

THE DICKIN-STONE-IAN

Geosciences Department Newsletter
2026 Edition



Department Update from the Chair

Dear alumni and friends,

Welcome to the 2026 edition of the Dickin-Stone-ian! This is my first opportunity to write to you as department chair after taking the baton from Aly last year. In my first year as chair, I have been regularly reminded of the close-knit community fostered by Dickinson Geosciences.

Conversations with alumni have deepened my appreciation for the department's history, and stories of field trips, classroom experiences, and the occasional shenanigans have reminded me how enduring those connections can be. Perhaps some of the stories and photos captured in this newsletter will spark memories of your own experiences. Whether you graduated this year or several decades ago, please know you remain an important part of our department community and we are grateful for the ways our alumni continue to engage and represent Dickinson Geosciences.

I'm pleased to report that the department continues strong and steady. Hands-on experiential learning remains at the heart of what we do as you'll see throughout much of this newsletter. Our students continue to pursue research, internships, field camps and geoscience travel around the

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

globe including recent trips to Svalbard, England, New Zealand and numerous places across the US. They have presented at professional conferences including AGU and SAGEEP, and this spring participated in a behind-the-scenes visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History made possible through the Cassa Fund.

In addition to student focused experiential learning, this year's newsletter highlights several department events both campus-wide and those that extend beyond the campus. This includes K-12 outreach in local schools and hosting a great lineup of distinguished speakers through the Potter Lecture Series and the Priestley Lecture, awarded last year to Dr. Marcia McNutt.

The department is fortunate to have a great group of colleagues. You'll find updates from them in this newsletter, but I cannot resist briefly bragging on their accomplishments. Marcus's archaeological geology research received national attention through coverage in outlets including CNN, Newsweek, and Smithsonian Magazine. Aly has launched exciting new collaborations investigating the provenance of southwest US turquoise and azurite. And Ben returned from a successful Fulbright fellowship in Chile while wrapping up a major NSF-funded research initiative focused on volcano-ice interactions. Pete has contributed significantly to the broader college community through leadership on several important institutional initiatives. I am equally grateful for Rob Dean and Kerri Thaub, whose expertise and dedication are essential to everything we do in the department.

There are exciting developments on the horizon for Dickinson Geosciences, though a few of those will have to wait for a future newsletter. For now, I simply want to thank you for remaining part of this community. We always enjoy hearing from alumni, whether you are stopping by campus or simply e-mailing an update. Later in this newsletter, you'll find information about volunteering to connect with current majors and I hope you'll consider being involved.

Thank you again for your continued support of Dickinson Geosciences. Please enjoy learning more about what we've been up to and don't be a stranger!

Warmly,

Jorden Hayes, Geosciences Department Chair

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

ARCTIC & ALPINE CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH EXPEDITION TO EARTH'S NORTHERNMOST TUYA 2025

The 2025 AACCRE trip involved 4 Dickinson geoscience majors, Elsie Lindsey, Adrienne Cedro, Kevin Diaz and Emma VanMeter, joining Professor Ben Edwards (Moraine Chair in Arctic Studies) and a crew of international researchers on a trip to the northern shores of Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. The Dickinson crew spent 5 days in Longyearbyen prior to boarding their ship (the Ulla Rinman) getting used to the Arctic terrain, hiking, shopping and training (including a trip to the shooting range to do basic firearms training).



Also on board the ship were 2 graduate students (Rafael Horota, Brazil; Maria Telmon, Italy) and 4 professors from Norwegian universities (UNIS, University of Tromsø, University of Oslo). The main goals for the group were to complete detailed mapping at Sverrefjellet, the northern-most tuya (a volcano formed by eruptions within ice) on Earth, sample surface waters from springs (hot and cold), from beneath glaciers, and from wetlands, and assist PhD students Rafael and Maria with completing their thesis research. The long days were filled with incredible scenery, hard-core alpine hiking, mantle xenoliths, pillow lavas, water chemistry measurements and occasional sightings of interesting

wildlife (polar bears, seals, beluga whales, and puffins). Elsie Lindsey used field data collected on the trip for a senior thesis and Kevin Diaz is conducting research this coming year on new discovered volcanoclastic deposits at Sverrefjellet. Despite a few airport sprints, the crew returned to campus in good time to start the Fall 2025 semester!



GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

ARCTIC ART & SCIENCE MOSAIC 2026

Professors Ben Edwards (Moraine Chair in Arctic Studies) and Anthony Cervino (Studio Art) led the first Arctic mosaic program to Norway in January with 15 Dickinson students (majors from geoscience, environmental science, environmental studies, and history). The two-week trip included an introduction to arctic science and art in Oslo, with highlights being a visit to the Fram Museum to board one of the most famous polar exploration ships ever built, and the National Gallery which was featuring work by several Saami artists. We then headed north to Longyearben for 3 days without sun, to experience the polar night. We visited museums, 2 different artist collectives, and capped the visit by dogsledding! Our return to the south and the sun was marked by spectacular northern lights our first night in Tromsø, followed by more museum visits, art galleries, seal watching and for a few students, a polar plunge in the harbor;).

Upon returning to campus, students spent the semester learning about Remote Sensing of the Cryosphere in GEOL 311, completing projects centered around 3 arctic communities, as well as several studio art projects based mainly in sculpture in ARTH 160.



You can read more about the trip here:



DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

DAVID AND CARY CASSA TRIP

Geosciences Technician Rob Dean and Professor Ben Edwards (Moraine Chair in Arctic Studies) took 8 geosciences majors to follow up on an invitation from the 22nd Potter Lecturer Dr. Kirk R. Johnson, the Sant Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (see 22nd Potter Lecture summary as well), to spend the day at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in mid-April. The group drove down to Washington D.C. the night before the tour and were met before official opening of the museum by Kirk in the director's office. After his introduction to the museum and its latest acquisitions, two bronze bison that now guard the mall-side entrance, we spent the morning doing a behind-the-scenes tour of the paleontology collections and sample preparation labs. After lunch, the group got to visit rock collections and hold Mars and the Moon at the same time in the meteorite collection. We finished off with an eclectic tour of the 'secure' gemstone vault. It's difficult to do justice to such a large expanse of science in one day, but everyone came home with lots of pictures and memories from this special tour. THANKS Kirk and the Smithsonian MNH staff!!



Field trips such as these are supported by our generous alumni who have endowed the David and Cary Cassa Extended Field Trip Fund. This fund supports extended field trips beyond those ordinarily associated with regularly offered courses. Thank you to all our alumni who make these trips possible!

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

FIELD TRIPS



Students in environmental geophysics use professional-grade surveying equipment and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to explore the surface and what lies beneath.

[Field trip info here](#)

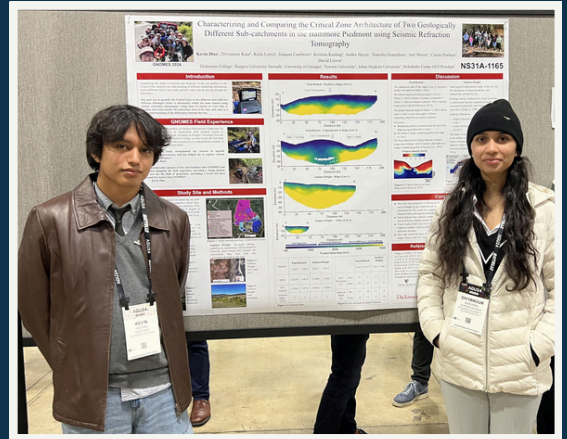


DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

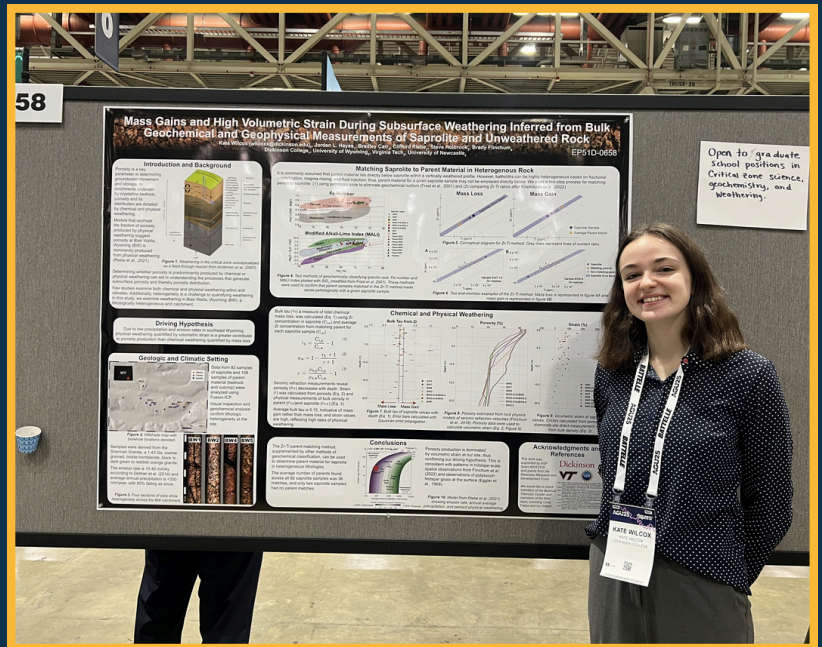
CONFERENCES



AGU Fall Meeting 2024 in DC. included a poster presentation from GEOS major Kevin Diaz and three posters presented by participants in the GNOMES program. Since DC is so close, students in Physics of the Earth visited for a day to experience a large conference, learn about a wide range of exciting new research, network with scientists, and meet a few of our own Dickinson geoscience alumni over dinner at Busboys and Poets.



We also met up with alumni at AGU Fall Meeting 2025 in New Orleans. There we had two research presentations from majors Kate Wilcox and Emma VanMeter.



DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

CONFERENCES

This last spring students from the Environmental Geophysics class traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the annual SAGEEP conference held by the Environmental and Engineering Geophysics Society (EEGS). Support for attendance came through the society and Dickinson's Professional Development Fund. Dickinson students made quite the splash and afterwards were asked to write their experiences in an article for the society's magazine FastTIMES! You can read more on pg. 5 in the latest issue [here](#).



END OF SEMESTER EVENTS



Above Left: End of the year picnic in May 2025
Above Right: Senior graduation brunch in May 2025
Left: End of year picnic in May 2026

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

OUTREACH

Through a variety of outreach efforts, our department has had many opportunities to bring geosciences to broader audiences. These experiences serve the community and help our students develop important communication skills. Here are some examples:

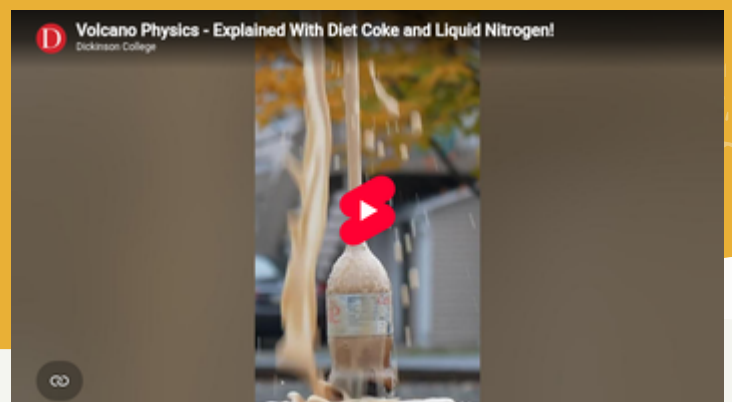


As part of the NSF funded Bedrock Critical Zone Network (BCZN) grant, Jorden worked with the grant's hired E&O coordinator Lily Eligator to develop and deliver a K-12 teacher workshop that reached more than 70 educators through seven workshops across the country.



A new Earth Day tradition: welcoming Dickinson Children's Center kindergarteners to campus to learn about our dynamic planet.

And the crowd-favorite volcano demonstration erupts at Homecoming & Family Weekend.



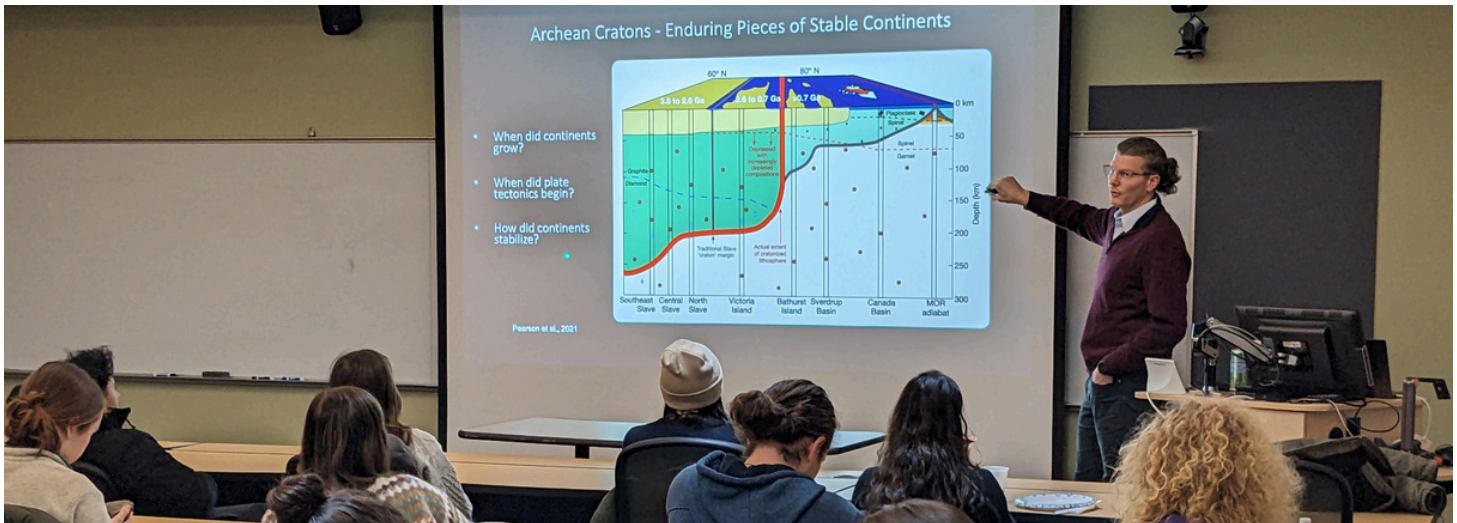
Dr. Marcia McNutt

In the 2025 –2026 academic year, Geosciences had the honor of choosing the recipient of the college's prestigious Joseph Priestley Award, which is given "to a distinguished scientist whose work has contributed to the welfare of humanity." For this award, we nominated Dr. Marcia McNutt, a marine geophysicist and two-term president of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) from 2016 –2026.

Dr. McNutt visited Dickinson from April 2–3, 2025, for a two-day campus residency. Over the course of her visit, she attended receptions and dinners with faculty and met with students from around the college. Her student-centered events included a visit to GEOS 203, where students were able to ask her questions about her career, science policy, and the role of the geosciences in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. She also held a lunchtime roundtable discussion with a broader group of Division III (Laboratory Science) majors. McNutt's residency culminated in the public lecture "Misinformation in the Age of AI" in which she discussed how social media has created a crisis of misinformation and disinformation and has inhibited progress in solving critical issues. This is particularly true for public health issues, including adolescent nicotine use, opposition to vaccines, and climate change. McNutt also explored both how artificial intelligence has facilitated the creation and dissemination of false information and how it can be part of the solution. In April 2025, this talk was timely, and now over a year, later it seems even more so. In case you missed the talk, an archived version can be accessed on the Clarke Forum website (www.clarkeforum.org).

Dr. McNutt's long and accomplished career spans geoscience, marine science, scientific publishing, and science policy. Dr. McNutt's scientific work has contributed to our understanding of how the lithosphere behaves on geologic time scales. She conducted groundbreaking investigations into the origin and evolution of ocean islands, such as those in French Polynesia, that are distant from any plate boundary. Over her career, she participated in 15 major oceanographic expeditions and served as chief scientist on more than half of them. Prior to her election as president of the NAS, she was editor-in-chief of the journal *Science* (2013–2016), director of the U.S. Geological Survey (2009–2013), and the president and chief executive officer of Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (1997–2009). She also held a faculty appointment at MIT from 1982 to 1997, where she was the Griswold Professor of Geophysics and Director of the Joint Program in Oceanography & Applied Ocean Science & Engineering. In her various leadership roles, she oversaw many scientific breakthroughs including the first deployment of autonomous underwater vehicles with artificial intelligence. She also led the U.S. response to several major disasters, including large earthquakes in Japan and Haiti and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Dr. McNutt's visit to Dickinson was an incredible opportunity for faculty and students from across the college to interact with someone who has made pioneering contributions to marine geophysics and whose career has put her at the forefront of leadership in the geosciences, scientific publishing, and broader U.S. science policy.

21st Potter Lecture with Dr. Jesse Reimink



On February 20, 2025, Dr. Jesse Reimink, the Rudy L. Slingerland Early Career Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Penn State University, delivered the 21st annual Potter Lecture, entitled "How Does Earth Get Distilled? The Reawakening of Geosciences in Society." Although many reading this might already know, Jesse's title has a Dickinson connection - Rudy Slingerland was a student of Noel Potter, and graduated from Dickinson with a Geology major in 1969. As well as his role as an associate professor, Jesse is also the director of the new Energy Transition Entrepreneurship and Innovation Cluster within the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and co-directs the LionChron geochemistry and geochronology facility at Penn State.

In addition to his public talk, Jesse gave a departmental seminar entitled, "Searching for Old Rocks - Exploration Tools and Perspectives in Arctic Canada." Jesse's two talks provided insights into the processes of continent formation and stabilization and into the processes of exploring for very old Archean crust. The latter half of his public talk addressed the role of geosciences in society, especially the dependence of society on mining and the importance of critical minerals in the energy transition. As a special treat, Jesse brought several rock specimens to his talks, including a piece of metasedimentary rock from the Jack Hills region of Australia, where detrital zircons as old as 4.4 billion years have been identified. It was incredibly special for faculty, staff, students, and other attendees to have the opportunity to hold a rock that contains the oldest known materials on the Earth! During his visit, Jesse also visited GEOS 331 (Geochemistry) and spoke with geosciences majors about graduate school, geoscience jobs, and his own journey through academia. In addition to his roles at Penn State, Jesse is also co-host of the PlanetGeo podcast which aims to educate everyone about why the geosciences matter. Check out the podcast for informative and interesting explorations of various geoscience topics and interviews with scientists and entrepreneurs working in the geosciences.

POTTER LECTURES

22nd Potter Lecture with Dr. Kirk R. Johnson

On 27 October 2025, Dr. Kirk R. Johnson, the Sant Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, delivered the 22nd Potter Lecture entitled Museums, Science, Nature & the Future. Kirk oversees the world's largest natural history collection, and his museum hosts ~4 million visitors each year. Its scientists annually publish hundreds of scientific research papers and name hundreds of new species. The exhibits on the evolution of life, especially the dinosaurs, are world famous. Rumors that have been circulating about replacing the dinosaur hall with a new Hall of Bryozoans are untrue! Dickinson has a long connection with the Smithsonian. Dickinson College professor and 1840 alumnus Spencer Fullerton Baird was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution, where he was appointed the first Assistant Secretary in 1850 and was instrumental in creating the U.S. National Museum. When he moved from Carlisle to Washington, DC, it reportedly took two freight cars to transport his collection of birds, lizards, fish, skins, and skeletons, weighing 89,000 pounds. Many of these specimens can still be found in the Smithsonian museums. The following day he gave a more technical talk in our Geosciences Lunch and Learn seminar series entitled Deep Time Polar Climate. In attendance were Profs. Potter, Niemitz, Key, Edwards, Sak, Thibodeau, and Hayes as well as Geology alumni George Lee '71, Sue Duffield '74, Barb Faulkner '74, John Pohl '78, and many alumni online.

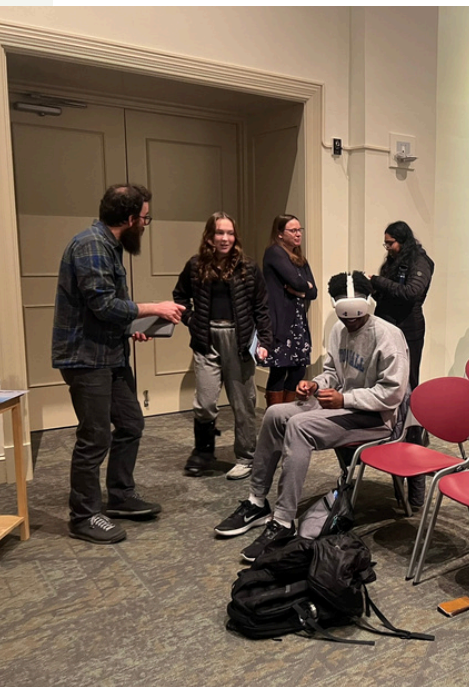


Left to right: Dept Coordinator Kerri Thauby, Prof. Edwards, Prof. Key, Kirk Johnson, The Prof. Potter, Prof. Hayes, Prof. Thibodeau, and Dept Technician Rob Dean

POTTER LECTURES

23rd Potter Lecture with Dr. Andrew Parsekian

On 25 February 2026, Dr. Andy Parsekian ('05), a professor of geophysics in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wyoming, delivered the 23rd Potter Lecture entitled *Boots on the Snow: A Geophysical View of Modern Terrestrial Arctic Dynamics*. Andy has been working in the Arctic for more than a decade, and during this talk he gave us his nuanced perspective on the changes he has seen working on the Arctic slope of Alaska. One of the highlights was the opportunity to use VirtualReality goggles to take a 3D trip into some of the permafrost sites Andy is studying. Andy graduated from Dickinson in 2005 and took courses from several of our current professors (yes that does make us feel a bit long in the tooth!), and he was a member of Jorden's Ph.D. thesis committee. So he has deep connections to the Dickinson Department of Geosciences! While on campus Andy visited Ben's GEOL 311 Course on Remote Sensing of the Crysphere as well as Jorden's GEOL 331 Environmental Geophysics course. At noon on 26 February Andy gave a more technical talk in our Geosciences Lunch and Learn seminar series entitled *Thaw Below Zero: Salty Permafrost in Arctic Lowland Regions*.



The Potter Lecture was established by alumni, colleagues, and friends of the department in 2004 who set up an endowed lectureship to honor Emeritus Professor Noel Potter. The annual Potter Lecture is an opportunity for our students to meet and engage established scientists and to have discussions about their research, career paths, graduate school, and career opportunities beyond the limestone walls. We are grateful to all the alumni and friends of the Geoscience department who continue to support the Potter Lectureship Endowment.

For a complete list of all previous Potter Lectures click [here](#).

ALUMNI-SUPPORTED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Through the generous donations of our alumni, we are able to support a wide variety of student-faculty research projects. Thank you to all our past and present donors!

Henry Hanson Research Prize

The Henry Hanson Research Prize is endowed by friends, family and former students in the memory of Professor Henry Hanson. This prize is awarded by the department to support research by rising sophomores, juniors, and/or seniors who demonstrate initiative, curiosity, creativity, and promise in the field.

- **Kevin Diaz '27** (2026) - *Origin of volcanoclastic deposits at Sverrefjellet Volcano, Spitsbergen* (Advisor: Ben Edwards)
- **Jason Gentilello '27** (2026) - *Comparison of palagonite textures and geochemistry from Svalbard and Chile* (Advisor: Ben Edwards)

William W. Vernon Research Prize

The William Vernon Research Prize was established in honor of Professor William Vernon, the founding member of the department. It is awarded annually by department faculty to outstanding rising senior majors in support of their laboratory or fieldwork or travel to present results at a recognized professional conference as part of their senior independent research project.

- **Kate Wilcox '26** (2025) - *Linking bulk geochemistry and geophysics to quantify high strain rates in the deep critical zone, Southeast Wyoming* (Advisor: Jorden Hayes)
- **Emma Keane '27** (2026) - *Geophysics to Map Relationships Between Soil Moisture and Plant Composition in an Abandoned Cranberry Bog* (Advisor: Jorden Hayes)
- **Sofia Bischoff '27** (2026) - *Using biostratigraphy to constrain timing of bryozoan fouling of snails and shark teeth from the Miocene of Maryland, USA* (Advisor: Marcus Key)

The Atlantic Richfield Foundation Research Award

The ARCO Award was established from an endowment set aside to offset expenses for student research. The Atlantic Richfield Foundation Research Award is awarded by the department to rising sophomores, juniors, and/or seniors.

- **Corinne Maria Charney '25** (2024) - Internship with Flaura Teeter Landscape Architects
- **Jonathan Etienne Hof '25** (2024) - NSF-REU with Rutgers University
- **Kate Elisabeth Little '25** (2024) - Thesis Research: *Relationship Between Landscape Position and Chemical Weathering, Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe* (Advisor: Pete Sak)
- **Amiya Marbles '26** (2025) - Thesis Research: *Growth patterns in solitary horn corals from the Devonian of Kentucky* (Advisor: Marcus Key)
- **Lewie Bent '26** (2025) - Internship with Terracon

ALUMNI-SUPPORTED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

ARCO Award (continued)

- **Ethan Fournier '26** (2025) - Surveying internship with Maine Boundary Consultants in Buxton, ME (Advisor: Marcus Key)
- **Isabelle Kim '26** (2025) - Thesis Research: *Predictive modeling of permafrost thermal response to air temperature at Tanquary Fiord, Northern Ellesmere Island, Naunavut, Canada* (Advisor: Ben Edwards)
- **Elsie Lindsay '26** (2025) - Thesis Research: *Geochemistry and hydrogeology of thermal springs in Northern Spitsbergen, Svalbard* (Advisor: Ben Edwards)
- **James Masterson '26** (2025) - Internship with BL Companies
- **Adrienne Cedro '27** (2026) - Internship with Indian Echo Caverns

The William W. Vernon Prize for Excellence

This prize was created to honor Professor Bill Vernon at his retirement by faculty, alumni, students, and friends. Since 1992, the department faculty award one graduating senior the Vernon Prize for Excellence in Geology. Criteria for the selection of this award winner include the cumulative grade point average, contributions to the department, and promise for the future. We are thrilled to announce our 2025 and 2026 Award Winners: **Kate Little '25** and **Kate Wilcox '26**! Congratulations!



Prof. Thibodeau and Kate Little '25



Prof. Key, Prof. Hayes, Kate Wilcox '26, Prof. Sak, and Prof. Edwards

Professor Marcus Key **Joseph Priestley Professor of Natural Philosophy**

My research continues to use bryozoans to address a variety of ecological, evolutionary, and archaeological questions. This has resulted in publications since the last Geosciences Department newsletter in the following peer-reviewed journals: Acta Palaeontologica Polonica, Historical Archaeology, Marine Ecology, Journal of Paleontology, Journal of Historical Archaeology, and Paläontologische Zeitschrift. Also, since the last newsletter, I have taught my usual courses: a first year seminar on Natural Disasters, Earth's Changing Climate (GEOS 142), Paleontology (GEOS 307), and Sedimentology & Stratigraphy (GEOS 309).

Next time you're in Carlisle, email me (key@dickinson.edu) so we can grab a beer and catch up.

As you can see in the picture, Maria and I have a new hobby: grandparenting. I am REALLY good at it. We have three so far!



Professor Ben Edwards **Moraine Chair in Arctic Studies**

As always it's been a busy two years!! Three trips to Svalbard (2 by ship), a 3 month Fulbright in Chile on the 2025 spring sabbatical, a new Mosaic trip and remote sensing course, and I am just finishing packing to head to Canada's northern-most national park (Quttinirpaaq) with alums and Dickinson geoscience majors Nat Godfrey and Maryann Huffman. In my first year back from spring 2025 sabbatical, I hit the ground running with another round of GEOL 305 Earth Materials, which this past fall took on projects focused on critical minerals (a theme we all are addressing now in our curriculum). This spring I co-ran a two course mosaic with Prof. Anthony Cervino (see mosaic article) that including an expansion of my Arctic teaching to include what I hope will become a regular course entitled 'Remote sensing of the cryosphere'. For this course we focused on three different Arctic communities across Alaska-Canada-Greenland, and students learned remote sensing techniques for quantifying cryospheric change. Their final projects combine GIS-made maps with their art class skills to make fascinating 3D presentations of their chosen communities. I'm planning to return to GEOL 250 Introduction to Arctic Studies for spring 2027, but will work in the cryosphere course the following year. I've also continuing my role as an adjunct professor at the U.S. Army War College as part of their environmental security program, in which I give lectures on the poles and advice for student projects.

While I'm continuing to finish up volcano-ice research in Chile as my NSF comes to a close, I'm still busy working with Icelandic colleagues (new paper in Bulletin of Volcanology with Dickinson alums Karuna Sah and Will Kochtitzky is here <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00445-026-01995-5>) on glacier recovery, Canadian colleagues and Dickinson student Emma VanMeter and alum Will Kochtitzky on a glacier inventory in the Canadian High Arctic, a Miocene volcanic succession in northern Spitsbergen with Norwegian colleagues, and more 3-D bryozoology with our in-house global expert Professor Marcus Key, and of course lots of glaciovolcanism projects in various places. I'm always grateful for the support of my colleagues and institution to be able to continue doing global research with Dickinson students and alums.

The family is all well, with Kim continuing to teach math at the Carlisle High School, while both daughters are working on (Kaelan) or finished with master's degrees. Teagan is now married and working for the California Conservation Core as an executive analyst, and Kaelan is finishing graduate work in Italy. We lost our older cat Sethos last Christmas (18+ years) but Sneferu is doing well and always looks forward to visitors, so when you are coming through Carlisle send an email (edwardsb@dickinson.edu) and stop by!

Professor Peter Sak

Hello Everyone!

It seems like it has been a long time since I last sat down to write an update for the newsletter. Yet oddly the last couple of years have flown by, with lots of changes, some tweaks, and many things remaining constant. In the classroom, it has been a mix of old and new. I've had the opportunity to teach two of the introductory courses (Foundations of Earth Sciences and Earth's Hazards). What a wonderful change to get to introduce the beautiful complexity of the geosciences! As I reflect on how much these courses have evolved, I marvel at the relevancy.

It is invigorating to walk into a class and have students drawing connections between current events and the geosciences. Similarly, I continue to enjoy teaching Structural Geology and Surface Processes and Introduction to GIS and Introduction to GIS for Field Investigators. I am grateful to the most recent crop of Structural Geology students for the thoughtful Pete-Voodoo-Doll. While the likeness is flattering, there is simply too much hair and it is all gray hair!



On the research front, I have been chipping away albeit in a greatly reduced capacity in the study of both the critical zone (with an emphasis on tropical weathering) and on the structural evolution of the central Appalachian mountains. Collaborations are focused on: drainage basin-scale chemical weathering (do chemical weathering rates vary as function of landscape position?? I think so!), and the three-dimensional structure evolution of the central Appalachian fold and thrust belt.

The biggest news is that my term chairing International Business and Management (INBM) is wrapping-up after two and half years and I am looking forward to focusing my efforts exclusively on the Geosciences. It has certainly been an education to see firsthand the diversity of Dickinson experiences.

Away from campus, Maya continues to keep us on occupied. Highlights include graduating from high school in May and preparing for college. We are all so excited although we are grappling with the reality of becoming empty nesters in a couple of months. Rather than dwelling on that, we have been trying to enjoy lots of adventures (skiing, kayaking, biking, hiking, etc.) both near (Pennsylvania, southern Ontario and New York) and farther afield. I hope that you are happy and well, and I look forward to seeing you next time our paths cross! Take care, Pete.

Associate Professor Jorden Hayes

I can hardly believe this marks my tenth year at Dickinson! I continue to teach Hazards, Oceanography, Treetop to Bedrock, and two geophysics courses. As always, I enjoy getting students into the field whenever possible and have increasingly incorporated community-based projects into my classes, including recent work at the [Craig Family Cemetery](#).

Research in the Hayes Lab continues to focus on using geophysical methods to better understand near-surface Earth processes, particularly how rock transforms into soil through weathering. Several major projects have recently wrapped up, including the NSF-funded Bedrock Critical Zone Network and GNOMES. This work has resulted in many new publications with a few more manuscripts heading out the door this summer.

Witnessing the growth of young geoscientists remains one of my greatest joys. This year, Kate Wilcox completed an honor's thesis examining weathering in the Sherman Granite of SE Wyoming. Kate's work revealed a surprisingly complex and heterogeneous system, and led to interesting conclusions about the importance of physical weathering processes to generating subsurface porosity. We expect to submit a manuscript in the next few months. This summer I am working with PJ Ruggiero and Emma Keane. PJ is helping refine our drone-based surveying capabilities, while Emma is investigating relationships between soil moisture and vegetation rebound in restored cranberry bogs on Nantucket.

At home, life is busy and wonderful. Noelle and River are growing so fast. Noelle has really taken off with piano and River remains endlessly curious about the world. Isaac and I have been enjoying traveling, camping, and hiking with the kids. After the alumni trip to Wyoming, the family joined me to hike in the Tetons and collect Eocene fossil fish – an adventure we will cherish for many years to come.



Associate Professor Alyson Thibodeau

Hello everyone!

I continue to teach my usual set of courses including Foundations of Earth Sciences, Geochemistry, Isotope Geochemistry, and Archaeological Geology. This coming academic year, I am piloting a new first-year seminar entitled “The Rocks We Rely On” that explores the tensions and tradeoffs associated with mining, especially for metals important to the energy transition. If you are an alum who is connected to the mining industry or who has worked on issues related to mining (including remediation) and you might be willing to speak to students, I’d love to hear from you!

My three-year term as department chair ended in Spring 2025, and, for the past year, I have been enjoying a sabbatical leave. This has afforded me some much-needed time and mental space to concentrate on research. These days, I am primarily focusing on projects that involve the isotope-based sourcing of archaeological materials (including turquoise and other blue-green stones) and on identifying and tracing metal pollutants in millpond sediments in Pennsylvania. Prior to my sabbatical, I had the privilege of supervising the capstone projects of Angelina Treglia ’25 and Ander Pahre ’25, who studied mercury in millpond sediments from Boiling Springs and Mt. Holly Springs.

During my sabbatical I was able to take two trips to Arizona, including a field excursion to ancient turquoise mines in the Dragoon Mountains. It was such a treat to be able to visit this beautiful area and collect turquoise specimens as part of a new project on turquoise from Hohokam sites in southern Arizona. In addition to working on sourcing turquoise objects, over the past year I have been working on addressing questions about the origin of azurite “spheres” found in Ancestral Puebloan sites in the Four Corners region. This project has been a lot of fun and has opened new avenues of research on azurite artifacts and azurite-based pigments.

On the home front, Chris and I are continuing to marvel at watching Simon (age 7) grow up. He has developed a strong interest in math and piano, loves collecting Pokémon cards, and enjoys playing in the local rec soccer league. This coming year, he’ll be entering second grade! Time really flies. I love hearing from former students and alumni in general – so please reach out or stop by if you’re in the area.

Cheers,
Aly

STAFF UPDATES

Robert Dean, Department Technician

Hello from Kaufman!

Hard to believe that it's been 19 going on 20 years since I came to Dickinson. In that time I've come to know both the Dickinson and Carlisle communities and couldn't be happier that this is where I landed. I still spend as much time as I can fly fishing the local streams (mostly for trout). My furry roommate (The Colonel) will be turning 7 later this year. When I'm not fishing, he keeps me busy exploring the local neighborhoods and parks (see the pics).



I've seen many students come and go and always appreciate a familiar face returning for a visit. If you're ever in the area, please do drop by Kaufman and we can wet a line on the Yellow Breeches, grab a beer at Molly Pitcher or get some ice cream from Massey's! Cheers!



Kerri Tauby, Academic Department Coordinator

Hello, hello! This being my second newsletter appearance means that I am entering my 4th academic year at Dickinson with the Geosciences & Environmental Studies Departments. Despite some physical distance between my office and the GEOS wing, I do get to know a handful of bright, active, geoscience students who come to me for keys or help with other logistics as they pursue their research and degrees. I enjoy helping the chair keep the department strongly and steadily moving forward. I also like attending the lectures and seminars to learn something new - it's a fun place to work!

Outside of Kaufman, I am busy keeping up with my two ever-growing boys (14 and 12 years old) and maintaining my ever-expanding native plant and cut flower garden.

Best wishes to all!



RETIRED FACULTY UPDATES

Jeff Niemitz

I think it has been two years since the last newsletter and we continue to live in Carlisle but the big news is that we moved from Conway St to Cumberland Crossings in July. After 42 years we just couldn't do all the steps anymore and decided to start looking for a "final" place with one floor living. We thought it would be a 2-3 year wait but it turned out to be only 5 months from deposit to obtaining a place. We now have a garage (first in 47 years), a walk-in closet (never) and a master bath with two sinks (never). It is great but not home yet; we are still unpacking and hanging pictures may be a two-year proposition.

On the travel front we went to Iceland in Fall of '24 (the northern lights were in full force) and it was great to remember the year I took my freshman seminar to Iceland in the '80s. Spring of '25 we went to Sicily and Amalfi Coast with friends. The highlight was climbing Mt. Etna in the snow and ice five days before it erupted again. Pompeii and Herculaneum were highlights. We did a Sicilian cooking class and a food tour of eastern Sicily with lots of good wine. In late April we did a trip to Morocco with National Geographic. A small group of very interesting people including 2 Iranian couples who live in Atlanta. We had some very interesting discussions about Iran re: the war. We rode camels in the Sahara and ate a lot of tagines. The culture and the geology of Morocco are fascinating. We visited Kasbahs and a fossil locality with amazing examples of crinoids, trilobites, belemnites and more. Good place for a Cassa trip and cheap! After Morocco we hopped over to Aix-en-Provence where our son and fam were staying for the year. Aix in the spring is quite idyllic.

On the Kid-Grandkid front we continue to see them all in the summer at our lake cottage when they can get there. Our daughter and fam are now back in Philly; we are so happy to have them much closer than Indiana. Our other son is still in Huntsville, AL building million-dollar houses and busy with school and church activities. Our grands are now 16 down to 7 in age and very active in more ways than you really want to know. It is hard to believe we have 3 teenagers approaching college. Never a dull moment!

As always if you are ever in Carlisle, we would love to catch up. Even though we have downsized we do have a 2nd bedroom. Our new address is 107 Ege Dr. Carlisle, PA 17015

Cheers and blessings

Jeff

RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

Professor Emeritus Noel Potter

The Potter-Delano family are well, and seemingly busier in retirement than before. I continue to enjoy the Potter lectures. I would not have imagined 20 years ago when they began that I would still be around now to enjoy them. The Department Faculty selects the lecturer, makes arrangements, and all I have to do is take Helen to a dinner with the guest and Faculty and attend the lecture. At Alumni Weekend Helen and I were invited to have dinner with the 50-year class of 1976. I was particularly happy to see 3 people who had gone on the Summer 1974 Lewis and Clark trip with Chuck Jarvis and I. Chuck even came up from Florida to join us. In August we plan to go to Red Lodge, Montana to help the Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association celebrate their 90th birthday. That is where I went to field camp 68 years ago, and where my base of operations was in the 1960's when I worked on my thesis in northern Wyoming. Every few years I need a "Rocky Mountain Fix," and this will be it.

Helen is busy as the head of the St Stephens Episcopal School (Harrisburg) Board, and our son Noel Lewis works for an outdoor education non-profit in Portland, Maine.

Last Summer I had my aortic valve on top of my heart replaced. Fortunately one doesn't have to have one's ribs split at the sternum any more. It is all done by catheter (look up TAVR on Google if you are curious). I was out of the hospital in 2 days, and I hear the norm is now 1 day.

I do enjoy hearing from our department graduates at; pottern@dickinson.edu.



Noel and Snowflake Bentley (cardboard cutout) who took some of the early and finest photographs of snowflakes.

Deb Peters

Hi Everyone!

This year I'm writing from the upper peninsula in Michigan. Yes, we are still traveling with our home on wheels, (aka toy hauler camper) and riding our motorcycle as much as possible. We are calling this trip our Great Lakes tour and will eventually ride along the coast of all five lakes. The area is rich in history and offers beautiful breathtaking views.

Since my last update, we've been to Florida both winters, the Lake of the Ozarks region in Missouri and a second trip west to Colorado. Of course we rode the bike up Pikes Peak... talk about a view.

On the home front, my grandsons are all grown up. Both have graduated this year. One from college and the youngest from high school. Now they need to figure out what is next. Everyone else is doing well and living a good life.

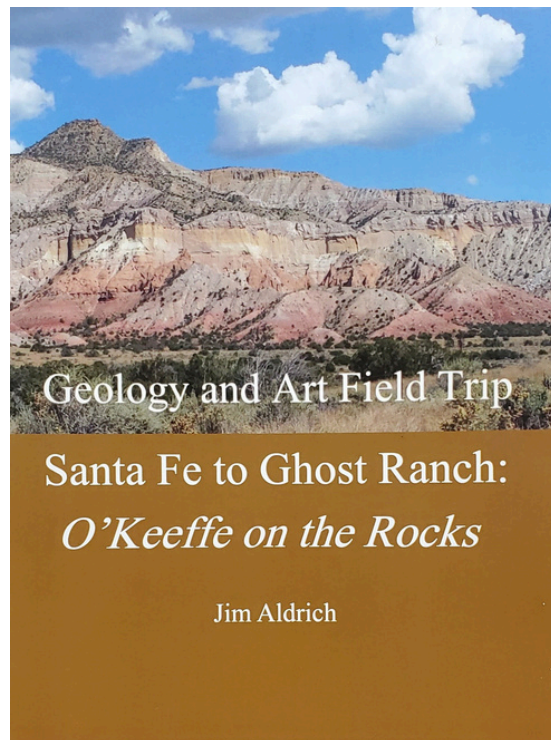
I haven't been on campus much...but I do keep in touch with a few over lunch dates. Hopefully my "schedule" will afford more time to visit campus soon. Be well!

Deb

Class of 1964

Jim Aldrich

Since my submittal to the department's newsletter in 2012, I completed my geologic project on the Olympic Mountains and published my last ("swan-song") refereed publication: Geological Society of America Bulletin, Nov/Dec 2021; v. 133, Structural styles, deformation, and uplift of the Olympic Mountains, Washington: Implications for accretionary wedge deformation. My wife (Linda [Harvey] Aldrich '65) and I moved back to New Mexico in 2019. We live in Santa Fe at a retirement facility conveniently located two blocks from the plaza. I stay active conducting geologic field trips for the facility's residents. I prepare guidebooks for each trip. One of the trips: Geology and Art Field Trip: Santa Fe to Ghost Ranch (see guidebook cover) includes geology stops, of course, and several stops where Georgia O'Keeffe did her landscape paintings. For the landscape paintings stops there's a colored picture in the guidebook of the paintings O'Keeffe created at these locations. At these stops I first discuss the geology and then the painting techniques O'Keeffe used to represent the landscapes. I'm thoroughly enjoying retirement!



Class of 1971

George Lee

It was a pleasure to return to Campus in fall of 2025 to attend Potter lecture with other alumni and visit with Noel. It was a packed auditorium. And all most attentive to learning about Smithsonian in Washington DC. Thanks to all that have supported this initiative and continue their energies to make it a success each year.

A recent adventure found me in Ireland exploring limestone outcrops and glacial shaped terrain, always in reach of a Guinness too.

I hope the Geosciences name stays connected with existing and future graduates. I also hope the Department keeps the Alumni informed of any funding needs. I always check out the walls when I walk around the Department and see lots of worthy research being undertaken. Thank the good lord for a liberal arts education.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Class of 1974

Barbara Faulkner

I'm enjoying retirement, and I still love to travel. Last year I visited the Big Island in the tropical Hawaiian Islands. Among other memorable experiences, I enjoyed seeing Pleistocene glacial deposits preserved high on the slopes of the Mauna Kea volcano, the highest mountain in Hawaii. The glacial tills and moraines brought back memories of Noel Potter's Quaternary geology course that I took in the early '70s. I also was mesmerized by the fiery lava fountains that were erupting in Kīlauea's summit caldera.



Above: Barb Faulkner '74, Professor Emeritus of Geology Noel Potter, Sue Duffield '74, George Lee '71, and Helen Delano in attendance at the 22nd Potter Lecture

Class of 1976

Mary Rose Cassa

I enjoyed visiting campus for 2026 Alumni Weekend and breakfast with Noel Potter and Helen Delano (grad school pal!). Ramping up for 50th reunion gave me opportunities to reflect on those years in Carlisle and dredge up some photos.



Great Smokies backpacking trip, 1973. From Mary Rose Cassa (center in fancy sweater).

Class of 1977

Dave Robinson

Following 38 years as a professor in the Department of Geography at Rutgers, the last 35 of which also serving as the New Jersey State Climatologist, I recently retired from the university. My research career focused on the role of snow in the climate system and its utility as a means of monitoring climate change. As, ultimately, the nation's longest serving state climatologist, I led the "go to" office for weather and climate data and expertise used by decision makers across myriad public and private sectors of the state. It was an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding career, beginning with a childhood fascination and nurtured via courses at Dickinson and Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Retirement will be spent continuing travels with my wife (a former earth science teacher), enjoying outdoor activities, and spending time with five grandchildren.

Bruce Geller

I left my job after ten years as Director of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum in 2017 and returned to mineralogic analyses in a major mineral processing lab, running their X-ray diffraction unit for roughly six months. That was followed by editing a significant reference book on ore microscopy in reflected light for over a year; studying what was once considered the world's largest (non-gem quality) pearl, mineralogic consulting for various clients, helping to sell three mineral collections, and eventually semi-retirement. Most of my time is now spent volunteering in numerous capacities.

One of my favorites is helping the Denver Museum of Nature and Science create their new mineral hall, which has remained static since 1979. I am working with three teams of volunteers on the new gold, silver, and ultraviolet (UV) displays. We spent several months going through countless drawers testing over 22,000 specimens for their fluorescence in total darkness (and selecting exquisite gold and silver specimens when the lights were turned back on!).

We now have a complete catalogue of which specimens glow, under which wavelength (testing only short wave or long wave UV), yielding which color, its intensity, and whether or not it phosphoresces. The results of this exercise are that very few minerals glow under UV irradiation, those that do glow are better on one wavelength than the other, and phosphorescence is a very rare phenomenon (and generally sort-lived, and very subdued). In short, we selected roughly 150 fluorescent specimens that are sure to intrigue museum visitors. The exhibit is slated to open sometime in 2028.

Bruce Geller, B.S. Geology, 1977
brucegeller@hotmail.com
Denver, Colorado

ALUMNI UPDATES

Class of 1978

Wayne Geller

Although officially retired for 4 years, I seem to be busier now than ever before. I am an aerobic gardener working outside nearly every day of the year on our extensive garden. We grow dozens of different fruits and vegetables which we share with family, friends, and neighbors. We are also growing 50 different varieties of dahlias which brightens our summers and early autumns. Beverly and I attended the American Dahlia Society National Show in Chicago last summer. I am the past president of the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society. I am a member of the Delaware Mineralogical Society and the Leidy Microscopical Society. The past several years Beverly and I have attended the NM Mineral Symposium in Socorro NM where we meet up with my brother, Bruce and his wife Judy. Geology and minerals continue to fascinate me. I miss the Dickinson experience including all of the great faculty and friends that I met along the way. I miss Noel Potter, Bill Vernon, Henry Hanson, Ken Wolgemuth, and Robin Graham. Thank you all for making my life that much more complete and for giving your students your all. Long live Grain Hog Day!.

Class of 1981

John Petrie

A highlight of from Alumni Weekend for Jeni Hope '81 and John Petrie was reconnecting with Professor Noel Potter at the Pints with Profs gathering. Of the three of us, Noel was the best at remembering things from 45 years ago!



Class of 1982

Kristen (Franz) Begor

Retired from my professional work in 2000 but stayed connected with my training by getting involved in my Town's Conservation Commission, Nature Center, River Association, and Lake Association.

Class of 1982

Betsy (Strachan) Suppes

In September of 2025, Dawn Truax, who lived next door to me on Todd 3rd sophomore year, and I went to Camp Pemigewassett for their Women's Weekend. Women's Weekend is the brainchild of Dottie Reed, the wife of English professor, Tom Reed, whose dad was one of the founders of "Pemi." The women's weekend had hiking and rock-sample offerings which yielded fantastic specimens of a kyanite schist, a book of muscovite AND several garnet pegmatites. All are prominently displayed in my collection cases at home. Another geologic field trip was to see the glacially sculpted granite along the Pemigewasset River at "The Basin" within Franconia Notch State Park. If you haven't been to Pemi, it should be on your bucket list - where else can you collect garnet pegmatites, hike, swim and have a Dickinson connection.

My consulting practice is as busy as ever. There is always a landowner, lawyer or heir who needs a technical opinion on their geologic holdings. Sometimes I have worked with the IRS when they are investigating conservation easements, which have been fraudulently over-valued for tax-write offs. If someone presents an "opportunity" like this to you, please contact a Dickinson geologist.

In February of 2026, I presented a paper at the Society of Mining Engineers Mine Exchange Conference in Salt Lake City regarding the value of oil and gas interests which dropped from \$1,500 per acre to \$250 per acre over a ten-year period. Additionally, I was elected to be the President of the International Institute of Mineral Appraisers (IIMA.) It is a peer organization and the term lasts two years. Who would have thought a distribution requirement taken in the fall of 1979 would have led to this?

On October 14 of 2026 the IIMA's Fall Conference will be held at the Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, PA. This workshop for mineral appraisers, royalty owners, landowners, attorneys and financial advisors for people who have mineral interests, including oil, gas, coal, aggregates, and ores. If minerals appraising is your next career, or you wonder about your mineral estate, please come and join us. Contact me at bsuppes@forgedalegeo.com for more details.



Betsy and D'son classmate Dawn Truax hiking in New Hampshire

Class of 1983

Deborah (Forester) Legowski

Peter and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on June 20 and my retirement from the Howard County Public Schools by renting a house on a granite outcrop on Cape Ann with sunset views over Ipswich Bay. Our two children, Nick & Genevieve have been joined by our daughter-in-law Liat Olenick and two grandchildren Rafi (4) and Adira (1). We love finding cool rocks together. Peter and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on June 20 and my retirement from the Howard County Public Schools by renting a house on a granite outcrop on Cape Ann with sunset views over Ipswich Bay. Our two children, Nick & Genevieve have been joined by our daughter-in-law Liat Olenick and two grandchildren Rafi (4) and Adira (1). We love finding cool rocks together.

Class of 1984

Laurie Bacon

Today [June 5, 2026] is officially my first day of retirement after 40 years of teaching science to grades 4-8. So far it feels like the beginning of every other summer break except for all the stuff I brought home. I know it will be strange not go back in the fall and I'm looking forward to it! Now I can spend more time doing things for The Handel Choir of Baltimore (which I've sung in for 29 years) and rearranging some out of control perennials.



Jeff Hoffer

It was great to catch up with Noel Potter at the 2026 Northeastern GSA meeting in Hartford, CT. I'm still working as a consulting hydrogeologist in Vermont, where tracking down PFAS-free groundwater is surprisingly challenging. In my spare time, I've been "practicing for retirement" by expanding my rock-tumbling setup, focusing on Vermont rocks and sorting through my 50+ year rock collection.

Nancy (Jarvis) Mueller

I am happy to announce that my retirement date will be December 31, 2026.

Class of 1993

Andrew Judd

I just celebrated my 30th year as a hydrogeologist / project manager with Jacobs (acquired CH2M HILL) in the Morristown, New Jersey office. I try to stay active in the geology realm by attending the NY/Philly chapter meetings of the Assoc. Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) and am a Township Councilman in my hometown of Chester, NJ. Jen and I celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary this year, and Robbie just graduated High School and will be a Freshman at Univ. North Dakota in their Aerospace - Professional Flight program this fall. Katie will be a Freshman in High School this year and looks forward to continuing with the drama and music program. Would love to hear from any D'son students or Alum passing through the noerthern NJ / NYC Metro area.

Class of 1996

Gregory "Koz" Kozlowski

In April, my daughter Emma, and I went up to Dickinson for the accepted student weekend. We were fortunate enough to grab breakfast with Jeff Niemitz and spend some time catching up with Marcus Key. Be sure to ask Marcus how I saved his life in the Grand Canyon.

They had a great party for the parents of the accepted students. It was fun to hang out with fellow geology major Arika Hunt, who works for the school. We also met professors Ben Edwards and Jorden Hayes. I really appreciate everybody spending so much time speaking with my daughter. She loved her time there so much that she decided to matriculate.

Class of 2002

Kathryn Tamulonis

Hello from Pittsburgh! My husband, Art, and I have lived here for 15 years and we have two children: Maggie (14) and Mac (11). After a stint in academia at Allegheny College, I started working for a carbon sequestration start-up, Vault44.01. It's been quite the wild ride and the best part is that I've gotten to do a ton of cool science with some really smart folks. Vault received our first Class VI permit from the EPA and there are more to come. I still often think of and appreciate the fun I had at Dickinson and the Geology Department!

Class of 2016

Sally Belasco

Gavin Harter '17 and I welcomed our second baby girl in October 2025. Everyone is happy and healthy!

Class of 2020

Ian Ransom

Hey Kaufman Crew! Been a while, can't believe we just passed my 10 year high school reunion. I know many of you won't know me as after I 'graduated' right into the heat of Covid '19 (I never actually had my graduation), I kind of dropped off the Dickinson radar, but I think that's why its important I give this little update. The last six years I've been all over the place, I eventually found a job after graduating, in GIS and worked as a consultant for a year before transitioned into an extremely 'corporatified' office job in healthcare IT, but something wasn't working though. I came to the realization I hated the 9-5 office routine and it was messing with my mental health. I had originally thought, immediately out of college, the goal was to jump into an Earth Science based field, find a career, and work my way up the ol' ladder of success. But the truth was not only did I not know what I truly wanted, I didn't even truly know who I was.



On a whim, I ended up jumping into the service industry as a bartender, as I'd always loved making drinks and connecting with others. And it clicked. I love the social nature of it, the weird hours, and the constant moving pieces. The last three-ish years I've been travel bartending. All over the world including, Guatemala, Australia and 3 different states. I've found a passion in working so closely to people and the freedom that the position brings. The past 7 months I was solo backpacking, and picking up bartending shifts, across South East Asia all while figuring out who I am and what I want in life. Now, after my cheesy sounding, road to self discovery, I have a far better understanding of what I want in life. Since being back into the states, I've locked down a summer contracting position for a Junior Exploitative Geology company in remote Alaska on the Seward Peninsula. I leave in approximately a week, to go back into the Earth Sciences world and work on Geologist team taking and analyzing drill core samples of a zinnwaldite granite intrusion carrying (hopefully) economic grade levels of lithium to be turned into a full fledged mine. I'm incredible happy of my journey so far and excited to start this new chapter. I'm aiming to turn this position into something full time, and potentially having to go back to *school* again to do so.

I say all this, not just as a proof of life, but as a lesson. The world outside of college is crazy, adulting is tough. Don't stress every little decision and be willing to make mistakes. Not all jobs will work out, not all Dickinson Earth Science alumni are Environmental Consultants or Geologists, and thats OK. There's no one way to live your life and exploring both the world and yourself isn't a waste of time or being a failure, you all are young and the world is yours to do with what you can.

Can't wait to see what life has in store for everyone, and I'm proud to say I wrote all this without a single prompt to ChatGPT ;) Go Red Devils!

Class of 2021

Jack Olsson

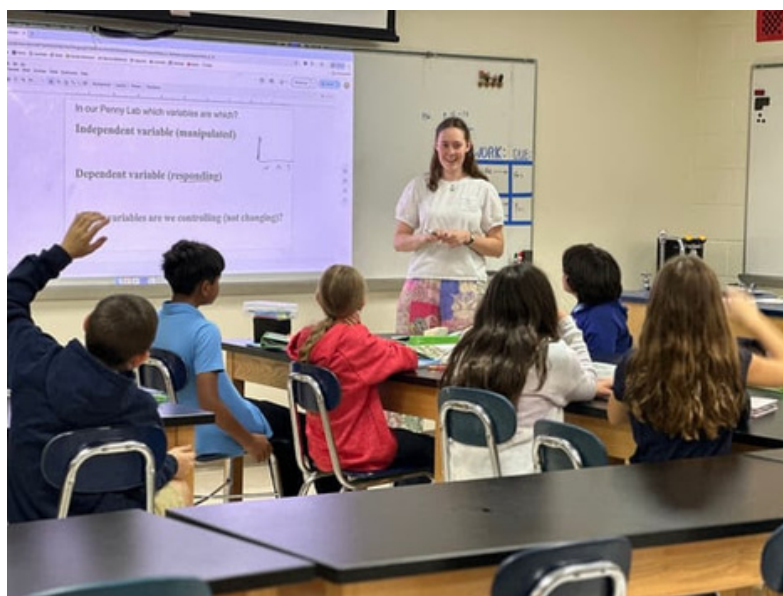
Since graduating, I have settled in the Greater Philadelphia area and have been working as an environmental scientist since 2022 with the Philadelphia Water Department. Our team is focused on monitoring and testing Philadelphia's robust network of public and private Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) as part of the City's ongoing "Green City, Clean Waters" initiative. This effort aims to reduce overflow of the city's combined sewer system during wet weather events by decreasing or slowing stormwater runoff into the sewer. With several hundreds of systems around the city managing stormwater runoff, our team has it's work cut out for us as we assess the performance and longevity of these systems to inform future design and implementation standards. It continues to be an eye-opening and profound experience getting to work with so many talented and passionate individuals on something that grows ever more relevant.

In the past 2 years, my partner and I have become cat parents to Peeta and Popcorn and official Phillies partial-season ticket holders. I still carry the spirit of Dickinson Club Soccer playing in a competitive rec league in South Philly and am excited to be a part of this year's World Cup celebrations. Despite my handful of years now in Philadelphia, I try to stay loyal to my beloved hometown teams in the Carolinas, much to the locals disappointment.

Class of 2023

Natalie Cist

Spring 2026 marked the end of my first year being an official full-time teacher! It's been my dream job to be a middle school science teacher since I was 16. After co-teaching in a Carlisle high school Earth science class and then assistant teaching in France, this year I finally got to have my very own classroom back in the school where I grew up. I got to teach 7th graders about plate tectonics and the rock cycle in the very same classroom where I first learned Earth Science from my middle school science teacher! It felt good to be able to answer their questions by drawing from my undergrad geoscience knowledge. I'm grateful for all of my professors at Dickinson who have been cheering me on to reach my dream job.



Class of 2023 (continued)

Stephen Knight

I just recently started my position as an Environmental Data Technician for ddms, based in Minnesota, in August. The experience so far has been fantastic! A lot of my daily work is familiar to me due to many of the classes I took during my time at Dickinson. More specifically, Prof. Marcus Key's Sedimentology & Stratigraphy course, Prof. Deb Sinha & Prof. Gordon Cromley's GIS courses, and Alyson Thibodeau's Geochemistry course have allowed me to understand what data I'm working with and what it means. While I wish I could have stayed in-person on campus for all four years, the period of remote learning has definitely helped me with working fully remotely. I fell in love with Carlisle and the local area when I went to Dickinson; thus, I'm now in my second year of living in town full-time! In between graduation and working with ddms, I was lucky enough to help some of the fantastic local businesses that are beloved by both the faculty and students of Dickinson, most notably Molly Pitcher Brewing.

Alumni Adventures Trip 2025

Jorden led an alumni adventures trip during summer 2025 – “Parks and Lodges of the Old West”. We ventured from Rapid City, SD through the Badlands and Black Hills up across the Big Horns and then over to Yellowstone and the Tetons. The rocks and structures in this part of the world never disappoint! For future alumni trips check out <https://www.dickinson.edu/alumnitravel>.



GET INVOLVED

Alumni Volunteers

Many of our student majors are eager to learn how Dickinson geology / earth sciences / geoscience alumni have built careers in industry, government, education, consulting, research, and beyond. To help foster those connections, we are gathering a list of alumni willing to share their experiences and insights. Volunteer opportunities can be as small as joining a virtual career panel or as involved as mentoring a student. Interested?

SIGN UP

KEEP IN TOUCH



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**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION**

If you are a recent graduate and haven't provided an updated email address, or if your contact information has changed, please let us know by clicking [here](#).



**MORE DEPARTMENT
NEWS**

Previous editions of the Alumni Newsletter can be found on our website [here](#).

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