

Champlain Thrust Alumni News 2014

If you are in touch with any UVM Geology alumni, then *please, please* encourage them to send some info to Jack, john.drake@uvm.edu with *2015 newsletter* in the subject line.

Anderson, Kurt (1980): I have been working as a well site geologist since the mid-80s in the Rocky Mountain region. I've also recently returned from a contract at Prudhoe Bay, AK for BP (horizontal wells directed toward the compartmentalized oil remaining). I am almost exclusively concentrating on horizontal wells these days, lately working a stacked-play project in TX as well as a successful Mancos Shale project in the San Juan Basin. I specialize in the exploratory projects for the most part. I continue to keep my home and family south of Denver out in the country, along with a few horses, dogs, cats, one raspberry plant, one blackberry plant, and a recently departed blueberry plant. As a farmer; failure. As a geologist; doing OK. An exciting time to be a geologist in the oil business with so many opportunities and new horizons. Toss in a good UVM education and the future is low hanging fruit. In addition to myself, some equally well-aged geologists from Vermont work for me. It turns out that age is not a detriment in this industry and I am constantly reminded that I am not up for retirement. I ran across Bill Houston a few years ago and keep in touch with him on occasion (currently in NZ with an oil company). Sure miss Vermont, but Colorado will do.

I was sorry to hear about Dr. Hunt's passing. A fine paleontology professor and person. He will be missed.

Best to you and yours,

(Barton) Thompson, Thelma BS 1970, MST 1972. I will be retiring from the University of New Hampshire where I have been since 1999. I am an associate professor in the UNH Library serving as the map librarian. Geography and Earth Sciences are among my liaison responsibilities so I have worked closely with faculty and students in those departments. Many of you know of my work with NEIGC guidebooks. We are in the first year of a three-year grant that, among other things, will result in the option to search for guidebook trip-level information via a map interface. Serving as PI on such a complex project in my last year has been pretty hectic.

Like Peter, I am looking forward to moving to our house in Post Mills (Thetford) VT and having time for more dancing and music and art and hiking, and the list goes on. I will also be able to get back in the field, something that I have missed with my current 12-month job.

Thelma B. Thompson

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Brown, Audra (BA 1992)I hope you and all of my Geology-mates are well.

Life is good! I have two boys, 14 and 16 and live in Montpelier.

I work for the City of Montpelier in the Planning Department. I make maps for folks using ARC map, help out with Stormwater Management Planning and am the Floodplain Manager for the City.

Last winter I spent a day in Perkins Hall with my son and his Robotics team, I peeked around the building and had such a rush of nostalgia. Another Geology flag went up for me when this summer my 16 year old worked full time with USGS and Yale as a research assistant for a groundwater project. Must be Geo-genetics.

Take care, Audra

Coogan Bill (1985): I am still living in Middletown, RI. I have been working for IBM for the last 10 years. I am currently the Technical Sales Manager for IBM's Big Data Software group in New England and Upstate New York. I have been married for 27 years and I have 4 children. My oldest son is a Junior at the University of Tampa. My next oldest son is a freshman at LSU. My youngest son is a sophomore in high school, and my daughter (the baby) is in 8th grade. I am still playing pick-up league hockey at 52 years old and coach 2 youth hockey teams.

Dorsey, Becky (BS, 1983): I have had a lot of adventures since finishing my Geology degree at UVM in 1983. I got a PhD in 1989 at Princeton University where I studied sedimentation and tectonics of eastern Taiwan, did a postdoc at the University of Wyoming, started studying the geology of Baja California, Mexico, and was on the faculty at Northern Arizona University from 1990 to 1997. Then I moved to the University of Oregon in 1997 where I am now a full professor and chair of the Department of Geological Sciences. Somewhere in there I got married. I continue my research on sedimentary basins and tectonic evolution of the southern San Andreas fault system, and recently started a study of the Miocene-Pliocene Bouse Formation along the lower Colorado River. Life in Eugene is good, and the beer is excellent. Visitors are welcome!

Gurney, George (1981, BA) Hello Jack, I have been working at Stantec Consulting for the past nine years running the local environmental geology practice in Hartford, Connecticut. My work mostly includes Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) investigations and remediation related to Connecticut Brownfields. I also foray into Massachusetts with a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) certification. I have been married for nearly 30 years to my wife Connie and have two children Jay (25 years old) and Alison (23 years old). Jay just completed the Pacific Crest Trail in 122 days (see his not yet completed blog at <http://roughputter.blogspot.com>). My hobbies are backpacking, running, reading and golf. I completed my sixth marathon last November in NYC. No más. I have attached a picture from the last summer hiking with family in the Italian Alpe di Siuse area.

Rock on, George

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Humphrey, John (BS 1982) I stepped down after seven years as Department Head of Geology and Geological Engineering at Colorado School of Mines. Happy to be back doing research and teaching full time. My research areas are currently focused on unconventional petroleum systems, specifically the Bakken, Niobrara, Eagle Ford, Vaca Muerta, and Permian basin tight formations. My daughter is UVM class of 2017.

Hope you're doing well and hope to see you when I visit Rebeca some time this fall.
John

Jacobs, Gary K. (B.A., 1976) After nearly 30 years of service in the Environmental Sciences at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, I retired on January 1, 2013. It has been a blast to travel, golf, boat, hike, read, and simply relax. ORNL was a great place to work and I miss the challenges of maintaining cutting-edge research programs in climate change, subsurface biogeochemistry, and environmental informatics. I am now trying to focus on some part-time work and volunteering in the area of sustainable landscapes. UVM was a great training ground for me and I appreciate the wisdom that I received from Jack, Barry, Rolfe, Dave, Allen, and others.

Lenoci, James (Jim) (BS): Regarding an update, I have expanded my activities in the past couple of years, spending a lot of time traveling (too much actually), working on various UN projects. For example, I was in China in September, I leave for Turkey in a week, and will be in Indonesia/Malaysia/Philippines in December, working on international water projects. The best so far was a trip to Samoa last December - very interesting place. I still continue consulting for industrial clients here in Hungary, and have two people who can keep the wheels turning when I am out of town. On a personal note our daughter Blanca started university in September, at University College Dublin in Ireland, and Aniko and I moved her there. She is adjusting nicely in Dublin. It is a good school, very much a US college feel to the campus, and Dublin is overall a good place to be.

(Lord) Beausang Andi (MS, 2003), I moved to Anchorage, Alaska from Philadelphia, PA in February 2011 with my husband (Seth). We are loving life up here in the last frontier, and now have 2 sons – Mackey is 2 years old and Arthur Jack (AJ) is 7 months old. I still work for CH2M HILL as an environmental engineer (I transferred with them from Philadelphia), and my work focuses on managing the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites throughout Alaska (primarily old Air Force and Army installations). The days of snowshoeing around New England taking sediment cores from ‘remote’ lakes definitely helped prepared me for the Alaskan winters and the awesome outdoor life we live here.

Hope all is well at UVM,

Andi

(Oxman) LaBrossier Marilyn (MST 1976). Many years have gone by since I received my M.S.T. in Geology in May of 1976. As a matter of fact my 40th reunion for my undergraduate degree in Chemistry is this October. Maybe I will drive up to visit one of my college roommates and drop in to visit UVM and stroll through the "new" Geology building. I heard from Chris Allen (my advanced inorganic professor) that they are tearing down the Chemistry building and building a new complex.

My news for the newsletter is that I am happily retired from teaching science and math at Natick High School in 2012. During my career I taught Earth Science, Chemistry, Physical Science, Physics, and Math (Geometry and Algebra). Since then I have been busy enjoying time with my two grandsons, Drew (age 15 months) and Jack (age 2 months). I love having time to walk, garden, cook, bird watch, and read books. Most weekends we are at Cape Cod enjoying our house in Brewster (which we rent all summer to pay the mortgage).

Be well and happy. Warm regards,

Peratti, Denise D. (MS, 1976) 2014 finds my husband, Bob Staron, and me still in Rochester, NY. Since leaving the field (literally) in the early 1990s, my career path has included writing software documentation, developing online training, managing software projects, and user experience design. I picked up a Master's in Information Design from the University of Washington along the way. I am currently working on the user interface for a new line of multifunction devices. My passions are opera, figure skating and ice dancing, and fabric arts. I credit my geology education with my ability to think and solve problems. Denise *I'm a Sustaining Member of WXXI. Are you?*

Denise Pieratti 585.615.1654 pieratti@rochester.rr.com

Pilskaln, Cindy: Greetings to all from the southeastern MA coast where I'm a professor at the UMass Graduate School of Marine Science & Technology located in New Bedford, MA. I teach geological oceanography and climate change courses, plus spend a fair amount of time engaged in marine particle geochemistry/sedimentation research all over the place.

I was very saddened to read that Allen Hunt had passed away last year--what a fun and amazing man who taught me so much and inspired me to go on to graduate school at Harvard (thank you Allen). I've sent a picture from my last visit to the Geo. Dept. almost 10 years ago (!) when I gave a seminar, caught up with my former professors, met some new faculty, and had a wonderful dinner with my '77 Regional Geology trip leaders, Allen and Dave, and their wives. On our '77 trip, we did the whole Appalachian Range from north (starting in Allen's beloved Maine) to south, the southern coastal plains, the FL platform and even made an eventful trip to Bimini! Much more recently, I've been "long coring" (40 m cores) on the NE Atlantic margin to examine Holocene climate change signals contained in planktonic forams (Allen's legacy!--see additional photo--gotta love the mud! All the best to current and past UVM geologists and please get in touch if you are ever in this area, Cindy (cpilskaln@umassd.edu; http://webserver.smast.umassd.edu/lab_pilskaln/)

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Dinner with the Buckes and Hunts
Circa 2004

Rathburn, Tony (MS with Allen; 1982) I live with my wife in rural Indiana, Skyping frequently with daughters in Australia. I am a Professor of Geology at Indiana State University and a Research Associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. I work on the ecology and biogeochemistry of seafloor microfauna to develop proxies that can be used for assessments of environmental and paleoenvironmental change. I study seafloor methane seeps, trace metal proxies for bio-available pollutants, and the isotopic composition and ecology of deep-sea foraminifera from off the coasts of Australia and Antarctica. I am also currently working with UVM alumnus Bruce Corliss on a proxy for paleo-oxygen concentrations. <http://www.indstate.edu/ees/paleontology/paleontology.html>



CP long coring in the Atlantic

Rose, Hugh Just in from the arctic coast where I've been photographing polar bears on the Beaufort Sea coast. We had a three day blizzard with 60 knot winds and a couple of feet of snow (hard to tell because it all blew to Canada with west winds!). The village I was at, is on the edge of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), located on a small island just off the coast of ANWR. The snow drifts were 10 feet tall in places! I have been busy guiding photo tours around Alaska for polar bears, northern lights and all the other birds, mammals and landscapes of the arctic. In December I'm leading a 29 day trip to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia (of Shackleton fame), and the Antarctic Peninsula (it will be my 18th trip to the frozen continent). In November 2015, I will be leading another trip to South Georgia and the Falkland Islands and we will do the Shackleton crossing of South Georgia as a 3 day ski mountaineering trip. The geology of the Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic is fascinating, so if anyone is interested in joining drop me an email! I still get to look at lots of great geology on my travels and even get to lecture about geology on the Antarctic trips. I miss Vermont and everyone from the Department! I hope you are all doing great and I will be back to visit soon.

Cheers

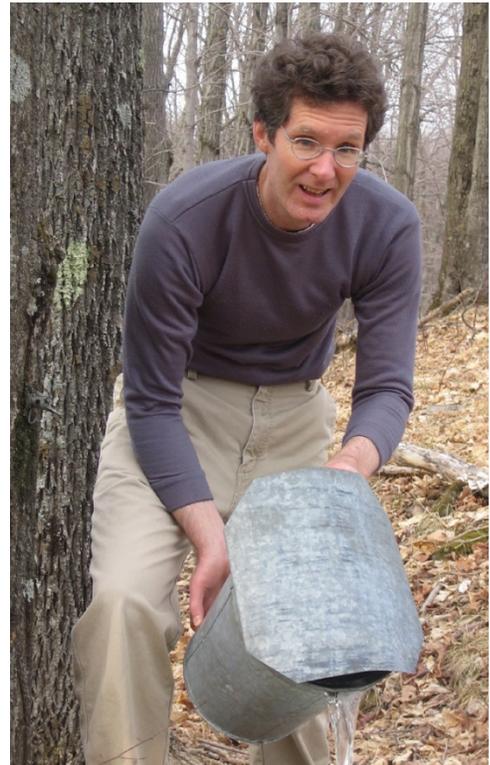
Hugh

Teetsel, Mike (MS, 1984) When I moved back to Vermont from New York City in 2004, I was advised by some not to lose the mover's phone number in case I changed my mind. Well, I'm still here and definitely not planning on going anywhere else. My wife Diane and I love our home in Rochester – 228 acres conserved with the Vermont Land Trust, where we produce our own electricity, syrup, eggs and various fruits and vegetables. Career-wise, I've worked for nearly 30 years now doing contaminated site remediation. It's been a rewarding vocation and I'm grateful for the UVM education that prepared me to succeed at it.

Thompson, Peter (MS 1985) I have retired from teaching part-time at UNH, but still continue as an affiliated professor for now. I have enjoyed my time here teaching Physical and Environmental Geology classes, and more recently Structure and Field Methods. I have served on several thesis committees, including Ian Honsberger's work on the Stockbridge talc deposit. He is helping me understand amphiboles, reaction space and serpentinization - - a classic case of the student teaching the professor. I continue to map bedrock under contract to state surveys, most recently Enfield Quad for the New Hampshire Geological Survey, which ranges from the wilds of Moose Mountain in Hanover to the suburbs of Lebanon. I look forward to mapping the NH part of the Hanover Quad next year, and hopefully the North Grantham Quad after that. Still trying to understand how that part of the Bronson Hill Anticlinorium was put together.

Thelma and I have bought a home in Post Mills, a village in Thetford, Vermont, to which we will retire in 2015. We look forward to more time for hiking, gardening, traveling, dancing, and playing music. We are still working on a guide for the layman to the geology of Vermont, as seen from the Long Trail. We are avid contra- and English Country dancers, and run into Steve Wright now and then. I hope to play a more active role in the Vermont Geological Society once our move is complete.

Peter J. Thompson
Earth Sciences
University of New Hampshire



Toke Nathan, (BS Geology, 2003) I recently celebrated 4 years knowing my lovely wife Debjani Chakravarty and this past spring and I completed my third year as an assistant professor at Utah Valley University in which I helped two great students enter MS programs at the University of Utah and Kentucky. I am gaining momentum with my research studying active tectonics of the western US and recently, I published an interdisciplinary article in Earth's Future exposing the links between hazards regulations along fault zones in CA and the geographies of park space and social vulnerability: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1002/2014EF000241/>

Nathan A. Toke
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Voelker Gayle (1984, BA) I have owned and operated the Cold Hollow Cider Mill in Waterbury Center, VT for the last 15 years with my husband Paul. We still rely on the amazing soils of the Champlain Valley to produce the McIntosh apple that makes our cider taste great. We are working on launching our hard cider in 2015. Our youngest just matriculated to UVM this fall and will be a member of the UVM ski team as well.

Zuegg, Pauli (MS), Hi Jack,

Barbara and I were in Iran and returned with both heads on both shoulders. Lovely country with so much history and art and friendly people to offer. Next trip might be to Galapagos...

Francesca is in Padua, attending pol sciences. Pietro is in his fourth of five years in hs. still among the top 10 percent overall, 3 percent boys.

Work is quite slow in the midst of a brutal Italian economy where we experience oh so much corruption. So I keep busy at home, in the 2 acres of property (wild boars visit occasionally), with Pietro who spends at least half his time with me and will probably do even more so once he turns 18 come February, with Barbara, with my father (91.7).

A trip to the US? Who knows? My uncle and aunt in Orange County have health issues... I might hop onto a plane any time. Say hello to UCSB, junipero serra, UVM, Ethan Allen for me.

Pauli

Dear Alums,

Thank you for keeping in touch, and if you can, then reach out to other UVM Geology alum chums.

UVM Geology Department.

