smith, Butch Harris, Jim Wolleben. Most recent was Dr. Wolleben who a number of us will probably write about in the newsletter. I've always said, the day Jim left academics we all got robbed. Certainly he was one of the best at teaching with storytelling. I'll never forget the monkey wrench on the blackboard to explain form and function. Or the sand dollar experiments. There were hundreds of internal molds around he made by poring liquid lead down the anus, then soak overnight in HCl. Also, how about the fish tanks. He had dozens of live ones to observe living habits before torture. The best Wolleben-Weidie stories were the Northeast Mexico ones from the 60's. Bill Wilbert, John Long, Dave Wahl, Mike Vosbine and others will have to relate those.

The loss that sat me down, though, was Nick. Nicky Pooh or just Pooh was the affectionate name we used, probably given to him by Bechtel. We couldn't call him Smitty. That was too dainty for a 6' 1", 350 lb. belly laughing buddy. He

and I were McDonough Sr. High School Trojans 64-66. Nick was agile and quite athletic in his youth. He was an excellent bowler and regularly knocked softballs out of the park. I remember while I was running around the track in Tad Gormley, he was on the infield throwing stuff, like discus or shot put. He went to the State Meet our senior year in shot put and, I think, placed second. He also played football, of course, in high school and his first 2 years at LSUNO. Nobody ran up the middle on the Privateers.

The fondest memories were around the Geology Department. Like the time (one of many) we went to the Poboy Bakery on Franklyn Ave. (recently reopened on Harrison Ave. by the way) for whole loafs. Roy and Nick were to split a roast beef. As usual, we sat in the classrooms to eat. Well, Nick cut the loaf in half and presented the other half to Roy by flopping it on the desk. The meat, etc. flew out, all over the blackboard and Roy got to eat a hollow French bread and gravy for lunch.

Then there was 'Nick Time'. Well, you know how kids are. One of our wrestling sessions lasted a while cause we couldn't get Nick down. This got to be a regular challenge and was likely to erupt at any time. Someone would holler 'Nick Time' to break the monotony; we'd jump on him only to be shed like beads of sweat. Two or 3 of us skinny guys could never get him down, but add Bechtel and certainly if Beechler jumped in, he was going down laughing the whole time. You see, Nick didn't care. I think he enjoyed the attention. There was a Bechtel-Beechler NT the summer of '69 in Wyoming (I missed out) that went through a wall of Higby's place (the house we rented in Lander). Dr. Craig wasn't too happy, but they fixed it. Craig participated in a few. As I recall, Dr. Snowden tells a story about an occurrence during a fieldtrip around Jackson where he was Dr. Craig's guest. Craig was trying to recruit him to come teach at UNO. Apparently an NT started on the outcrop updip from Craig, which could have hurt the negotiations, but Craig, being an x-Univ. of Missouri football player, understood the animal mentality reassured Snowden. I heard Snowden turned to Craig at that moment and asked 'Do they turn on you often?' We sat in a bar near Milsaps and Craig would throw a pinch of salt in his beer and laugh about it.

I didn't see much of Nick after UNO days. We all scattered throughout the oil patch in the late '70's and bounced around industry in the 80's and early 90's. But, those were the good old days ('67-'74) when we did the BS and MS together. Glad Pooh was a big part of it. We love our Nick!
Marshall Vinet

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL P. HARRIS GRAD STUDENT 1973-75.

Michael Prince Harris and his wife Anne were the only Americans aboard Air France Flight 447 when it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean after leaving Brazil on June 1, 2009.

Mike came to LSUNO after earning a BS in Geology at Clemson in 1972. He was among our first batch of graduate students. In those days he was called "Butch," a name he got as a child in Greenville, South Carolina. Butch was always the Southern gentleman, polite and friendly, and he was a good student.

Mike left UNO to work for Mobil in New Orleans, and later he moved to Lafayette to work for Lynam, Inc. About 1980 he created Prince Petroleum in Lafayette. When business was slow in the late 1980s, he joined the MBA program at USL. By 2002 he had established GEO Environmental Services, while still maintaining Prince Operating Company. He wrote for the 2002 Newsletter, "Life is good! I've got a deal on the market and lots of enviro-clients. I can make a mess, then clean it up."

In 2004 he moved to Houston to work for Devon Energy. At the time of his death, Mike was stationed in Devon's Rio de Janeiro office. He and his wife were on the way to a work-related training session in Spain to be followed by a little vacation.

Carol Prendergast McManus (BS 77) recalls Mike as a "real people-oriented person." She adds, "You couldn't have asked for a nicer guy. With a middle name like Prince, he lived up to it in every way, and he was outgoing, really kind and funny."

Bill Ward





Dr. Mark Kulp, Dept. Chair, Associate Professor

The past couple of years have been particularly exciting for the field of coastal and marine geology with a wide range of large-scale scientific questions and investigations developing in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes. It is a shame that many of these types of projects were not initiated sooner and that they came at the expense of devastating hurricanes.

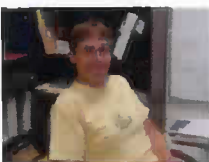


It is good however to see that many important aspects of coastal management are moving forward and that the geosciences are recognized as an important cornerstone of the management efforts. As a result of these initiatives the last couple of years have included some very busy times for the Coastal Research Laboratory.

Between 2006 and 2009 we were engaged in projects that involved keeping 5 to 10 people in the field for weeks at a time, extending at times from the Chenier



Plain to the Chandeleurs Islands. No easy task to keep things moving smoothly along with that many people and sometimes finicky instrumentation. If it were not for the stellar performances of Phil McCarty (above, left), Mike Brown (above), Jeff Motti (not pictured), and Dallan Weathers, (below, along with a range of student workers) it could not have been done. The fieldwork involved varying aspects of hydrographic surveying, sediment sampling,



coring, side scan sonar, and high-resolution seismic profiling. There is a mass of data as a result of these efforts and large portions of it have already ended up as reports or as publications. This is really just the tip of the iceberg and we envision that there will be many more publications, let alone the use of these data in developing coastal management strategies for decades to come.

Students within the group are doing fabulous right now. Bryan Rogers, (UNO 2006) recently graduated after defending his work on the St. Bernard Shoals of the outer Louisiana shelf and has already produced one peer-reviewed publication as a result of his work.



Dane Fischer (right, Juniata College 2007) is wrapping up his research on whether recent fault motion is recognizable in the shallow, unconsolidated stratigraphy of the lower Pearl River delta. Scott Wessels (below right) (Kansas State University 2007) is steamrolling through his research on the architecture of the uppermost Holocene fill of the lower Mississippi River valley. We are currently looking intensely at the datasets he has constructed and believe that he will be able to say some important things about the depositional character of valley infilling during the Holocene transgression. The newest addition to the group is Mary Ellison (upper right, Boston University 2008). Mary spent a lot of time in the field this past summer getting experience in the Louisiana wetlands and has begun her efforts to more clearly understand the

transition of deltaic headlands to barrier island systems. Mary has been very aggressive in her work and already this past spring was awarded a



student research grant from Gulf Coast Societies. She'll be working very closely with Dr. Mike Miner (graduated Sp 07) who has decided to stick around here as a research associate and has been instrumental to the completion most of the projects that I mentioned earlier. Mike has done a great job of helping to lead the whole group, get material published and secure his own funding for new projects; he's well on his way to a very successful career in coastal geosciences. On a personal note I am doing extremely well. Sitting as chair of the Department certainly has taken a big chunk of time from my schedule but I think I am somehow managing to keep it together. Ok, a few dropped balls here and there but overall I think it is working out. Despite everything that is happening in the Department I do manage to find personal time. My latest endeavor is to turn every spare part of our property into a vegetable garden, undoubtedly the farm boy in me. If I am not working in the gardens for a break then I'm most likely in my kayak fishing the shallow marshes, just can't seem to get enough of the good fishing around here. Life is good!!



"It is good to see that many important aspects of coastal management are moving forward."

Dr. Royhan Gani, Assistant Professor



Dr. Royhan Gani in the Book Cliffs of Utah



Dr. Gani demonstrating the StrataMax lab during Earth Day event.



Dr. Gani sketching Book Cliffs Strata



After finishing my Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Texas at Dallas, I joined Energy & Geoscience Institute at the University of Utah and spent three years as a research assistant professor. Intermittently I gathered brief working experience in the petroleum industry, including Shell and BP. This Fall I feel proud to be able to join the University of New Orleans in a tenure track Assistant Professor position in the Earth & Environment Sciences Department.

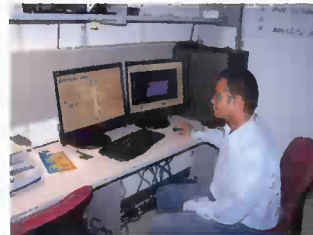
As part of my long-term quest to be able to read the story written in the vast sedimentary record, my research involves two complimentary facets – applied and basic sedimentology. I'm actively involved in industry-supported research on facies architecture, reservoir analog, ichnology, and dynamic stratigraphy of clastic strata. Although my research experience spans from continental fluvial to deep-marine depositional environments, I particularly work on shallow-marine Cretaceous strata in the Western Interior Seaway. I'm also investigating the world's largest oil-shale deposits, the Green River Formation, in Uinta Basin, Utah to pave the way to tap into domestic unconventional resources in the near future.

Although I consider myself a field-based, outcrop sedimentologist, I routinely use seismic, well log, core, and GPR data to study clastic strata in the subsurface. Recently, I've finished developing my StrataMax (stratigraphic maximum) lab, a cutting-edge PC-based workstation lab with 3D visualization capability, to investigate subsurface geology in a maximum way. A recent software grant (1.5 million dollars) from Landmark was instrumental to this effort. This lab also has a GPR system (with 100 MHz and 250

MHz antennas) to acquire, process, and interpret shallow subsurface geology.

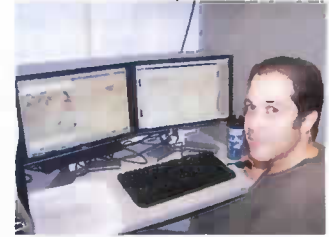
There is at least one reason why I'm excited about moving into New Orleans, it puts me closer to the Mississippi Delta. I study deep-time deltas, like the Cretaceous Raptor Delta and Panther Tongue Delta in Wyoming and Utah, respectively. My long-term goal in delta research is to integrate tightly, knowledge of ancient deltas with that of modern deltas. Hence, by moving into UNO I'm exposed to the vast ongoing research activities of EES and PIES on the modern Mississippi Delta. To save a sinking city like New Orleans we surely need that robust integrated knowledge on how deltas are modulated by land-ocean interaction.

Currently, two graduate students and one undergraduate student are working in my lab. PhD student Hiranya Sahoo (below) is investigating



stratigraphic compartmentalization of Cretaceous coastal-plain deposits of the Blackhawk Formation (Wasatch Plateau, Utah), which is an outcrop analog for producing tight-gas reservoirs in the adjacent Uinta and Piceance Basins. Undergraduate student Andrew Ranson (lower right) is also working on the same rocks to investigate the complex land-ocean interplay in shoreline successions, where fully-marine strata transition stratigraphically upward into fully-continental strata. This research could be important for a coastal city like New Orleans, for example, to

predict subsurface lithology and associated subsidence. PhD student Josgre Salazar has



started working on tectono-sedimentary evolution of Pleistocene strata in the Gulf of Mexico using 3d seismic, wireline logs, and core data, and graduate student Sean O'Brien is finishing up his MS research on a related project.

I'm a great believer of integration and unification, hence my "basic" research cuts across traditional disciplinary boundaries. To take the advantage (or disadvantage!) of living with another geological soul under the same roof, I teamed up with my wife, Nahid Gani, an Adjunct Professor in EES, to study the birthplace of all human beings, the East African Rift System, to understand the geological controls on human evolution during early Pliocene. Particularly, we are investigating the Ethiopian Plateau to understand the link among tectonic uplift, climate change, and hominid evolution.

I'm feeling good about the coming days. I think I'm ready to help put EES on the global map – let's work together!



Andrew and Hiranya collecting GPR data on a mesa top, Wasatch Plateau, Utah.



Dr. Nahid Gani, Adjunct Professor

Adjunct Professor—Structural geology, tectonic geomorphology, Remote Sensing-GIS

BACKGROUND

During my undergraduate years at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, I had the opportunity to do a series of field trips as a geology major. Three long field trips (two-to-three weeks) in three years made me passionate to further tie nature and geology together and build a platform for my future endeavor. This opportunity still boosts my spirit to pursue diverse and challenging research in geology. I did my masters on paleoenvironmental analysis and thin section petrography on Miocene shallow-marine clastic deposits in the Bengal Basin. During my PhD at the University of Texas at Dallas, I worked on the Ethiopian Plateau to investigate spatio-temporal variation of regional incision, utilizing GIS-based digital elevation model analyses and field studies. I was also able to incorporate my previous sedimentologic background to document stratigraphic evolution of the Blue Nile basin. While performing field work in Ethiopia, my keen interest in structural geology encouraged me to study the evolution of normal fault networks within this active continental rift setting. I joined the Energy and Geoscience Institute at the University of Utah after finishing my PhD and worked on a number of projects including structural and hydrothermal-alteration mapping from remote sensing/GIS, and thin section petrography in the western United States and Alaska. Now, here I am, fortunate to be in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNO, which has opened up an

opportunity to explore the structures and their underlying causes within the Mississippi Delta.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Transient response to Neotectonics

A network of alluvial channels flowing southward over the Pleistocene and Holocene fluvial deposits of the Mississippi Valley crosses the E-W striking Baton Rouge fault zone (BRFZ). Although BRFZ is a major concern for coastal subsidence, its dynamic behavior is poorly understood. This research investigates recent fault movements and their controls on channel morphology. The focus is to quantify transient behavior of the



Field work in Tickfaw River New Orleans

fault-crossing alluvial channels by utilizing stream power-law scaling approaches from LIDAR DEM and field studies. This is a collaborative research with Dr. Nicole Gasparini and Dr. Nancye Dawers at Tulane University.

Tectonics-climate-incision coupling in the Ethiopian Plateau

The evolution of the Blue Nile drainage on Ethiopian Plateau is crucial to unraveling Cenozoic tectono-climatic history of the region, particularly because the region has long been used as a natural laboratory to understand the geodynamics of continental rifting and the evolution of hominids. However, the study of incision history of the Ethiopian Plateau is still in its infancy. The tectonic information, particularly for the late Cenozoic, that I hope to extract further from quantitative stream profile analysis of digital elevation models could aid in understanding how the dynamic landscape of East Africa controlled paleoclimate of the region and created a highly-variable spatial and temporal physiography that acted as a perfect cradle for hominid evolution. This research, in collaboration with Dr. Royhan Gani, a fine collaborator (not because he is my husband!), is a continuation of our works published in GSA Today and Geotimes.

Integrating geomorphic signatures with remote sensing data and field studies to



Measuring the attitude of the fault scarp of the Baton Rouge Fault Zone

investigate fault dynamics in coastal Louisiana

This new initiative will focus on 3D modeling of fault architectures, fault mechanics and evolution in an actively subsiding region like Louisiana integrating various data like remote sensing (e.g. ASTER, LIDAR), ground penetrating radar, shallow but high-resolution seismic, and cores with field studies. This research, in collaboration with other EES faculty, will aid in documenting fault patterns and their relationship with recent geologic processes (or reactivation of older structures) that can be tied to regional tectonics of a passive margin setting.

Nile sediment budget and partitioning from the Ethiopian Plateau source to the Nile deep-sea fan sink

This collaborative research with Royhan Gani investigates the Nile sediment budget from source to sink using GIS-based quantitative analysis of DEM and published isotopic ages – a tool for calculating sediment volume through 3D modeling of cut/fill surface extracted from the incision history of the Ethiopian Plateau. Our goal is to quantify the sediment volume produced in the Ethiopian Plateau and partition these sediments in various depositional systems produced by the Nile River system during the last 6 Ma.



Nahid and Royhan GPR imaging of the Baton Rouge Fault Zone



With Royhan on the Ethiopian Plateau

EES Alumni News

Glenn Baack, BS Geology 1977. I'm pushing the 30 year mark with Koch Exploration. I've officed in New Orleans, Wichita, Houston and now Denver. I had an opportunity to see some UNO alumni in New Orleans last June – good 'ole' Al Porter sure knows how to throw a party! Still waiting to reschedule a fishing trip with Jeff Jandegian – he had a flimsy excuse to cancel the Saturday before Katrina came ashore.

Allen Cregg, BS EASC 1979. My wife, Leesa, and I continue to live in Katy, Texas with our two sons. James is finishing up at the University of Houston and David has just begun his senior year of high school. I am currently working on a project in China and enjoying every minute of it.

Alyssa M. Dausman, MS in Geology and Geophysics in 2000. I recently finished my PhD in Earth Sciences from Florida International University. I currently work as a Hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Lauderdale, FL, a career I started after graduating from UNO. My research includes variable-density modeling in coastal groundwater systems. I have been fortunate enough to work with some great researchers in the field of numerical modeling. It has opened doors for me to go overseas and teach as part of my job, as well as attend international conferences. I am now heading up a regional water availability study of the Floridan Aquifer System in the southeastern U.S.

When I'm not working and traveling, I'm running, surfing, or playing with my dogs in sunny south Florida. Aside from the hurricanes, I love the warm weather all year round. However, I miss New Orleans and I owe Dr. Dale Easley a huge "THANX" for starting me off in the field I currently work. If it weren't for his guidance at UNO, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Angela Gaubert Josey, MS in Geology, May 2002. I am currently working in Production and Development at MMS (with everyone else from UNO) and still loving it after almost 6 years. My husband, Justin, and I have 4 kids (Payton, C.J., Starlynn, and Austin), 3 dogs, and a cat, so life stays very hectic. We live in Hammond and enjoy fishing and camping with all the munchkins, plus still find time to hang out with John and Andrea C.

Art Lombard, B.Sc. 1987, I've been living and working in Port-of-Spain, Trini-

dad for the last 5 years. Having a blast and still learning a lot. Fifteen years before that, I worked all around the Gulf Coast from South Texas to Baton Rouge—offshore and onshore.

Bill Ranson, MS 1975. Hard to believe I've been at Furman for 30 years! The place just keeps getting better, and I enjoy the stimulation and the challenges of teaching and research here in the beautiful Appalachian foothills. Wife Allison continues to work in environmental consulting, and our three daughters are now 24, 21 and 17 years old. If anyone has any advice on how to marry off three girls without going bankrupt, just let me know! Best wishes to all my UNO friends!

Carl Young & Gaby Womble, MS, 1985 & BS, 1989 respectively. I work as an Operations Manger at Baltimore Cabrera Services. Cabrera specializes in radiological investigations and clean-ups. Our 5 year old, Victor starts kindergarten this Fall. We've been fixing up an old row house in inner city Baltimore.

Charles W Wickstrom, MS 1979. I am Managing Member of Spyglass. Founded in 2003 we are exploring for oil and gas in OK, KS, IL and IN. Spyglass has a proprietary seismic company, Alliance Geophysical, and we acquire 3D seismic for our own account and do shoot to earn projects. My wife Cal and I have been married 35 years and look forward to the next 35.

Chris Douglas, Earth Science 1977. I am currently employed at Manti Exploration & Operating as Exploration Manager. It's always boom or bust, but this down-turn is getting old fast...I guess we'll all survive another one. Maybe I'll move to Brazil and go to work for Petrobras and share in the \$2 Billion the Obama administration is loaning them... unbelievable.

David Broadbridge, BS Earth Science 1981. Melanie & I have 2 girls, the older is a Junior in Art College, and the younger, is a Junior in High School. I continue to prospect for more oil & gas in S. Louisiana. My office is in downtown Covington. Alumni, you can contact me via email or website: dave@kimsuoil.com or www.kimsuoil.com

David P. Callaway, BS Geology 1998, MBA 2003. Geologist MMS

Deborah C. Stone, Master of Science, Geology, 1997. P.I., Centanni Investigative Agency

Frank Sheppard, BS, Earth Sciences 1984. Currently in Denver but looking to head back south to Houston or New Orleans soon. 2009 a year of big change for me; almost single again and will likely have a different job by the time this is

published. Hope all is well with all my UNO friends. Look me up on Facebook.

Jason Bourgeois, M.S. Geology, 1988: Working in Entergy's Environmental Management group since 2002; assigned to southeastern Louisiana. Duties are varied and include environmental storm restoration. Two children: 9 year old daughter (Bailey) and 6 year old son (Desmond). Still working weekends as a musician; playing guitar with The Boogie Men, the band I started back in 1995. Wife Michele (B.S. Chemistry, 1986) is the lead chemist at Cytec (Waggaman, LA).

Jim Lloyd, Master's in Geology 1991. I have lived and worked in Lafayette, LA for last 8 years. I am currently working GOM assets. Heidi, who I met at Texaco in New Orleans, and I have three kids: 2 girls and one boy. On my free time I enjoy water sports such as skiing and fishing, biking, volleyball and bowling, and I continue to coach kid's softball and soccer teams. Oh, I can't forget LSU football games. Go Tigers!

Joel J Lazzeri, MS 1979. The family and I continue to enjoy 10 years on the Maryland Piedmont after years of moving around the country. I am Program Manager for EA's Air Force and EPA contracts and I still manage to apply my geology every now and then. On an "It's a Small World" note my older daughter Kristin is a geology major at Towson University and her Structural Geology Prof was Rachel Burke, a UNO BS alumnus. Kristin and I plan to visit NO this November when she presents a paper at the SETAC Conference. I look forward to showing her around town and seeing how things are progressing post-Katrina. My younger daughter Katie is a lacrosse fanatic and her club team just completed a perfect season with the Club National Championship.

John L. (Chip) Carney, entered LSU-NO 1962 – BS GEOL 1967 LSUBR – MS GEOL 1975 LSUBR. Native of New Orleans. Industry Biostratigrapher & Geologist for Chevron, Paleo Data, Inc., and Amoco 1969-2000 – Transferred N.O. to Houston 1989 - Retired from Amoco-BP 2000 –Biostratigraphy Consultant and Artist in Houston 2000-Present.

John Scheldt, MS 1976. My career has finally come full circle from O&G geologist to mudlogger to directional driller to coalbed geologist to (non-) conventional O&G. I've had lots of experiences in my travels over the last thirty years, but given the current price downturn, I'd rather not have to go through that again. See you at AAPG in New Orleans next April!

Jon Blickwede, MS Earth Science 1981. I joined Statoil during 2005, and have been enjoying working on prospect generation/maturation and regional studies in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico and a bit of Latin America as well. A group of us are hoping to organize a UNO Earth and Environmental Science alumni/faculty/friends event during the AAPG in New Orleans in 2010, so I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Kay R. Plavidal, BS 1981. My husband, Larry, retired from Texas State University last year. Since then, we have just been enjoying life. I teach 1 or 2 classes at Austin Community College each fall and spring, and we get out of Austin during the summer. Our favorite places to escape to include Yosemite National Park -- where we've done some volunteering through Sierra Club -- and the entire eastern Sierras, from Lake Tahoe down to Bishop. I would love to hear from some of my old UNO buddies.

Leah Johanningmeier, B.S. Geology 2005. Began working at MMS a little over a year ago, and am as happy as can be. All goes well in my little world!

Lisa Dwyer Kennedy, B.S. Geology 2001, M.S. Geology 2006. In October of 2006, I married a wonderful man, Andrew Kenney! We have 2 rottweilers, Zeus & Hera, who are extremely sweet & spoiled! I co-lead 2 Girl Scout troops at the International School of Louisiana. One Cadette troop of 6th & 7th graders and one Junior troop of 5th graders. I have been at MMS for 8+ years now and am still enjoying my job and always learning something new. Want to learn more, find me on Facebook!

Marcella Baxter Dean, B.S. in Geology (August, 1995), M.S. in Applied Physics, College of Sciences (August, 2001), Ph.D. in Engineering and Applied Sciences (May, 2003). For the last six years Mike, the kids, Juliana (10) and Ryan (6) and I have been living in Borneo in the small country of Brunei finding oil and gas for the Sultan there. We've enjoyed the jungle, but are ready for a change and move next year. Who knows where we'll end up next...

Michael Dean, MSc. Structural Geology, 1995. I have worked for Shell since I graduated in 1995. I worked in New Orleans on deepwater Gulf of Mexico turbidite fields prior to moving to Brunei in 2003 with my wife Marcella and our two children, Ryan (6) and Juliana (10).

Mark J. Gallagher, BS Geology 1981. It is great to see that you are continuing the news letter. I really appreciate my UNO Geology experience. I hope you hold a alumni event during the upcoming AAPG Convention in New Orleans. I hope you hold it on campus in the department. Deborah and I moved to Dallas, TX this year from Tulsa, OK. Our oldest son Daniel is a UT Austin

graduate and works as a newspaper reporter and free lance writer in the Dallas area. Our middle child, Paul is finishing at UT Tyler in education and is also a swim coach in Tyler, Texas. We lived in Tyler between 1997 and 2003. Our youngest, Erin is a freshman at OU, Norman, OK, where she will major in Nursing. I am working East Texas and North Louisiana exploration and development. I have remained active with the AAPG and GCAGS. Despite living in Tulsa, we were affected by Katrina. We evacuated my parents to Tulsa and adopted a small dog abandoned in the storm. I hope to see all of you in New Orleans this spring at the AAPG Convention.

Mary A. Rather, MS Geology, 1999. I am still in New Orleans, as I have been since graduating from UNO. I am a geologist at Minerals Management Service (MMS) in Production and Development, where I work on Gulf of Mexico deep-water projects.

Michael Vosbein, Graduated 1969 BS. 40 years in the oil business through all the ups downs, reorganizations, mergers, and bankruptcies and still here.

Mosa Nasreen, MSc, 2003 (Dec). Life is really good although busy. My only son, Wasi keeps me more busy. He is now four and half yrs old and very active boy. I enjoy my work although it is new part of Geology to me; it is all about isotope geochemistry.

Noelle Richard Chalona, BS Geology 2003. I married in 2003, a few months before I graduated. We moved to Hammond in 2004, had our first daughter in October 2004, and in January 2007 we had our second and subsequently last child. I have been working for an environmental consulting company, Delta Consultants, in Metairie on and off since 2004.

Peggy Henry Schexnayder, B.S. 1975. I am still working as an Oceanographer for the Navy -- 23 years now. I really enjoy my work and have traveled across most of the world's oceans. Today I write contracts with academic groups such as the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. My husband, Kevin, also works for the Navy in the International Programs Department. We have two sons and two grandsons.....and, yes, I am from the Proterozoic days of the department. EXTINCT AND LOVING IT!

Randy Smith, MS 1987. Nearly five years into my second stint in Houston. Rhonda and I live in the Heights -- which is probably as close to a N.O. neighborhood as you can get here.

Rebecca C. Murphey, Masters, May 2005. I am working as a geologist with

the Data Acquisition and Special Projects Unit at MMS. I am the lead contact for seismic and sand/gravel permitting in the GOM region. As far as personal life, I am still single and living large as always.

Rob Herbert, MS, 1991, Geology & Geophysics Currently employed as Ground Water Protection Section Chief, Division of Water Quality, Utah DEQ. Teri and I are trying to keep up with our teenage sons Trent (16, Junior) and Zachary (14, Freshman). Trent enjoyed his first year of wrestling, made all-conference defense again for Skyline HS varsity lacrosse, and is a starting OT and DE on the varsity football team after a summer full of lacrosse tournaments. Zachary is still playing year-round competitive soccer and has been enjoying Young Life activities including a fun summer camp in San Diego. We had a nice Florida vacation at Disney World, Daytona Beach, and the beautiful barrier island beaches on the Sun-coast.

Rob Sloan, MS Geology--1989. Still working as a geologist for Shell. We have rebuilt our home damaged by Katrina and still enjoying life in New Orleans.

Sheila L. Ross, BS Earth Sciences (1979). I'm still living in Houston and enjoying the retirement life. Gardening continues to be a passion of mine and when I'm not gardening I'm trying out new recipes. I sometimes have to bargain with my husband, Jim Piccolo, for my time in the kitchen since he loves to cook too. We recently went fly-fishing in Southern Colorado / Northern New Mexico where I caught my first rainbow trout. What a perfect activity--it combines hiking with fishing and enjoying the great outdoors. Jim and I got to see Bill & Kathy Ward in Boerne, TX earlier this year and that was quite a treat since it'd been years since I'd seen them.

James A. Showalter, BS-Geology (84), MS-Geophysics (86). I'm working as a Program Manager for the Naval Oceanographic Office. My tasks require me to travel worldwide and I've spent the past 5 summers in Norway. The weather there in June is nicer than in Mississippi. This past summer I visited Svalbard which is an incredible place that every geologist should visit. I moved to Hattiesburg with my wife Judy in 2003 and am enjoying life very much.

Skylar L. Primm, BS in Geology, 2002 In 2003, I moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where I earned an MS in Structural Geology (Continued on page 18)

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University of Wisconsin. I also met my wife, Stefanie, in Madison. We were married last spring in a ceremony at the state capitol building. This fall, I begin my teaching career at an alternative charter middle/high school called TAGOS Leadership Academy in Janesville, Wisconsin. I am still a huge geek for rocks, and look forward to spreading my geekery to a new generation!

Stacy Smith, Master of Science in Geology, 1990.

I have been working for Texaco/Chevron for 19 years. My current assignment includes seismic interpretation and reservoir model building for the Major Capital Projects group of the Deep Water Gulf of Mexico Business Unit. Kelly and I have 3 great children: Forrest (11), Shelby (6), and Laney (4). We love Texas, but we really miss our family in Louisiana! It is good to hear from the department after the terrible bout with Katrina!

Steve Byrnes, MS Geology, 1989.

I've been living in Malaysia since 1993 and teaching at the International School of Kuantan since 1999. Mahani and I have 5 children. The oldest is 15 years old and the youngest is 5 years old. We will be traveling to the United States in December to visit my family in Kansas. We would enjoy getting back in touch with our friends from UNO. I would like to get more news about the Geology Department at UNO and would especially enjoy hearing from old friends.

Edwin E. Sticker, MS 1979. Life is slow but good here in Mississippi. I'm still generating, assembling, and marketing oil and gas drilling ventures in the upper Gulf Coast from East Texas to Florida. I'm looking forward to getting the newsletter and reminiscing about the more "care free" times. A big thanks to all who are involved in this effort. See ya at NAPE!

Eric Stromboe, MS Geology, 1990.

Working the Jack discovery for Chevron is keeping me busy at the office. I have been living in Katy, Texas for four years now with my wife, Rae, and kids Claire and Connor. Hope to make AAPG in New Orleans next April!

Tom Kratochvil, MS 1997. My last daughter is in college, and we have 5+ grandchildren now. Still finding hydrocarbons.

Victoria May Sadin, BS 1985. Still married to Bill... my lovely daughter Caylie graduated from Ben Franklin in 2008 #5 in her class, while Attending NOCCA simultaneously. Caylie now attends DePaul University in Chicago on partial academic

scholarship. I was working as a scenic artist in the movie industry and even have a few movie credits. Got a great opportunity to purchase the Cold Stone Creamery back from the corporation about a year and a half ago as the second owner. I really love selling fabulous ice cream... because it's fun. Stop by and see us sometime!

William "Woody" Dahl, MS Earth Science 1984. After being flushed out by Katrina we followed Chevron up to the North Shore. I am currently working development geology on the Shelf. My wife and I are enjoying the antics of our 3 year old son, Jack.

Yan Quist, MS, 1992. I have worked for Amoco then BP for 15 years as a geophysicist. I currently just transferred from BP's Thunder Horse Project to the New Development Project of Freedom. Really enjoying the work and people I am working with. My family - husband Pat; son Kevin and daughter Erica are doing very well.

Al DuVernay III, BS Earth Science,

1976. Retired in Feb 2007 from Shell and lov'n it, and have never been more busy. I'm Renovating my Metry house, planning my re-build in Lakeview, still playing at and working on the Des Allemands camp, and replaced my Lake Catherine camp with a moscotious Lake house 21 ft above sea level. In my spare time I still fish every chance I get and haunt the local music clubs on the new motorcycle. Oh yeah, keep an eye out for a new tree hugger documentary to premiere 21 Sep 09, "The Age of Stupid" - I'm in it. I don't necessarily agree with their conclusions on anthropogenic climate change but it was fun doing the production just the same.

Al Porter, BS Earth Sciences - 1978. Entering my 32nd year of being a micropaleontologist at Paleo-Data. Still love my job. Dr. Craig's introductory paleo course must have had a good influence on me. Just celebrated my 25th year of marriage to Laura. My daughter, Megan, just got married in June 2009. Had a big typical New Orleans wedding with a Second Line Parade through the French Quarter. My son, Jett is a senior at LSU. This will be my 20th year riding in Endymion. I enjoy it more and more every year.

Candace Verlander Strahan, BA 1973 I am still living in Picayune since "Katrina" flooded us out in Bay St. Louis MS, 8/29/05 & trying my best to adjust to life without my dear husband, Jim Strahan (UNO grad BS 1979), who passed away

on 5/7/08 from multiple myeloma. I have started playing golf a bit with a ladies group at the local club & have begun painting (watercolors, acrylics) again. I'm blessed to have the love & support of my family & friends. Many thanks to all of our old UNO geology compadres for so many great times & wonderful memories.

Carolyn A. Green, BS in Earth Sciences,

1978. Life is very good for me personally. Returned to US in early 2008 from an international assignment and now live in Katy. My current role in the new Projects & Technology organization after the company reorganization does not require much international travel, so I will have more time to visit New Orleans on the weekends. Will know by end of year whether I will have even more time to visit New Orleans.

Chandra Dreher, M.S. Geology Dec,

2006. Employed as a Coastal Geologist, at the U.S. Geological Survey - FISC, St. Petersburg, FL. "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Cheryl Sperling Stevens, B. S. Earth

Science 1969. I have worked as a geophysicist in the Oil and Gas Industry since 1969, mostly in the Houston area. It has been a wonderful career and allowed me to meet a lot of interesting people. There has been domestic and international business travel over the years to Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Romania. My husband Joe of 17 years is also a geophysicist. We settled in the Texas Hill Country to retire six years ago but an opportunity arose to continue working in our field with a short commute. We both love to travel but enjoy the ambiance of the Hill Country. New Orleans is still a favorite spot to visit.

Dana Watzke Bishara, Bachelors in Geology 2002. Living in Tennessee and still looking for a job here.

Eileen Ayres Diaz, B.S. Earth Sciences

1983. I've been living in southern New England for almost 9 years with my husband, Arthur, and three kids (teenagers!) Amy (17), Alex (15) and Dana (13). We've lived all over the U.S. (and a short stint in England) before settling in Connecticut. I work part-time at Pomfret School in the Admissions Office as well as supervise SAT and ACT tests during the school year (not using my geology degree much anymore, as you can see.). Although I miss New Orleans, I sure do love the change of seasons here!

Eric C. Broadbridge, BS May 1983.

Working 3D seismic in S. LA at Northcoast Oil Company with Jack Thorson and Ray Stephens. Our office is located in Covington, LA however I still live in Metairie. Hope to see UNO market and teach geology for the oil and gas industry in a big way, like it was in the 70's and 80's. The oil and gas industry will be hurting for good geolo-

gists in the next 10 years or so.

Andrew Glenn Raby, BS Geology 1978. I just retired from 29 years with the US Forest Service in Southwest Colorado, managing local mineral development, geology information, and the spectacular Chimney Rock Archaeological Area (www.chimneyrockco.org). I am enjoying retirement but working too much! I hope things are improving at the department and good luck to all there.

Bob Hafner, Earth Science MS 1980. Geologist working on the shelf exploitation team. Not-married with 2 daughters (Hillary and Helen) ages 16 and 12.

Harvey Edwards, BS Earth Sciences 1982; MS Engineering 1990. Government jobs might not pay well but they do pay ... even during a recession. And I'll be eligible to retire in April. Today's challenge is working with an indicted irrigation district to rehabilitate and operate a 100 plus year old canal and delivery system. We find out in February whether they really were able to deliver 150% more water than in the system. Everything else is status quo.

Jeff Spencer, MS 1982. Black Pool is currently working offshore Texas state waters and South Louisiana. Trying to survive these low gas prices! Family is doing great. Girls are 12 and 15 (just got her driving permit.....what few black hairs I had are now gray). I will be at the NOGS luncheon speaker in November. Hope to see some of you there!

W. Philip Richardson, B.S. Geophysics U.N.O, 1992. I'm still working away in the Oil and Gas industry, this time focusing on offshore Eastern Canada and recently offshore Angola - intriguing geology in both places. We moved to Houston two years ago - but kept our place in New Orleans - miss it!

Terry Keegan, 1976 BS, Dept of Earth Science. Geophysical Consultant in New Orleans. Raising kids is like herding cats.

Suzanne Bernhardt Smith, BS Earth Science 1980. I have a great 12 year old son and husband. I've been a Geophysicist for 30 years (18 at Amoco, 3 at Vastar/Arco and 9 at BP). Nothing too much has changed, and great to hear about everyone.

Chris Caravella (Joseph Christopher Caravella), BS Earth Sciences 1983, MS Geology & Geophysics 1985. Enjoyed seeing everyone at Rocktoberfest 2 years ago. I've cobbled together an unofficial website at www.unogas.org but still haven't devoted the time to fully implementing it. I am still easily distracted!

Jim Nizamoff, MS Geology 2006. I'm employed as a mineralogist for Omya, Inc. in Proctor, Vermont and live in Rutland, Vermont. Enjoying life in a place where hurricanes are not a concern, alt-

hough I do miss the El Nino's at Taqueria Corona.

John Cramer, MS Geology 1990. Riding out the roller coaster ride of the oil business from the Geophysical Services perspective. Closing in on twenty years. Moved out of a Business Development/Sales role earlier this year and into a management role as the Houston Depth Imaging Manager for PGS. My wife, Lorin, is also a geophysicist working for PGS and so I am fortunate to see her at work every day - albeit whizzing past each other in the hallways. My daughter entered high school this year while my son entered middle school. Looks like I'll be working another twenty years to get them through college !!

Merit Watson Shalett, Earth Science BS 1981. I'm still fundraising at the CAC (14 years!) and still married to Monte, who is the one in our family that's active in the oil business. We run into fellow alums occasionally on the lakefront but otherwise we're working, playing and enjoying the company of our now-adult sons, Monte C. and Lee.

Paul Credo, Earth Science BS 1977. Currently a Petrophysicist. Married with 2 sons and lots of baggage.

Randy Stilwell, MS - 1980. Just celebrated my 30-year service anniversary with Oxy/Altura/Shell. Continue working on tertiary recovery projects in mature Permian Basin fields, especially using 3-D modeling as a reservoir surveillance tool. Christine and I still enjoy relaxing on our little piece of the country as Houston expands ever closer. In my spare time I coach Special Olympics basketball, softball and track for our youngest son, Nolan's, team. The rest of the kids are scattered from Chicago to Austin to L.A. No grandkids yet, but waiting anxiously for the day soon when we can spoil them. We will fondly remember our years at UNO as two Yankee newlyweds learned about life in the deep South.

Ray Raterman, BS, 1973. Changed jobs again. Still selling wireline services and trying to interpret data, but went back to Atlas in 2008. Have 2 grand kids now. Wife and I are enjoying the good life in Bush. Hope to get about 5 more years out of the oil industry and then kick back.

Dr. Sarah L Hanson, Geology BS 1987; Geology MS 1990. Things have not changed a whole lot lately. Although I may be a little older and a little crazier, I am still a Geology Professor at Adrian College in southern Michigan and I still work with Skip Simmons and Al Falster on cool pegmatite projects. I still spend every summer working on volcanoes in northern Arizona and I still love to go camping and play guitar. But stay tuned, layoffs are threatened and the job applications are

flying out so I may be headed for a whole new adventure soon! Wish me luck!

Roy Lassus, BS, MS: 1975; Pelican Oil & Gas is over 20 years old and still kickin' an drillin'. Still partners with UNO Geology Grad, the one and only, Marshall Vinet. Still in denial about old age and, as of this writing, remain upright. Still married with children (grown and gone - thank God!) and grandchildren. Still confused and amazed about how I got to this point and lasted this long. Still think often about the great UNO Geology Department of yesteryear. Still having an awful good time and intend to keep it up.

Justina Horan, BS 2007; Currently I work for two organizations: The Village Ovah da Rivahand the Common Ground Collective Rehabilitation Network. At the Village, I am the manager of the Arts/Crafts Market. I also make jewelry, picture frames and other crafts and am the personal assistant to Cathi Smith, the Director of the Village. The CGC Rehabilitation Network is an organization that provides a variety of services for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. There, I am the assistant to Malik Rahim and the manager of the Wetlands Restoration Network. I work on our tree farm planting marsh grass, and I do research on industries impacting the environment. Through these networks, we hope to encourage a job market in the sustainability/green industry where hiring of ex-offenders is made a priority, as crime is a product of poverty.

Kevin Wallace, MS 1984; Enjoying international oil patch work for Challenger, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Transocean. Two children (Ashley and Kevin Jordan) in college; one (Ryan) has own business. Susan is back in the work force since the kids are out of the home, working as a Territory Representative for Hallmark. Have adapted to Texan lifestyle with boat, jet ski, and Ford Pickup ownership and purchased a fast European car to sit in Houston traffic with. Please God give us one more oil boom.....I promise not to invest the earnings this time...I'll spend it all!!

Elizabeth M. Petro, M.S. Geology 2005 After graduation I worked as a petroleum geologist for Chevron deepwater production and development. In 2006 I began work at the MMS as a petroleum geologist in the reserves section.

Marshall Vinet: Kids are doing fine. Erica is a mom again with 2nd daughter Caroline(8-12-09). Jeff is making A's in 3rd year at LSU including Tailgating 1001. Hear he needs practice cooking Shrimp Dadio. Post Katrina New Orleans still a mixed bag of progress, but no trouble get-

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ting big red snapper in the Gulf as a result of underfishing. Three \$ an MCFG really sucks.

Rachel Burks Rea, B.S., Earth Sciences,

1978: My husband and I enjoy our city life in Baltimore very much, but have started house-hunting for a retirement place out in the country. My geological research in the Maryland Piedmont includes archeology, studying 5,000-year-old soapstone quarries, and in my spare time I'm still trying to understand the complexities of the assembly of Pangaea. We've visited New Orleans a few times since the storm, and it's gut-wrenching each time. I created a Powerpoint on "The Geology of the Katrina Disaster: New Orleans Before and After" that I presented across Baltimore to try to keep people's attention on its continuing problems. I've stayed in touch with Linda Rosenbaum Hart over the years and just recently got back in touch with Glenn Raby through his archeological work in Colorado. The lucky guy just retired!

Robin Broussard, BS 1984: My big news is that I got remarried last year to Rusty Boyer. My kids are growing up: they're both teenagers now. I also switched jobs from Taylor Energy to Shell....still trying to stay in New Orleans. Bought some wooded property in the rollinghills of Ruston, La. – we even have rocks there!

Sirel White, Electrical Engineering BS 2000; Geology and Geophysics, MS 2006;

Senior Geophysicist in Technical Computing. Lots of Travel abroad for work reasons has opened up lots of experiences: Germany, Nigeria, England, Japan, Austria, France.

Dr. Joseph Kelley. Dr. Alice Kelley is an Instructor at the University of Maine and I

Former Faculty

am the chair of the Earth Science Department. We work on Geo-archeology together (Peru, Ireland) and I study the seafloor and sea-level change off Ireland and Maine. One of our three kids became a geologist: Sam is getting a MS degree in Climate Change this year. We live in a house built in 1796, overlooking a waterfall a half mile from the University of Maine. With the kids moved on, we have plenty of room for old friends to visit! I will be at GSA in Oregon this fall; love to see friends.

Dr. Ralph L. Kugler - Faculty – 1985-1990. I recently retired from Schlumberger

Consulting Services, after several years of assignments in Venezuela, Romania, Russia, China, and Malaysia. During this time, I also conducted petroleum industry training courses, mostly in Latin America and Southeast Asia. I have been living in Kuala Lumpur since 2007 and hope to remain here for some time. Currently, I am a Senior Research Fellow in the Geology Department at the University of Malaya, teaching Reservoir Sedimentology, Sequence Stratigraphy, Development Geology, and Field Development Planning, supervising a couple of M.Sc. students with projects in Borneo, and helping to develop the M.Sc. Program in Petroleum Geology. I occasionally have had the opportunity to visit with Steve Byrnes (UNO Geology M.S. 1989), who lives in Kuantan on the east coast of Malaysia. (e-mail: rlkugler@arenisca.com)

Dr. Joe Snowden – former faculty (1969-1990; department chair, 1986-1990)

Since leaving UNO in August, 1990, I have been Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Southeast Missouri State University, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Provost and Interim President at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Since retiring from Southeastern Oklahoma in early 2008, I have gone through a divorce and become a Texan! (no jokes about which is worse, please!) I am now living in Sherman, Texas, which is about 50 miles due north of Dallas. I am planning to buy a house in north Texas soon and settle down here for a while. I am enjoying retirement very much and keep myself busy with investments and some higher education consulting. I plan to get to New Orleans much more frequently now, and look forward to the next alumni get together around Jazz Fest time.

Dr. Dale Easley: I was fortunate to have moved to Dubuque, Iowa, the December before Katrina. My old New Orleans house that many of you partied in had 6.5 feet of water. I think I had a bit of survivor's guilt for a while afterward--you were on my mind.

I'm now head of sciences at the University of Dubuque, a small college where I'm the only geologist. I still love to travel. I've taken students to Yosemite, Montreux, Wyoming, Scotland, the Boundary Waters, the Appalachians, Chicago, and New Orleans. I was even back at Mammoth Cave and the Ocoee River, places I hope some of you remember going with me. I hope soon I can take a group down to San Antonio to see Bill Ward. Ananda, Tess, and Jamie are all fine. We moved this summer and had 20 wild turkeys in our backyard. But I still walk to school. Some things don't change.

Dr. Terry Pavlis. As most of you know, Laura and I left UNO in 2006 and went to UTEP. Big climate change from New Orleans to El Paso, including a lot more rocks in El Paso! We actually retired from UNO, but we're hardly retired. It was a nice change of pace to move here. It was not that UNO didn't treat us well and we really enjoyed our years at UNO, but you can get a little stale after awhile. Laura can speak for herself, but we've gotten really revitalized here. (I still miss the food though) I've got 4 PhD students (one of them is Erik Day) and a couple Masters students, I'm still working in Alaska and Death Valley, and starting projects in this area. The STEEP project has really come to fruition in the last year, and the pubs are rolling out like crazy on that work. Still working on the Chugach metamorphic complex too, and recently got funded to look at detrital zircons in the Mesozoic mélange in Alaska. So I'm definitely keeping busy. Laura and I did some fun traveling this past summer too--check her out on facebook if you want details. I'm still reluctant to dive into facebook; I figure I'll end up like Bill Busch cruising the internet. Best to all.

Dr. Laura Serpa: I left New Orleans in 2006 to join the faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Of course, El Paso had their 500 year storm on the day we closed on a house and the National Guard had to rescue our real estate agent and the mortgage officer from their offices shortly after the purchase was finalized. I was not feeling very lucky at that point but the new house was fine and the job has been wonderful. I am enjoying living in El Paso where I have far too much work to do most of the time. I miss a lot of things in New Orleans, mostly my former colleagues and students and also fresh sea food, but during hurricane season I am glad I live in a mostly dry place. We do have room for refugees if another storm threatens New Orleans so I hope some of you will head west to El Paso.

Dr. Ron Stoessell. I retired from UNO at the end of 2006 and have been splitting my time between Mandeville and Murphy in SW North Carolina with my wife Londi. I have an analytical trailer, to do water analyses, parked in a hollow on the "Little Easy", a 50 acre parcel near the NC and GA border, so I still do a little science. One of my UNO Ph.D. students, Andrea Bourgeois-Calvin, graduated last year and another, Sarah Fearnley, will graduate this winter or next summer.

Londi and I are setting up a spay and neuter clinic for dogs and cats in Mandeville and one in Murphy and helping run Logan's Run Rescue in SW NC (<http://www.logansrunrescue.com>). Londi plans on working next year with the Humane

Alliance in Asheville, NC. We recently did a development called Cameron's Ridge (<http://www.cameronsridge.com>) in SW NC that we are sitting on until the recession ends. I'm not sure what I will do next. Good Luck to UNO and all of you!

Dr. Gary Allen, I'm enjoying retirement. We got our Mandeville house put back together after Katrina and soon after left for Sewanee, TN, where Ruthie got a Master's of Theology degree from the University of the South last May. We bought a small cottage in Monteagle, TN, and plan to spend summers and falls there and winters and springs in Mandeville. We had the opportunity to visit Ireland a year ago where we passed near my ancestor's home. Our next travels will take us to Israel in November. There is still a lot of the world left to see.

Dr. Louis A. Fernandez: Retired from California State University, San Bernadino in June of this year, 2009. Started UNO as an Assistant Professor in 1991; served as Chair of the Department from 1981 to 1985. Served as Dean of the College of Sciences at California State University San Bernardino, 1985 to 1991. Served as Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at CSUSB from 1991-1994; Served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1994-2009.

Dr. Bill Ward (faculty 1970-1995) Retirement on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau is pretty busy. Still poking around in the Lower Cretaceous geology of this area and even have published a few things about it in the last few years. One place I am working and leading field trips is the Canyon Lake Gorge. I am on the board of the citizens group that is advising on development of the Gorge into a nature preserve and educational facility (<http://www.canyongorge.com>) (<http://www.canyongorge.com>). Also volunteer at Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne and am active in the Native Plant Society of Texas. I'm lucky enough to get to go to the field with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department botanists and with the TPWD guy who studies Hill Country springs. I get to see some pretty sites and interesting geology.

After we moved to Texas, Kathy had a ten-year career at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, where she helped develop a very successful master's program for science and math teachers. She retired a couple of years ago and now is heavily involved at Cibolo Nature Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas, among other things.

From time to time, we attend some good gatherings of the UNO geology alumni who live in Central Texas. October 6, 2007, there was an outstanding reunion at our house. Alumni came from seven

states and Canada. The good times did roll!

**Be sure to keep us
informed with your current
address and email.
SEND TO:
EESalum@uno.edu**

Student Scholarships and Awards 2008-2009

New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation Senior Scholarship:

Julie Torres, 2008 and Kathryn Purifoy, 2009

New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation Junior Scholarship:

Kathryn Purifoy, 2008 and Leah Sosamon, 2009

New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation Graduate Scholarship:

Sachi Mishra, 2008 and Dane Fischer 2009

New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation George W. Schneider Scholarship:

Seth Watkins

Geology/Geophysics Research Grant for Graduate Students:

TJ Brown, Sunny Brogan, Chris Davis, Jon McKenzie, Hiranya Sahoo, Dane Fischer, Jonathan South and Scott Wessels

Olga Braunstein Scholarship for EES Undergraduates:

Julie Torres, Charles Chaisson and Kristen Camp

Olga & Jules Braunstein Under- graduate Service Award:

Blaise Pezold.

Chevron Geology Graduate Stu- dent Scholarship:

Dane Fischer and Kristen Camp

Exxon Earth Science Minority Scholarship:

Christina Quijano, Paris Ervin, Jared Roche, Gordon Borne Jr., Darrilyn Williams

William Craig Scholarship Award:

TJ Brown and Jon South

University of New Orleans Gradua- tion Tuition Scholarship:

Jennifer Schindler

GCA Wetlands Scholarship:

Prabhu Das

Geological Society of America Stu- dent Grant:

Sachi Mishra and Prabhu Das

American Federation Scholarship, South Central Federation:

TJ Brown

Dean's Scholarship:

Dane Fischer and Scott Wessels

Gulf Coast Association of Geologi- cal Societies, Student Research Award:

Mary Ellison

College of Sciences Undergraduate Woman Scientist of the Year:

Julie Torres

EES MINORITY SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM



The EES minority science education program was founded in 1974 by Dr. Louis Fernandez with a grant from the National Science Foundation to formally develop a minority recruiting program at UNO. The program grew and expanded to include student mentoring and minority scholarships in Geology. Dr. William Simmons worked with Dr. Fernandez as co-director and field trip leader from 1977 to 1986. Drs. Simmons and Karen Webber directed the program from 1986 until 1997 and Drs. Laura Serpa and Terry Pavlis from 1997 until they left UNO in 2006. In 2007, Drs. Simmons and Webber again stepped in to help run the program. By then the

program had expanded to also include Ms. Dinah Maygarden (PIES Research Associate) and her very successful Louisiana Wetlands Program for Junior and High School Students. The program has certainly changed through the years but the basic mission still remains: provide quality classroom and field experiences to high school minority students in order to interest them in pursuing a career in the earth sciences. During the last several summers the program has included a two-week long field (continued on page 23) excursion across



Mentors and students at 9000 feet in Wyoming, 2009

Donation and Gifts to EES

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences has thrived in large part because of the support of our alumni and friends. Monetary contributions have allowed teaching, research, and scholarship programs within the Department to flourish during periods when state support wavers. Permanent support to the Department has been established with the creation of endowed accounts from which the interest is used to support a specific purpose. These accounts are managed by the UNO Foundation and include:

William W. Craig Memorial Award (No. 80696): an award for students who display excellence in teaching earth science

Jennifer R. Miller Memorial Award (No. 80711): an award for graduate students who display research excellence in environmental geology

Jules and Olga Braunstein Undergraduate Scholarship (No. 80351): merit-based scholarships for undergraduate geology and geophysics majors

Geology and Geophysics Research Fund (No. 80633): a fund to support graduate student thesis research.

The Department maintains the Geology and Geophysics Foundation Fund (No. 90243) which is used to support special projects, such as the purchase of vans, departmental seminars, special events and faculty and student travel.

Contribution to any of these funds is greatly appreciated. The preferred form of donations is a check that is payable to the **UNO Foundation** and sent to the Department Office. If you want to target a specific fund, please indicate the name or number of the fund on the check.

*"... contributions
allow teaching,
research and
scholarship
programs to
flourish ..."*

southern Louisiana and a similar length trip to the western U.S. coordinated by Dinah Maygarden and Heather Egger. Today the program success is grounded in identifying outstanding, motivated youth through outreach efforts that target schools and educators of New Orleans and the region. Visit our web site (<http://ees.uno.edu/map/index01.htm>) to see our students at work in the field and additional details about our program.

If you know of exceptional students who could qualify and are interested in the earth sciences, be sure to let them know that we are always looking for participants. Donations from Chevron, Shell, and ExxonMobil as well as funding from the National Science Foundation continue to make this program truly rewarding for many minority youth. Greg Jones of ExxonMobil continues to donate extraordinary amounts of time to the program and is gratefully acknowledged for his many contributions to the program.



Students and Mentors at Rick's Springs, Logan Canyon, Utah, Summer 2009



The Society for Earth and Environmental Sciences is a student organization that is involved with continued education in the environmental sciences. Field trips and guest speakers, volunteering within the community, and recycling on the UNO campus are just a few of the ac-



tivities SEES is involved in.

The Society hosts a Mineral Auction each year where hundreds of items are placed on the auction block. It's a time of food and fun and helps to raise monies for the various projects of the Society. This year's mineral auction will be on Friday, November 13th at 7pm in the Geology Building lecture hall, Room 1000. We have free

refreshments and you are sure to have a great time!

On September 19th we joined with the Ocean Conservancy for Beach Sweep 2009 where we helped with cleaning up the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

We are trying to stay very active with volunteering this year and hope to make the Earth and Environmental Sciences department a fun and advantageous place to be.



In May 2009 SEES took a trip to Gatlinburg, TN. While on the trip we hiked in the Smokey Mountain National



Park, white water rafted in the Pigeon Forge River, and collected minerals at Ray Mines in Asheville, NC. We had a great time and are planning another fantastic trip in May 2010!



This Years

Mineral

Auction

Friday,

Nov 13th

7pm

Geology/

Psychology

Building

Room 1000.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Name, Degree (s) and Graduation Year (s) from
UNO:

Current Address: (Note we will not be publishing this
but will use it for mailing information to you).

Telephone:
Best email address:

Current Employment:

Please provide 2-5 sentences about life, career, or
whatever else you wish to share.

EMAIL TO : EESalum@uno.edu

SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR GIFT (2008-2009)

*LSUHSC-New Orleans

*W. James Deister Jr.

*Ruth Stephens in memory
of Gordon Frey

*Gemological Institute of
America

*Theodent LLC, Arman
Sadigpour

*AFMS Scholarship
Foundation, Inc.

*Glenn Hebert

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