



GEOSCIENCES

NEWSLETTER | 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON | BCAS

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This Geosciences Newsletter covers calendar year 2024, our first full year back in renovated Crouse Hall. Owing to budgetary constraints we are mailing this abbreviated newsletter. A longer version of this newsletter, as well as recent past years, can be downloaded from the department webpage (www.uakron.edu/geology). Throughout 2024 faculty, staff and graduate students worked to make the teaching and laboratory spaces function optimally. The building is beginning to show signs that students are putting the spaces to good use, which is great. There is also an influx of mass to Crouse Hall as people return from the field with water, rock, and sediment samples. Owing to the hard work of faculty to deliver a quality geoscience education and our robust recruiting efforts, the number of Geoscience majors has increased for the third year in a row. As of December 2024, we have 82 undergraduate and 6 graduate students. There are also 10 Environmental Studies Certificate students who are enhancing their Bachelor's degree with additional coursework. Each month the department has an ice cream social to give the students, staff and faculty a chance to get to know each other outside of the classroom. The Geosciences and Association of Women

Thank you once again for your continued financial support. Your donations directly impact our undergraduate and graduate students. Due to your generosity, we awarded over \$15,000 in scholarships and awards to 33 students in 2024. Our students truly appreciate your interest in their academic well-being. You can continue to support students by clicking the "Give online" button found near the bottom right side of our webpage (www.uakron.edu/geology). You can direct your donation to support scholarships, field camp, or for a designation of your own choosing. However, donations to the Geosciences Restricted Account

PLEASE SUPPORT GEOSCIENCES!

Your annual gift is important and makes a real difference for students and programming!

3 WAYS TO GIVE:

- Online at www.uakron.edu/giving/geo
- Text GEO to 41444 on your mobile device
- Mail a check. Make your check payable to The University of Akron Foundation and write the designation on the memo line.



Field camp 2024

Geoscientists (AWG) clubs had active meetings as well as field trips to a salt mine and the Shenandoah National Park. Congratulations to the AWG club which received the "Chapter Excellence Award" from the national organization. In addition to the displays in Crouse Hall, we filled 4 UA library display cases with rocks, fluorescent minerals, fossils, and the story of Akron's environmental history to show the wonders of geology to a wider audience. In 2024 we concluded the search for a new tenure-track faculty member. We are happy to welcome Dr. Nick Pollock, a physical sedimentologist, who will start in January 2025.

provide the maximum flexibility to aid the greatest range of Geoscience students.

Please keep in touch, I welcome your email updates, phone calls and visits if you are in the area. Feel free to contact me any time (jpeck@uakron.edu; 330-972-7659). You are always welcome to visit Crouse Hall to see what has changed and meet the new faculty and students. I know that we would all enjoy hearing what you have been doing.

-John Peck

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Gifts from alumni and friends are vital to the success of Geosciences – both the program and the students! Each year, donor support makes it possible for deserving, hardworking students to attend field camp or afford tuition; for labs to be updated; and for programming to be enriched – all of which results in an outstanding academic experience. Your gift is tax deductible and 100 percent is used toward the designation of your choice. Donations to the Geoscience Department Restricted Account (636263) have the greatest flexibility to benefit the widest range of Geosciences students, or you can designate your gift to one of the other scholarships. Thank you for your consideration!

ARTHUR E. BURFORD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND (638035)

This scholarship honors former geology professor & chair Dr. Burford, will be awarded to full-time Geoscience students with demonstrated scholastic achievement, with an emphasis towards degree completion, as well as superior character and leadership.

PAUL C. FRANKS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND (637303)

The scholarship honors the memory of former associate professor Dr. Paul C. Franks to support geology majors interested in the resource side of geology (minerals, oil, gas, etc.). Preference is given to students from Northeast Ohio who are attending Geology Field Camp.

GEOLOGY ALUMNI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (637348)

This fund has the express purpose of assisting students to participate in the Geology Field Camp who have a 3.0 GPA or better. The student must have promise as a geologist and demonstrate enthusiasm, participation, interest and knowledge.



**Scan this QR-Code
to donate online!**

JAMES F. FITZGERALD, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND (637285)

This scholarship honors the memory of James F. Fitzgerald, Jr., a 1970 geology graduate killed during the eruption of Mount St. Helens volcano while engaged in field work for his doctoral dissertation as a graduate student at The University of Idaho. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding geology senior.

GEOSCIENCES VAN MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT FUND (639516)

This fund allows the Department to maintain and periodically replace our vans and truck used for field trips and Field Camp.

GEOSCIENCES FIELD EXPERIENCES FUND (639572)

This fund helps to defray student costs for field-based experiential learning activities.

ROGER BAIN MEMORIAL AWARD IN GEOSCIENCE (637308)

This fund honors Dr. Bain, former geology professor & chair of the department. The fund supports student research expenses, especially that which is suitable for presentations at professional meetings.



PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS IN 2024 TO A UA FACULTY MEMBER AND AN ALUMNUS

UA paleontologist Dr. Joe Hannibal received the Mather Medal from the Ohio Geological Survey for his teaching and research. Dr. David Wunsch (MS Geology, 1982) received the American Geosciences Institute Ian Campbell Medal, and was cited for his service and leadership. Read more about these exceptional geoscientists on page 16-18.

ALUMNI REPORT

Pete Mazzeo | BS Engineering Geology '02

I've had a fulfilling and varied career path for the last 20+ years since graduating from the University of Akron (December 2002) with a degree in Engineering Geology: from a full-time role as a Math Teacher back to a life as a grad student (MA Statistics, OSU 2010) to a career in Finance and finally Tech. I've recently stepped into a new phase of life focused more on community and connection vs career, in which I accepted an invitation in 2024 to join the Dean's Council for the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences. It's an honor to participate and has given me an opportunity to reflect on my time in the College - the foundation for my academic, professional, and social life.

On the more formal side, I attribute my interest in pursuing further academic growth to my experience working with Dr. Peck on my Honors Thesis. I conducted coastal sediment analysis that taught me the entire process of a research project: from originating an idea, to elements of data collection, analysis, visualizations, conclusions and documentation through a paper and a poster (fun fact - you can see a picture of me and Dr. Peck collecting data for this analysis still today in a display case in Crouse Hall). On the more informal side - the study of Geology introduced me to a softer way of viewing the world which contrasts from the exacting view of mathematics that I had come to know - a view prioritizing the story and the big picture, a view which, due to the inability to directly experience past phenomena, requires the acceptance of uncertainty. In short, this led me to study statistics and to a gratifying career as a data scientist.

Of course, the social aspect of the study of Geology left a lasting imprint on me as well: class field trips, spring break field trips, field camp - they gave me a continued appreciation for the landscape around me - past, present and future - and my favorite camera roll moments from my time at Akron!

PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN SZABO RETURNS

On April 27, 2024, I (J. Peck) had the pleasure of having lunch with John Szabo who was visiting Ohio from his home in Honduras. Many of you will remember John Szabo who had taught at UA

for 38 years and was Geosciences Department chair for 16 years. Whenever I am in the field and encounter till, the first thing I think of is John Szabo and the second is glaciation. Retirement seems to suit him as he looked much more relaxed than when I last saw him in Crouse Hall. John had many interesting stories from Honduras to tell, some involving bicycles, others building supplies. John also made a very generous donation to the Roger Bain Memorial Award in honor of Roger Bain, his friend, colleague, and mentor. I very much enjoyed listening to John as he reminisced about Roger and past departmental activities.

FACULTY NEWS

JOHN BELTZ

Professor of Instruction | jfb4@uakron.edu

John is teaching in his 32nd year at the University of Akron by continuing to instruct Historical Geology, Physical Geology, Earth Science, Wetlands, Geology of Energy Resources, Earth's Atmosphere and Weather and Dinosaurs. He continues to teach the Historical Geology laboratory as well. Spring 2024 was the first time he instructed this lab in the renovated Crouse Hall. Much larger than the old room 111, the new lab shares space with both Physical Geology and Paleobiology labs. It is considerably less crowded, brighter and has more display cases than in the past.

John and Tom Quick continue to teach the Wetlands class. John instructs the sections covering wetland types and determination, wetland soils and basic plant identification, Tom instructs sections covering the chemical analysis of wetland water and soil samples collected on field trips. They take the class to the Bath Nature Preserve, Jackson Bog (which is actually a fen) in Stark County and to the wetland behind Tom's house. Tom's wetland has developed from an old pond, and they are continuing to look for changes over time as it transitions. Having modern geochemistry labs in the new Crouse Hall has made Tom's part of class instruction much easier.

John still serves as secretary for the department's faculty meetings after more than twenty-two years. He also continues as the department's Gen Ed Assessment Coordinator and is in his third year as Geosciences Undergraduate Advisor. Being an advisor is becoming easier with time, but it helps to have Caleb Holyoke and John Peck for their input. In his spare time, he takes his family on field trips around Ohio and Pennsylvania looking for fossils

and abandoned places to explore. 20-year-old daughter Hollie is in her third year at The University of Akron, working toward a degree in early childhood education. 16-year-old son Will is in high school and still likes math, science and old coins. He has started to express interest in both Geology and Chemistry and has started to collect the elements of the periodic table. He is considering going to Akron in the future, perhaps into Geosciences.

MEERA CHATTERJEE, PH.D.

Professor of Instruction | meera@uakron.edu

In response to the growing demand for remote learning, she has successfully transitioned both courses—Introduction to Geography and Cultural Diversity—to fully online formats. Introduction to Geography utilizes open educational resources, and Meera has been committed to continually refining



Wetlands class 2024

and enhancing the course. She has consistently revised her lectures for all the courses, integrating innovative experiential learning activities to enrich the student experience. Throughout 2024, Meera has effectively delivered her courses across all modalities, ensuring a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

Introduction to Geography uses open educational resources and she has been working continuously on fine tuning the course. Meera has been continuously revising her lectures and constantly introducing experiential learning activities in her courses and has been successfully delivering her courses through all modalities throughout 2024.

Outside of her teaching responsibilities, Meera has demonstrated significant leadership and service. She served as chair on two NTT Promotion and Retention Committees. In addition, she plays a

pivotal role as a Launch Leader on a high-impact project initiated by the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences. Through her efforts, Meera successfully guided the approval of World Regional Geography through the Curriculum Proposal for General Education, a course set to be offered starting Fall 2025. Moreover, she developed and submitted the General Education Assessment for Cultural Diversity (Learning Outcome 3), which has been successfully approved.

Thus, Meera had a very dynamic 2024 actively engaging with students, as well as contributing to both the college and department.

SHANON DONNELLY, PH.D.

Professor of Instruction | sd51@uakron.edu

Shanon continues to teach a variety of GIS, geography, and drone related courses that draw a diverse crowd of students from majors across campus. Shanon enjoys working with community partner organizations in many of his courses and has built strong relationships over the years with organizations such as Summit Metro Parks and Habitat for Humanity's Neighborhood Network. Shanon was awarded a Summer Faculty Research Fellowship this year to continue developing methods to use drones in mapping wetland invasive species with Summit Metro Parks. The Geosciences Service Learning course worked with Summit Metro Parks in 2023 and 2024 on this project and mapped the locations of *Phragmites Australis* in several locations across Summit County. With the goal of strengthening the university's commitment to community engagement, Shanon continues to be active with the EX[L] Center. When not teaching, Shanon takes any chance he can get to fly drones and hot air balloons, both commercially and recreationally.



Nadilee Nottingham (r) and Caleb Holyoke (l) discuss melt migration mechanisms in a 2 billion year old gneiss.

CALEB HOLYOKE, PH.D.

Associate Professor | cholyoke@uakron.edu

In 2024, three undergraduates and one graduate student who worked with Caleb in the rock deformation lab graduated and presented their research. Carly Leventhal defended her M.S. thesis on melt segregation mechanisms in amphibolites in May. Nadilee Nottingham and Nick Maleski also finished their Honors/senior research projects on effects of water on quartzite deformation and amphibolite in shear deformation, respectively, in May. Jordan Collins presented her Honors thesis on melt segregation in peridotites at the Fall AGU meeting in December. Carly and Nadilee are in the Env. Consulting business, Nick is heading to graduate school soon and Jordan is completing further work in the lab. Karl Wehner made steady progress on his MS thesis work and should graduate in May 2025. When outside of the rock deformation lab Caleb was seen teaching structural geology, engineering geology and physical geology. He also did some field work looking at naturally deformed rocks in a remote area north of Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan which required a plane that landed on water.



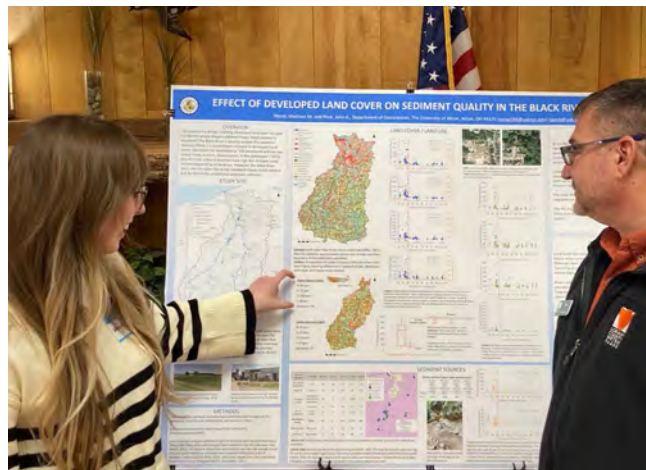
Creating folds in structure lab in the new Crouse Hall

JOHN PECK, PH.D.

Professor | jpeck@uakron.edu

In 2024, John taught Sedimentology-Stratigraphy, Honors & Independent Research, and Geology Field Camp. In July, John lead several first-year students on a week-long field trip to the Adirondacks, NY where they collected rocks, minerals, fossils; hiked in the mountains and explored wetlands.

This trip was designed to introduce new majors to the more exciting aspects of the degree prior to them beginning their college careers. John supervised 3 undergrad and 2 graduate student research projects. Rachel Engels has undertaken an environmental study of small aircraft that still use



Graduate student Madison Wood presenting her research in Logan County to the public.

led gas for her Honor's thesis. Undergraduate Grace Kruse completed a heavy metal pollution study using a sediment core from a local kettle lake. Undergraduate Dylan Coyne collected sediment cores from an Ohio lake in late December before winter weather set in. Madison Wood completed her MS research on land use impacts on heavy metal pollution in the Black River, graduated, and took a job with ODNR. Current MS student David Williams has begun his thesis research on Lake Erie shoreline transgression/regression behavior. Students have benefited greatly from Gary Harris who provides student research support; Richard Lorson whose donation purchased an XRF analyzer; and Leslie Bain whose donations support students presenting at meetings. It really does take a village to provide quality geoscience education. For all Geosciences donors, private landowners and park systems who grant access to their properties, and the students in the classroom, field, lab, and at camp, John is truly grateful.

IRA SASOWSKY, PH.D.

Professor | ids@uakron.edu

Over the last year Ira taught Petroleum Geology, Geomorphology, an Honors Natural Science Colloquium titled "Our Great Lakes", the Caves module (1-cr., twice), and the Field Studies Karst trip. MS student Michael Rebar defended his thesis on the Trenton Limestone petroleum play in north-central Ohio. He discovered that hydrothermal dolomitization along faults plays an important role.

Ira attended a week-long conference in Slovenia during the summer on the topic of Data acquisition and analysis in karst systems, where he gave the invited lead keynote lecture. In October he received the Outstanding Educator Award from the Eastern section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Later that fall he attended the 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium in West Virginia, where he coordinated the geology papers and presented work on valley evolution in central Pennsylvania. Research on the Bellevue-Castalia Karst Plain continues with colleagues from ODNR and University of Toledo; they meet weekly on Teams. He remains on the Editorial Board for the journal Environmental & Engineering Geoscience, and on the Board of the Karst Waters Institute. He stepped down from his KWI Secretary and AAUP Treasurer roles in 2024, to make more time for other activities.



Graduate student Ryan Johnston collecting cores in a cave

JOHN SENKO, PH.D.

Professor | senko@uakron.edu

John taught Introduction to Environmental Science (Spring and Fall 2024), Geomicrobiology (Spring 2024) and Geochemistry (Fall 2020). In the lab, we are continuing our research on microbially influenced corrosion, in collaboration with colleagues at Cleveland State and Corrolytics, LLC with recent support from the US Department of Transportation. We are also continuing our work to use electrochemical techniques to detect microbiological activities in wetland sediments with collaborators at Cleveland State, Kent State, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Melissa Mulford and Josh Davis

successfully defended their PhDs, and Sandunika Weerasinghe joined the lab as an Integrated Bioscience PhD student. Ethan Rang started work toward his MS in Geology, working with John and Molly Witter-Shelleman.

DAVID STEER, PH.D.

Professor | steer@uakron.edu

In 2024, Dr. Steer completed the second half of his professional development leave in the spring and returned to teaching in the fall. His professional development leave focused on three areas. With the help of a graduate student, Dave initiated an electrical resistivity study using Laplacian Edge Detection (LED) to identify aquifers in a metamorphic terrain. When not on the field, he explored the utility of using artificial intelligence in on-line instruction. Lastly, he made several trips to the Colorado Plateau to document geologic structures needed to update his textbook. In the fall of 2024, he taught undergraduate and graduate exploration geophysics. Students used various methods to identify previously undocumented sanitary sewer lines and other drainage infrastructure in an urban area. Dr. Steer will be retiring in June of 2025 after 26 years at The University of Akron.

MOLLY WITTER, PH.D.

**Assistant Professor of Instruction
mwittershelleman@uakron.edu**

Completion of 2024 marked Molly's 4th year at University of Akron. She continues to teach Introduction of Physical Geology every semester as well as Mineral Science during the Fall semesters and Silicate Mineralogy and Petrology in the Spring semesters. Every semester, students continue to impress Molly with their thorough and creative

final projects—making short and informative recorded “lightning presentations” and scientific posters. Molly has enjoyed helping to advise multiple graduate students in the department and getting to see them through to successful defenses! During the Spring 2024 semester, Molly



Students on Exploration Geophysics class trip.

also advised an undergraduate independent study project exploring volcanic rock textures from Iceland and Nicaragua (which was awarded best undergraduate presentation at the BCAS research showcase!).

Outside of teaching, Molly has been enjoying being the faculty adviser to the Association of Women Geoscientists (AWG) club, which was nationally recognized in Fall 2024 with the "Chapter Excellence Award". Molly has been involved with several outreach events on campus with students ranging from elementary to high school age. Back at home, Molly is busier than ever after welcoming her second son, Landon, in July 2024.



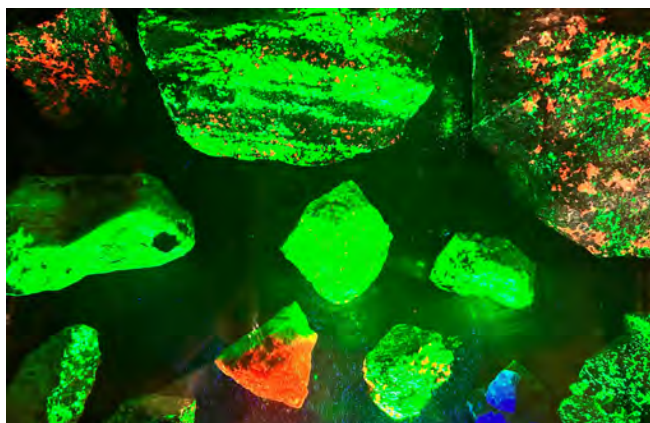
Alex Russell collecting ground penetrating radar data in March 2024 for his research project in the Berkshire Region

TOM QUICK

Associate Professor of Instruction
tjquick@uakron.edu

We have completed our move back to Crouse Hall, but Tom continues to take care of a few remaining items such as the X-Ray lab, central pressurized air, and vacuum systems for the labs.

Tom is adding more interactive instructional videos to his online Earth Science classes. Tom has started updating all his lectures and plans to include AI generated voices as part of the narrations. Closed captions will automatically be included with the update.



Fluorescent minerals in light box built by Dr. Tom Quick.

Tom is continuing to assist John Senko in a project where very weak currents produced by bacteria are measured. The results have been very good, and a few papers have been written. But Tom is improving the circuit. The device that measures and records the activity of the bacteria is complex and requires a fair amount of power. Since the current operation is limited to just 3-4 weeks before a battery change is needed, Tom is redesigning the circuit to be more efficient. With the addition of a solar panel and a different timer, Tom is hoping to get over 6 months or more operation before service is needed. Tom is also learning The Blue's! Not the music! The Blues is a cellular system that Tom will integrate into the logger in the field so that the operator can send and receive data to the loggers in the field.

Tom helped with the Geosciences display in the Bierce Library by building a display to contain minerals that will fluoresce under shortwave UV. It uses a novel circuit with remote so that students can safely activate the display.

Tom is still doing the usual equipment maintenance in the department from equipment and chemical inventory to repairing equipment as needed.

GEOSCIENCE DEPT. NEWS

NAME THE CAVE BEAR CONTEST

This Spring the department held a contest for students and faculty to participate in naming our fossil cave bear skeleton on display in the new Crouse Hall.

Now known as Barry, our cave bear, *Ursus spelaeus*, was found in Brasov, Romania. It is approximately 10,000 to 500,000 years old. Barry was donated by John R. Gifford in appreciation of the excellent teaching of Dr. Jim Teeter from 1965-1995.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWG CLUB FOR EARNING A CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD!

The University of Akron Association of Women Geoscientists chapter earned an excellence award from AWG Nationals for all of their great work at UA!



NEW MAJORS GEO TRIP

In August, before classes began, new geoscience majors went on a GeoTrek to upstate New York.

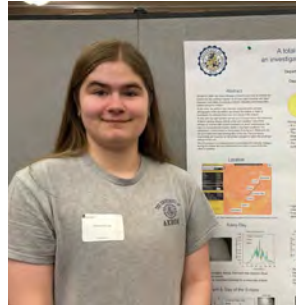


SPRING 2024 GEOSCIENCES DEPARTMENT PICNIC IN OUR NEW CROUSE HALL!

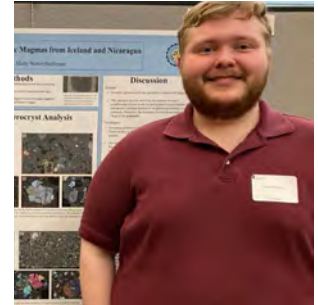


UNDERGRADUATES PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH

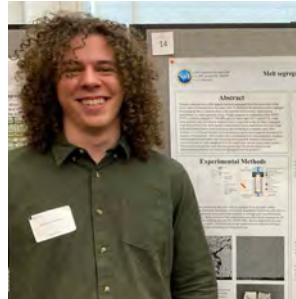
On April 7, 2024 undergraduate students presented their research to a panel of judges from the College of Arts & Sciences. Several first year students completed research under an Innovation Grant, provided by Dean Mitchell McKinney.



Forest Pence studied the 2024 total solar eclipse in Akron using light sensors and cameras



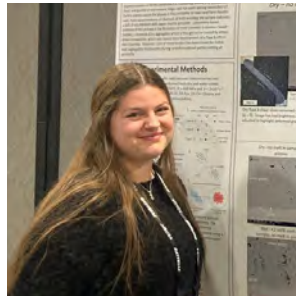
David Williams conducted a textural comparison of glomerocrysts in mafic magmas from Iceland and Nicaragua



Nick Maleski studied melt segregation mechanisms in an amphibolite during shear deformation



Grace Kruse studied the environmental history recorded in the sediment of Lake Nesmith, Akron, Ohio



Jordan Collins presenting her research at AGU



Nadilee Nottingham studied temperature dependence of the effect of water on quartzite strength



Students Ella Pitz (left) & Lana Garelnabi (right) studied a reevaluation of the Fairlawn mastodon

PART-TIME FACULTY

The following part-time faculty taught courses during calendar year 2024, and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

- Dr. Robert Barrett - Environmental Seminar, Geography
- Dr. Joseph Hannibal - Paleobiology
- Ms. Crystal Fretz - Oceanography, Environmental Science

ALUMNI NEWS



Dr. Sasowsky and Christine Pyscher posing with the geoscience van

spotted the vans. She stopped to chat for a while. Christine works for the Ohio BUSTR program, and was an advisee of Professor Emeritus John Szabo, with whom she still keeps in touch.

JOHNNY MARKE-BS 2019 & SIERRA SWISHER-BA 2019

Johnny Marke & Sierra Swisher welcomed a baby!

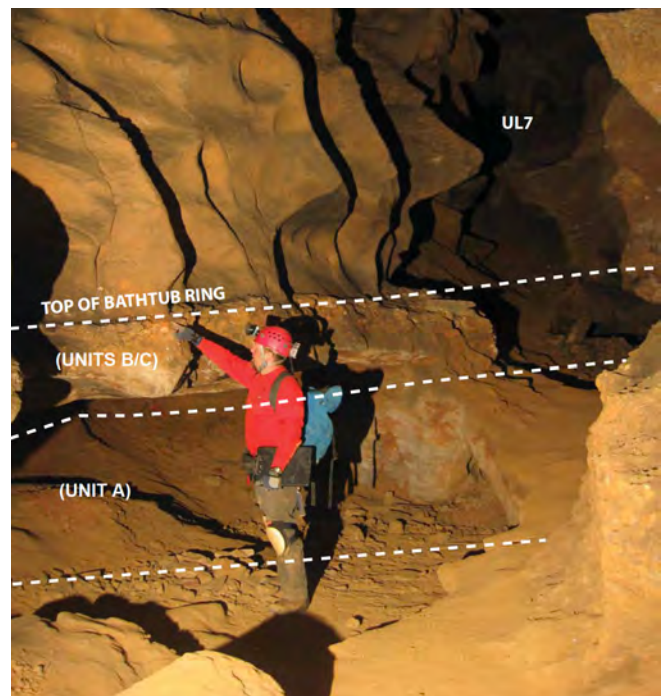


ALUMNI SPEAKERS AT UA FOR THE PETROLEUM GEOLOGY CLASS

In April we had two alumni visit campus and speak to the petroleum geology classes: Jeff Hirko (MS Geology 2012) discussing his experiences as a geologist for Chevron in numerous places across the world. Theresa Egresi (MS Geology 2012) discussing her work with ODNR.



Theresa on UA field trip to San Salvador Island, Bahamas, 2011



Jeff conducting research for his MS thesis in Haynes Cave, West Virginia, 2012

2024 COURSE FIELD TRIPS

Faculty and students went on many enjoyable field trips in order to teach Sedimentology-Stratigraphy, Physical Geology, Exploration Geophysics, Structural Geology, Cave studies, Geochemistry, Independent Research and Field Camp. On these trips students are required to make measurements, interpret results and often produce substantial written reports. Although these reports require much effort by everyone involved, the reports provide evidence of the student's abilities when they apply for graduate school or jobs. Your generous donations make these trips possible! Thank you!



Exploration Geophysics



Sedimentology-Stratigraphy



Structural Geology



Wetlands

CAVES COURSE FIELD TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA

Students explored and studied caves in West Virginia, learning both field and cave safety skills.



FIELD CAMP 2024

Camp Highlights....



SUMMER IN SASKATCHEWAN

In July 2024, Dr. Holyoke traveled to Cora Lake, Saskatchewan to work with collaborators from the University of Colorado to investigate pseudotachylite (fault-melt rock) formed in the deep crust ~2 bya. We flew from lake to lake to establish our camp and used a motorboat to get to the outcrops that had been exposed thanks to a 2021 wildfire! We swept burnt remnants of moss from outcrops in order to investigate the structures in the rocks and collected samples for later analyses or deforming in the lab at Akron. We also investigated some granulites with melt that look exactly like experiments UA students Carly Leventhal and Nick Maleski performed. Once again, nature matches experiment. The camping was fairly primitive, minus the generator, access to the internet via Skylink to upload data and a cozy kitchen in a screened tent to prevent black fly infestations. Holyoke expects to return to this field area in the summer of 2025 and hopes to bring some UA students with him!

- Caleb "I can't believe I get paid to do this stuff" Holyoke



Dr. Caleb Holyoke (back left) and collaborators travelling by motorboat to outcrop sites



Melt in Granulite



Plane landing at field site

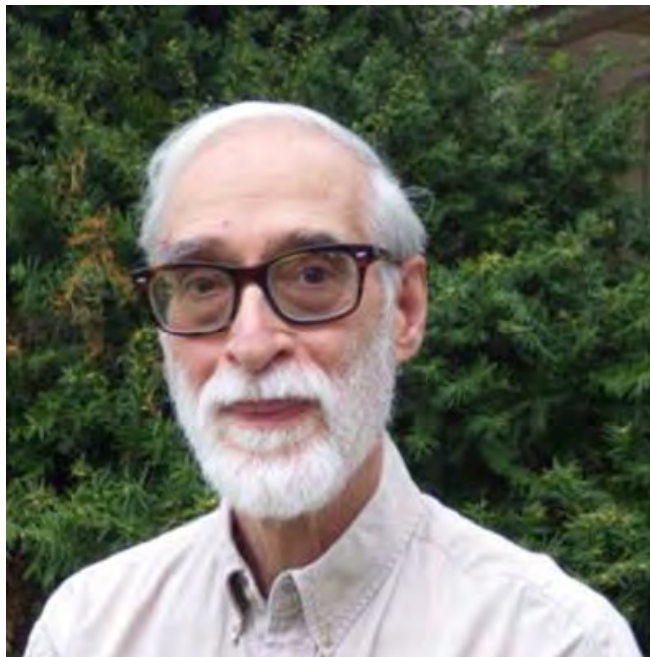


Sweeping of outcrop site



Purple garnets

DR. JOSEPH HANNIBAL RECEIVES MATHER MEDAL FROM OHIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Words about Dr. Hannibal spoken at the award ceremony...

Joe Hannibal is a well-known expert on paleontology—most notably, arthropods—and is Emeritus Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH), where he had been a curator for almost 4 decades. Joe has also been an adjunct faculty member at Case Western Reserve University for many years, has taught courses at Kent State and Cleveland State universities, and since 2020 has been teaching paleobiology at the University of Akron. He is a well-rounded scholar, holding degrees in geology, anthropology, and library science.

Joe's love of geology and of sharing his knowledge knows no bounds. He is known for his passion, volunteering his time, and his welcoming personality. He has the reputation for being an extraordinary field trip leader, imparting much information while entertaining participants.

Joe has led geologically focused walking tours and field trips for the general public as part of the offerings of Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH), Summit County Historical Society, and other organizations. And he has given many talks

on diverse geologic topics at meetings of geology and paleontology clubs, and for libraries, museums, galleries, and historical societies throughout northeastern Ohio and beyond. He has also been an invited speaker at university departments and technical conferences in the United States and Europe. Joe has made TV and radio appearances, including parts in the History Channel documentary *Prehistoric Animals Revealed*.

Dr. Hannibal has been an active member and volunteer officer of a host of geological organizations, with particular service to the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the Northern Ohio Geological Society (NOGS). He served as part of the leadership of the North-Central Section of GSA, especially during 8 years as secretary. He has helped organize GSA meetings, chaired many sessions, and led or co-led GSA field trips at sites across the eastern half of the United States from Baltimore to Nebraska, including—of course—several in Ohio, the latest to Youngstown in 2023. He has been an officer of NOGS since 1988. Joe has also been a member of the Heritage Stone Resource Subcommittee (HSRS) (formerly Heritage Stone Task Group) of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Joe has been an editor, associate editor, or co-editor of a variety of publications, including the CMNH journal *Kirtlandia*, the *Journal of Paleontology*, and a recent Geological Society of London volume on global heritage stone. Joe has researched and written or co-written many scientific papers and general articles on paleontological findings from around the world. These include papers on fossil millipedes from Poland, France, Czechia, China, Kansas, Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and on the giant myriapod *Arthropleura* from Ohio. While working at CMNH, he helped to develop numerous geologic and paleontological displays, including an Ohio Rocks! interactive exhibit.

Aside from paleontology, Joe is recognized as an expert in other areas, including building stones, cultural geology, stratigraphy, and the history of geology. He is one of the top experts on building stones and historical quarries in Ohio (and the region). Joe has written about the geology of many significant structures in Ohio, including houses of worship, canals, courthouses, libraries, and tunnels. He has also become an expert in the geological aspects of cemeteries, and the provenance of stone used for millstones, including stone imported from France that was used for millstones in Ohio and elsewhere in North America. His works have also included studies of geologists with connections to

Ohio. Joe has also written articles related to geologic education, nontechnical articles for magazines and newspapers, and a great number of book reviews for various publications.

Joe has developed or co-developed more guidebooks for the Ohio Geological Survey than any other author, including guides to Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Ohio canals, and the Sharon Conglomerate. He wrote two of the chapters in Fossils of Ohio (O.G.S. Bulletin 70) and contributed two activities to the Survey's Hands On Earth Science Activities series, one of which includes directions for making cookies that model the geology of Ohio.

Joe was part of several award-winning projects over the years. He had a key advisory role in the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument rehabilitation project, which received the Cleveland Restoration Society and American Institute of Architects Cleveland Outstanding Preservation Achievement Award in 2010. He has been the recipient of the Jared Potter Kirtland Award (in recognition of outstanding professional achievement in the field of natural science) from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and a distinguished alumni award from the Kent State Department of Geology. Joe is especially thankful for his nomination for the Mather Medal, as so much of his educational and research activities have focused on Ohio and its rocks.

UA GEOSCIENCE ALUMNI DR. DAVID R. WUNSCH HONORED WITH AGI IAN CAMPBELL MEDAL

From AGI Article

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Recognizing his exceptional contributions to the profession of geology, the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is thrilled to honor Dr. David R. Wunsch, State Geologist and Director of the Delaware Geological Survey, as the 2024 recipient of the AGI Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences.

Dr. Wunsch's service in government has spanned agencies and decades. From 2011 to the present, he has served as the State Geologist of Delaware, supervising geologists and staff conducting

research and data collection on the state's geology, water, and natural resources. He holds a joint appointment with the University of Delaware Department of Earth Sciences. He served as the Director of Science & Technology for the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) in 2011. From 2000 to 2010, he was the State Geologist of New Hampshire, where he saw the survey codified in statute with an expanded role as an integral state agency. In 2016, Dr. Wunsch served as a special consultant for the U.S. Department of State, through the U.S. Water Partnership, to participate in a forum on water issues in Southeast Asia. At the Kentucky Geological Survey, beginning in 1982, he served as the Coordinator of the Coal-Field Hydrology Program, where he led innovative projects to characterize and protect water resources in mined areas.

Providing leadership to geoscience societies, Dr. Wunsch served as AGI President (2021-2022) and AGI Executive Committee Secretary (2002-2004). He currently chairs AGI's Critical Needs Document 2024 Committee. He also has held leadership positions with societies including the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) (Division Director 2002-2005), the Association of American State Geologists (President 2009-2010). As AGI's first Congressional Science Fellow (1998-1999), he advised the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy & Minerals. Dr. Wunsch has served on National Academy of Science committees, UNESCO Hydrological Programme Committee, and federal advisory committees for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wunsch also has made many contributions to geoscientific research and publications. He is author or co-author of 24 peer-reviewed professional papers, reports, and journal articles and 55 abstracts. In addition, he served the geosciences through numerous news articles, columns, and non-technical publications providing information to the public. He has given scores of professional presentations, lectures, and news interviews.

In addition to the Campbell Medal, Dr. Wunsch has received other honors for his extraordinary contributions. He was State Geologist when New Hampshire's famous Old Man of the Mountain collapsed and was designated a lead state official working with news media and the public. Recognizing his service on a task force addressing the loss of the important state symbol, Dr. Wunsch received the AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences in 2014. In addition, the Kentucky

Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists honored him with the 1999 Outstanding Kentucky Geologist Award. Dr. Wunsch played a significant role in the establishment of the U.S. National Ground Water Monitoring Network, and for his efforts he has been named as the 2024 recipient of the Henry P. Caulfield, Jr. Medal from the American Water Resources Association for exemplary contributions to national water policy. "I am humbled and honored to receive the medal in honor of Ian Campbell. I have known several recipients of this award, including mentors from earlier in my career, and I am honored to join such an esteemed group of geoscientists," said Dr. Wunsch. "My career has benefited from support and collaboration with many talented scientists and engineers, and I share this recognition with all of them." AGI Executive Director Jonathan Arthur noted, "David's boundless expertise and passion for the geoscience enterprise have benefited the field and the public for decades."

The Campbell Medal is given in recognition of outstanding performance and contributions in the geology profession. Candidates are measured against the distinguished career of Ian Campbell, whose service to the profession touched virtually every facet of the geosciences. Dr. Wunsch is being recognized at the Geological Society of America's Award Ceremony in Anaheim, California, on September 22, 2024.

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New Geoscience first-year students collecting fossils at the Penn Dixie fossil site during their upstate GeoTrek trip.

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Spring 2024 departmental picnic and awards event.

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GEOLOGY ALUMNI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Jordan Collins
- James Ernst
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- Alexis Muntin
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- David Williams
- Sha'heen Williams

JAMES FITZGERALD OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

- Jordan Collins

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- Kathleen Schultz
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- Justin Antalek
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OUTSTANDING GEOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT

- Carly Leventhal

DEAN'S INNOVATION FUNDS

- Rowan Cahalane
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- Avery Smith

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 GRADUATES!

MAY

- Alexandra Eves | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- Anna Rosenthal | Undergrad Enviro Certificate
- Carly Leventhal | MS Geology
- Erin Dugan | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- Kayla Kelty | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- Keenan Young | BA Geology - Earth Science
- Madison Wood | MS Geology - Earth Science
- Makala Nye | BA Geology - Earth Science
- Megan Mitchell | Undergrad Enviro Certificate
- Nadilee Nottingham | BS Geology
- Jesse Pennington | Geology (Minor)
- Zoe Brown | Geology (Minor)

AUGUST

- Benjamin Frank | Graduate Enviro Certificate
- Dana Morra | BS Geology
- David Williams | BS Geology
- Emilee Bartram | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- James Ernst | BS Geology
- Lexi Muntin | BS Geology
- Maxine Emilio | BA Geology - Earth Science
- Nicholas Maleski | BS Geology

DECEMBER

- Eilise Keister | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- Courtney Fowler | BA Geology - Enviro Science
- Jordan Collins | BS Geology
- Jordan Collins | Undergrad Enviro Certificate

***Newsletter edited by John Peck, Ira Sasowsky and
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Sed-Strat class trip 2024



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