

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

*Annual Newsletter*  
*2016-2017*



**From the Chair, Dr. Jim Davis...**

Greetings Alumni! I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I'd like to take this opportunity to pass along my greetings and to give you a taste of what's been happening in the Geology/Geography Department over the past year. I'm sure you have heard that EIU has faced financial challenges over the past year. Although the university has not received a full appropriate budget for this year (or last), we continue to provide a quality education and produce some outstanding alumni. Other than not being able to replace retiring faculty, the department has been able to weather the storm so far. We have been able to hang on to our annually contracted faculty members and we have been able to deliver our curriculum with no issues. The last year has seen some changes in the department. One change that you have noticed is the author of this welcome message. Mike Cornebise accepted the position of Interim Associate Dean in the spring and began his

duties in Old Main over the summer. I have taken on the role of replacing Mike in the Chair position on an interim basis. We have also had two retirements in the past year. Belayet Khan retired at the end of the fall semester and Craig Chesner retired during the summer. If you would like to wish them well, you can contact them at [bhkhan@eiu.edu](mailto:bhkhan@eiu.edu) and [cachesner@eiu.edu](mailto:cachesner@eiu.edu). Many of our retirees are still very active in teaching through continuing education. Belayet, Jim Stratton, Alan Baharlou, and Godson Obia have all continued to share their knowledge to students. Jim Stratton is also currently teaching as an adjunct professor in the department as a sabbatical replacement. Susan Kile continues to split time with two departments. She now works primarily in our office, but also takes care of Chemistry as well. We also have had some sad news over the past year. Two of our former colleagues passed away last fall. Brett Anderson and Vince

Gutowski both left a lasting impression on our program and our alumni. Our faculty continues to excel in the areas of teaching, research and service and is busy working with our current group of students. Let me close with an open invitation for a campus and department visit. We would especially love to see you at EIU Homecoming weekend this year (Oct 21—23, 2016); please stop by the College of Sciences

tent at tent city. If you can't make it to homecoming, please stop by the department the next time you visit Charleston. We would love to see you and show you some of the facility changes that have occurred in the department. Best wishes and please let us know how you are doing. If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact us.

## Greetings from the College of Sciences Dean's Office!



The last year at EIU has been, to put it mildly, interesting! The Illinois budget situation forced us to freeze spending and make some difficult decisions. However, this fall semester has started well and we look forward to moving forward.

There have been numerous staffing changes in the COS Dean's Office since the last update. Dean Ornes resigned his position at the end of October, 2015, at which point former Dean Mary Anne Hanner stepped back into the position. An internal search was conducted in December and subsequently I began my Interim Dean role January 1, 2016 (I am a member of the Department of Chemistry). In March 2016, our office manager position was one of those (temporarily) eliminated, so Felicia Magee transferred to a different position at the University. On June 30 Sherri Arnholt, a long time EIU employee, Academic Advisor, and Assistant to the Dean for Student Academic Affairs, retired. Assistant to the Dean Angie Rhoads remains, although her duties have shifted to cover some of what Sherri had been doing, and on July 1, 2016 Mike Cornebise (well known to all of you!) moved out of chairing

Geology/Geography and joined us as Interim Associate Dean. Finally, last month we were able to hire Kim Turner as our new office manager. Whew! I am very grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm that infuse Kim, Angie and Mike; we have a great team here in the College.

One of the pleasures of being interim dean is the opportunity to become familiar with the various disciplines and faculty within the college. Certainly, the consolidation of the Department of Geology and Geography's course prefixes to GEO educated all of us here in the office about the departmental curriculum! I also have appreciated learning more about the majors as well as the Professional Science Master's in Geographic Information Sciences. I look forward to working more with the department in the coming months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Jim Davis for agreeing to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of Geology and Geography this year. The chair position, while rewarding, is a demanding job and I am very appreciative of Dr. Davis' taking it on. I've been enjoying working with him and look forward to further positive interaction as we move through the year.

Douglas Klarup  
Interim Dean



## Spotlight On – Belayet Khan

Nearly a year into retirement, I am pleased to reflect on my delightful experience as a faculty member in the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Over the course of nearly 30 years, I had the wondrous opportunity to interact with colleagues and students who made for a truly special career.

Throughout the years, my fellow faculty members provided immense encouragement and support. I learned so much from others in the University, beginning when I was a newcomer and extending throughout my tenure. My involvements on various committees allowed me to strive for a positive impact on campus, and this meant a lot to me as someone deeply invested in EIU. Collaboration was key to our success on many fronts over the course of three decades. The chairmen of the department were great friends and leaders from whom I felt endless support and comfort. These factors made for a joyous work environment that I will always cherish.

Certainly, the highlight of my time at Eastern was the privilege of teaching our incredible students. I sincerely looked forward to teaching every one of my classes. Each semester, I was thrilled to teach students who greeted me with genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for the material. I found myself thriving off of their engagement, and this made me feel a strong sense of purpose in my role as a teacher. For years, I looked forward to weekends for a reason different than most: I was excited to teach off-campus classes through the School of Continuing Education. Teaching was always a passion of mine, but it was over the years at Eastern that it became my calling. I am so honored now to be able to consider it my life's work.

Beyond the classroom, I am eternally grateful to God for the blessed life I have had in Charleston with my wife and three children. It was undoubtedly a challenge for us as immigrants

from across the world to settle in a new place 30 years ago. We had one young daughter at the time, and it is amazing to think that Charleston is now a beloved home to all five of us. The Charleston schools provided excellent education for our kids, and we found a strong sense of community here that we know is unique to our charming small town.

The gratifications of my career at EIU will forever stay with me, and I can already say that I miss teaching. In addition to remaining in town and staying in touch with friends at the University, I hope to return periodically for teaching roles. Having spent such an extended period of time at the institution, I have been present for Eastern's successes and its struggles. My commitment to the University has led me to

view these as my own successes and struggles. I can say without hesitation that, despite occasional hardships, the community at large has always remained positive and found proper solutions. This is a source of inspiration for me, and I am confident that EIU will continue to prosper moving forward. As a graduate student in the early 1980s, I always hoped to find a position at an institution where I felt a sense of belonging. I imagined myself sharing my love for geography and earth science with new students each semester. I must say, I had no premonition of the tremendous passion and fulfillment I would find at Eastern. It is safe to say that by God's grace, my dream has come to fruition, and I remain optimistic that the future will continue to provide treasured adventures.

## Departmental Organizations

The Geology Student Organizations – Geology Club, student chapter of American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and Gamma Chi (Sigma Gamma Epsilon honors society):

The Geology students' organizations continue to thrive. The members have engaged in public outreach, organized field trips and involved themselves in contributing many hours of service to the campus and community. In this past year, members have:

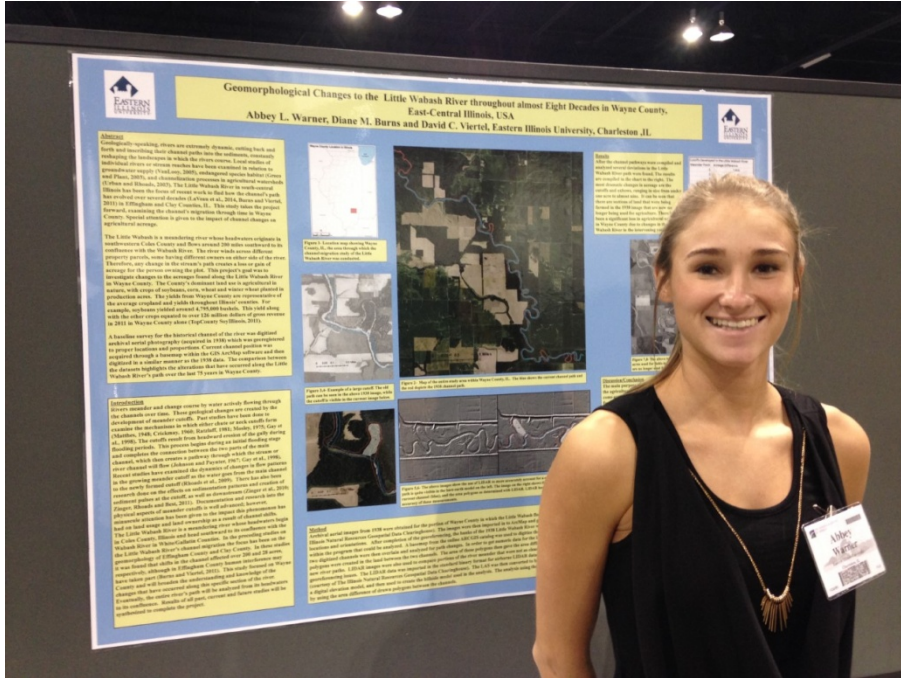
- Created and presented three separate demonstrations for the Charleston Public Library's Children's Program
- Created and presented a class on fracking for the Academy of Lifelong Learning
- Organized and led a field trip to Diamond Crater State Park to hunt for diamonds (unfortunately, none were found)
- Cut out, sanded and shellacked a four-foot long dinosaur skeleton to donate to

the Charleston Public Library's Children's Section

- Participated in the EIU's Reading Program for school children
- Volunteered to be judges for Lakeland College's Science Fair

The Gamma Chi chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon continues to win awards! Gamma Chi was awarded both a Service Award as well as an Outstanding Chapter Award – the FIFTH year in a row!! This makes our chapter the BEST in the nature yet again – our chapter has won this award more than any other chapter in the nation, and there are well over 200 of them, including ones at ..... and .... universities. Impressive!!

This coming year, Gamma Chi and the Geology/Geography Department will be the hosts for the Sigma Gamma Epsilon National Convention, Sept. 22, 23 and 24, 2017. This is an honor to be selected to host this venerable group and to help them help the students who will eventually become leaders in the field of geology.



Geology senior Abbey Warner presenting her research at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Denver, CO this past September. Her study was done under the guidance of Diane Burns and Dave Viertel and examined the effects of migration of the Little Wabash River's channel in Grant County, IL.

## Gamma Theta Upsilon

Gamma Theta Upsilon had a rewarding year in 2015-2016. Our president, Dan Finley kept us on track and engaged through Fall and Spring. We had several volunteer events as always (including reading the Lorax once again to pre-schoolers). As a longer-term goal, we continue to work towards memorials in

recognition of Dr. Vince Gutowski and Dr. Brett Anderson.

We were fortunate enough to have a GTU retreat last May to a private lake in Indiana. Fun, food, and fishing were enjoyed by all. As we plan ahead, our priority for 2016-2017 is to get the Spring Break outing back on the schedule and to recruit more members from the new cadre of students.

## Diane Burns

Greetings, Alumni! This year has brought many changes, both professional and personal. My and Dave Viertel's collaboration continues on the investigation of the Little Wabash, the changes to the channel's pathway over time and the effects on the land use as a result. Additionally, my collaboration with Dan Curtis, soon-to-be alumnus, on education and outreach related topics resulted in three different presentations at national and regional conferences. We outlined different ways to reach out to proto-geologists at a young age to excite their interest in the major. Last – but certainly not least! – I and a recent graduate, Dan Finley, have started using my 3D printer as a research tool. Dan investigated Mississippi Valley Type deposits and their emplacement

using this printer. This is a **very** young field – using 3D printers for research tools in geology – but I hope that this gets the ball rolling. The project that Mr. Finley did with the 3D printer was so cutting-edge, he won not only a SURE award (on campus student research award) but one that was noted “With Distinction” to set it apart from other SURE awards. Congrats, Dan!

Our three Geology student organizations of which I am the faculty advisor – Geology Club/student chapter of AIPG/student chapter of SGE group – continue to thrive and be a visible part of the department as well as the community. Just recently, the group had a spot in the Charleston High School Homecoming Parade, unveiling our newest acquisition and member –

Tex, the T-Rex! The geology majors came up with the idea of us being more high profile, both on and off campus, and they earmarked funds from their fundraising efforts to purchase the dino suit. It was an absolute hit with the local folks and has been subsequently used to help recruit at on-campus events. The Geology Club, Tex and a new friend of his are slated to appear in the EIU Homecoming Parade – if you are in town for Homecoming, check them out! Plan on seeing much more of Mr. Tex....

Last, my godchild and niece is getting married next year....and has asked me to be Maid of Honor!! I am honored and thrilled to be so selected – my niece is more like a daughter to me for the last six years because of family issues, so this is like me both giving away my daughter as well as being the MOH – whoa! My

## **Cameron Craig**

Salutations! It has been another exciting year working alongside my colleagues in the department as well as across the campus at WEIU, the Center for Academic Technology Support, and in the Department of Music. I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Spaceship Earth, and the Broadcast Meteorology Practicum. I have added Climatology, Cultural Geography, and World Regional Geography to my offerings. Recently, I have brought several new broadcast meteorology students to the program from around the region and as far as San Diego. It is a very exciting time for us! The broadcast meteorology program continues to grow as we continue to get the word out across the nation through our continued attendance at the National Weather Association conference where students present their broadcasts for professionals every year.

After nearly 25 years, I have returned to an old passion of mine, music. I am a graduate student in Orchestral Conducting and Vocal Performance here at EIU working with Dr.

relatively new Charleston home continues to be both an oasis as well as a challenge – I **love** the trees, the quiet, the atrium...the soil, however, defies me to plant anything and have it grow. We – as you know – are on glacial till that is predominantly clay and has been compacted over many years. Growing plants here is like growing them in cement...there are many, many years of amending this soil ahead of me to get it to be a nice garden of perennials, vegetables and all.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well...please come to Homecoming on the weekend of Oct. 22 if you can and catch up with us!! If you can't make Homecoming, keep in touch!

Cheers,  
Diane

Richard Rossi and Dr. Nicholas Provenzale. Brian Hartman, geography major with a minor in broadcast meteorology, and I recently finished a ballet entitled, "Der Prinz des Blutmonds" (The Bloodmoon Prince). The lunar eclipse and blood moon we experienced on September 27, 2015 inspired the story. Brian wrote the libretto and I composed the music. The story can be found at [www.TCPFilms.com](http://www.TCPFilms.com). The ballet is planned to premier at EIU in 2018.

Students continue to produce documentaries of various subjects with me and I continue to find ways of taking my students to different locations around the country. Three of my students kept demanding over a year to have me take them out west! Therefore, I took them to Yellowstone National Park. Two of them had never been there and it was a rewarding moment for me to see the fascinated expression upon their faces when we visited the geothermal areas in the park. This is the reason I teach...to see my student's faces lit up with understanding and grasping the beauty of our home, we call Earth!



Geography majors, (left to right) Brian Hartman, Erik Piper, and Jesse Guinn pause for a moment while hiking on Bunsen Peak, Yellowstone National Park. Cameron Craig hosted the trip these three wanted for several months.

## Barry Kronenfeld

Hi everyone! It has been an interesting year. We are all mourning the loss of two former faculty: Vince Gutowski who was a father figure to many and who started the GIS program at EIU, as well as Brett Anderson who personally was a friend and confidant during my first several years at EIU. Both Vince and Brett passed away last fall. Nevertheless, the show must go on...

The PSM in GIScience is going strong, and we have seven new students in the program in Fall 2016. We are now offering many graduate courses online, and are working towards putting the entire PSM degree online in the near future, as well as a shorter (18-19 credit) graduate certificate program. I'm also working on several research projects, perhaps the most interesting with Miles Dwiggin, a PSM student. Miles is developing python scripts to analyze spatial patterns 18<sup>th</sup> century survey data throughout the

mid-Appalachians and areas east and west – our goal is to see if we can pick up evidence of broad-scale native American fire activity that might have promoted the eastward expansion of the range of the American bison. We'll present our work at the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) annual meeting in Naperville in a couple of weeks.

Two other students, Annie Cerminara and Ademola Adeyemo, are working with me on a workshop on the open source QGIS software, also to be presented at ILGISA. It should be a good event for people interested in free but highly functional options in GIS. We're also seeing renewed interest in GIS from students in business and public policy, as well as biology and of course geology and geography. It's the student interest that keeps me going!

## Chris Laingen

This past year has been both enjoyable and professionally fulfilling. Along with a book chapter and journal article, my first book, *American Farms, American Food*, which I co-authored with John C. Hudson of Northwestern

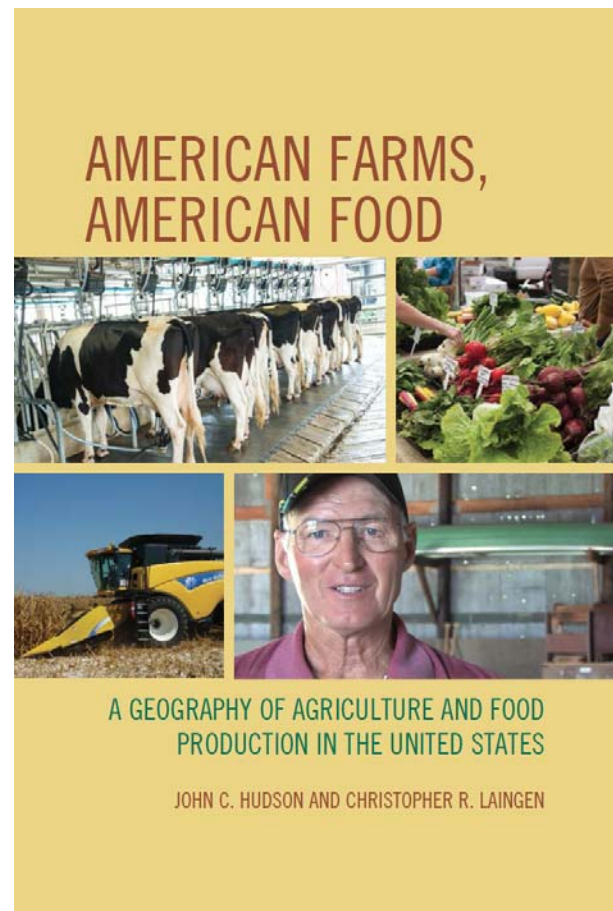
University, was published this past summer by Lexington Books. I also had the pleasure of mentoring Alicia Waller, one of our program's best and brightest students, on an independent research project. Alicia was awarded a Grace

Markwell Meier grant, and she presented her work at EIU's Student Research and Creative Discovery Conference. At the national scale, I became co-chair of the American Association of Geographer's (AAG) Rural Geography Specialty Group and will become chair of that group in 2017 for a two-year term, along with service to the West Lakes AAG region as their Secretary/Treasurer and to the AAG national organization on the Membership and Constitution & Bylaws committees.

As EIU moves forward and becomes "Vitalized," there is a good chance that our department or program(s) will need to evolve, more-so than we already have – whether that be a department or program name change so students find us more attractive, to increased in-house recruitment efforts or articulation (2+2) agreements with community colleges, or possibly an all-out re-visioning of what programs we offer our students. Whatever those changes may be, geographers will continue to do what we do. This dilemma is not new. Over 30 years ago John Hudson wrote an opinion piece for the *Journal of Geography* during a time when geography was supposedly experiencing an identity crisis. I'll close with a paragraph from his article:

"Who is right? Will geography vanish unless the rest of us stop doing whatever it is that bothers people who want to do (or call us) something else? No, any more than astronomy or economics or literature will vanish, no matter how inept and wooden-headed their practitioners in a particular era happen to be. Geography will remain for somebody to do even if there are no university departments labeled "Geography," no professors, no

graduate students, no high school courses, no AAG, no NCGE, no journals. The subject and its practitioners are not one in the same, yet we nearly always confuse the two when we speak about the future of geography. There is no doubt about the future of the subject because of humankind's innate curiosity about places – why they look like they do, how they came to be that way, and why they differ from one another."



## Katie Lewandowski

It's that time of year again, when I'm working on my blurb for the department newsletter! Seems like I just did this....Anyway, I'm in my 8<sup>th</sup> year here at EIU. This year I happen to be on sabbatical, so hope to get lots done. I'm still

around, though; I stop in to campus at least once a week. I also hope to become an evaluator for the edTPA, which is the high stakes portfolio assessment student teachers have to complete and pass before obtaining a license to teach in



Illinois. I will be training for that in February. That experience should help me to better prepare students in my teaching methods course to understand what is required to pass the edTPA.

Last year, Ryan Kermicle, one of our geology undergraduate majors, worked with me doing research. He looked at diatoms from the Central Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean from the late Neogene. He did a lovely job preparing smear slides and identifying the diatoms, which are a type of golden algae. They have beautiful siliceous shells, which we call tests.

Last April, I attended the North-Central Geological Society of America meeting in Champaign, IL. I actually got to see some of our alumni at the meeting, which was fantastic! I had the pleasure of catching up with Josh Smith and Doug Mateas. Josh is now in a Ph.D. program at Indiana University. Doug is working in the Chicago area at an environmental consulting program. I love catching up with alumni and hearing what you are up to! While at that meeting, I gave two presentations in a session on women in geology. One was a talk about Marie Tharp, famous cartographer and oceanographer. The other talk I gave was a more personal one. I did a presentation on the

first all woman expedition to Antarctica, which was launched from Ohio State University, which is my alma mater, in 1969 (way before I was there). In addition to talking about that expedition, I talked about OSU's legacy of contributing women researchers to the Antarctic Program. As many of you know, I had the opportunity to travel to Antarctica and participate in geological research down there in 2007. The talk was quite well-received and fun to put together.

As far as the science teacher certification program is concerned, things are going well. We received accreditation once again from NSTA. Every student teacher in science who took the edTPA last year passed on the first try; which is quite impressive for the two semesters of submitting the assignment to Pearson for evaluation. In addition, every science teacher certification student who student taught last year, has secured full time employment teaching science for this academic year. That is an achievement of which I am very proud. Great job, teachers!

Mark and I are still enjoying our small town life in Casey, where we live with our dogs and cat.

## Jim Riley



## Dave Viertel

Greetings, alumni! As I begin my tenth year at Eastern, I find myself looking back on the many students who have passed through these halls just in the past decade. It is hard to believe so much time has passed. I have fond memories--

from working on independent studies to traveling on field trips, from conference presentations to conversations in the classroom. It is a privilege to come to work every day and learn right alongside you (for that is what

professors do!). I hope the next 10 years are just as rewarding for the department, myself, and (most importantly) the students.

But enough introspection. Our department continues to change, and I change right along with it. Though I still am lucky enough to teach remote sensing courses and cartography (with the occasional weather and climate in the mix), I'm stretching the repertoire this year. This Fall I'm teaching a graduate course online for our

Professional Science Master's degree. That has been great fun already. Next Spring I will be branching out into teaching a face-to-face Cultural Geography class. Having the opportunity to teach a new general education class is always exciting.

My family is well, and sends their best to all our friends amongst you. Here's wishing a wonderful year to you and yours!

## Our Recent Graduates

### Spring 2015

Bradley, Drew Jeffery	Geography
Brandenburg, Tyler Craig	Geography
Cerminara, Annie Marie	Geography
Delucia, Dominic Edward	Geography
Dixon, Jessica Lynn	Geography
Harp, Braden Anthony	Geography
Purcell, Rhonda Lynn	Geography
Schild, John Patrick	Geography
Stadler, Daniel Harrison	Geography
Bobal, Brandon	Geology

### Fall 2015

Bocian, Paul Thomas	Geography
Fachie, Jason D	Geography
Intravaia, Jessica Nicole	Geography
Parr, Larken Bruce	Geography
Wells, Jeremy Taylor	Geology

### Summer 2016

Legg, Dylan Cade	Geography
Knuth, Jordan M	Geology
Marlow, Brevan Ray	Geology

## Support the Department

Would you like to help the Department in its mission of helping students learn about, and prepare for, a career in geology, geography, and the earth sciences? A variety of opportunities exist. These range from simple donations to providing advice, datasets, or job opportunities for students. We are particularly seeking to increase the funds available for student support. Gifts to the Geology/Geography Gift Account allow us to:

- Purchase equipment for faculty/student research;
- Develop an undergraduate research fund;
- Support undergraduates presenting research at scientific conferences;
- Support innovative, inquiry-based laboratory exercises for class.

If you would like to make a contribution, several options are available. The simplest way is to send a check to the Department of Geology/Geography. Online donations with a credit card can be done via the University web pages at [www.eiu.edu/develop/gift.php](http://www.eiu.edu/develop/gift.php).

Please remember to direct the gift to the Department of Geology/Geography. Other options for contributions are listed at the Office of Development's page, [www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php](http://www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php). These gifts are usually tax deductible. If you wish to support a particular scholarship or area in our department, that is also possible. In general, unless specified otherwise, we allocate most of our gifts towards student support and we have several pre-existing funds.

### *Existing scholarships and funds*

- General gift account – unrestricted use towards student support or equipment purchases
- Geography Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geography
- Geography of Ecuador and Latin America Enhancement Fund -geography majors.
- Geology Alumni Award – sophomore or junior in Geology
- Dewey H. Amos Scholarship – outstanding junior in Geology or Earth Science
- Jon and Diana Giffin Geologist Scholarship – at least sophomore Geology major with plans to continue in geology
- Ruby M. Harris Award – senior in Geology, Geography, or Earth Science
- Walter H. and Dorothea V. McDonald Scholarship – junior in Geography or Earth Science
- Grace Markwell Meier Award – outstanding member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)
- Errett and Mazie Warner Presidential Award – juniors or seniors in Geology, Geography, or Earth Sciences
- John George Wozencraft, Jr. Memorial Award – either mathematics (even years) or Geography (odd years)
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – given to students majoring in Geography who show outstanding scholarship and dedication to the field of Geography.
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in observing daily climate data for National Weather Service.
- Geology in the Schools Outreach Program - funds for this program go towards supplies and models used in the classroom demonstrations as well as support for the students who are doing the presentations.
- Other – such as establishment of your own scholarship or memorial fund.

We would especially like to encourage alumni to check for the possibility of matching funds from their employer, as any donation will be multiplied. For example, some large petroleum companies offer a 3:1

match. Gifts-in-kind of equipment or specimens are also appreciated but must be prearranged with the department beforehand to ensure optimal use (and for conformance to University regulations). If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email or call me.

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