Welcome

Greetings from the 'Gate

Greetings once again from Lathrop Hall. Our last newsletter went out almost three years ago, and so it is time to inform everyone of the latest doings in the Geology Department at Colgate. As the items that follow suggest, this remains an active, vibrant department. Much of our attention in the last couple of years has been on hiring and planning for the future, but our central focus remains our students. The number of graduating majors has been in the mid-20's for the past few years. Our most recent classes graduated 16 students in 1999 and 27 in 1998. These are healthy numbers, and allow us to provide high-quality research opportunities to interested majors. We have had good support from the Colgate administration for summer stipends for student researchers, and we continue to build the department's own funding sources.

Happenings

NSF and KECK Foundation Fund New XRD-XRF System

With Rich April's leadership and input from a number of other departmental faculty, we have recently received news of two major grants from the National Science Foundation and the Keck Foundation that will support replacement of the X-Ray Diffraction and X-Ray Fluorescence Systems. The existing equipment was purchased in the late 1970's and has served us well. Many thousands of hours of machine time, representing analyses by hundreds of students, as well as faculty projects, have been provided by these venerable machines. In recent years the maintenance costs, down time and lack of reliability of analytical results had given us increasing concern, and we are pleased to have purchased new instruments that totaled nearly $300,000, with all the funding coming from external support. The new machines were installed early spring of 1999. Many thanks to Rich April for his hard work leading this effort and to Di for calibrating the new equipment.

Department Receives Major Gift

The department has just received the wonderful news that Malcolm '54 and Sylvia Boyce will be establishing an endowed fund in geology to support teaching and research. We are just beginning to discuss specific ways in which to use this extraordinary endowment, but it is clear that the Boyce's generosity will help sustain Colgate as a leader in undergraduate geoscience education and research. You'll be hearing more in the months ahead about the far-reaching impact of this magnificent gift on departmental activities, so please stay tuned!
Rich April Continues in Administrative Post

Rich April is beginning his second term as Director of the Division of Natural Sciences. The post is nominally a 1/2 time administrative load, but is especially demanding in the fall term, when the Division Directors, as members of the Dean's Advisory Council, make all-important recommendations about tenure and promotion of faculty across the campus. Rich continues to teach Mineralogy and Geochemistry. Charlie McClennen recently completed his stint as Associate Dean of Faculty and is currently leading the Australia Study Group. Charlie's administrative duties kept him away from the department in terms of teaching, but he did manage to advise a number of student research projects, including work on the Lagoon of Venice and Lake Ontario shoreline. A two year grant from the Nature Conservancy ($18,000) will support three students doing GIS airphoto analysis of Eastern Lake Ontario coastal evolution. Charlie is also working along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario with a team of geologists on a newly-formed committee of the Nature Conservancy (Sand Transport Advisory Committee). Charlie will be on sabbatical leave in 2000-2001.

Amy Leventer Opens Antarctic Opportunities

With Charlie McClennen occupied full-time with his Associate Dean of Faculty duties, we were fortunate to hire Amy Leventer on a four-year term position. Amy comes most recently from the University of Minnesota, where she held a research appointment. Amy, spouse Dave (who is an ER physician in Syracuse), and two children live in Cazenovia. Amy's research is well-funded by NSF, and has included support for three geology majors - Allison Ridder, Kate Clark, and Mark Hayes - for cruise opportunities to the polar oceans of Antarctica. The cruises involved seismic profiling, coring, and water and sea ice sampling related to Amy's work on diatoms and paleoclimate records of the Holocene on the Antarctic shelf.

Study Groups

Jim McLelland returned from Wales in early summer 1999, completing his leadership of the Colgate Study Group centered in Cardiff. Jim also led the Australia Study Group in the spring of 1997. Art Goldstein was in Wales spring of 1999 on similar duty, Paul Pinet is leading the fall 1999 Manchester Group, and Charlie McClennen is leading the fall 1999 Australia Study. The department continues to offer the "OC" - our off-campus field program. Although not officially a study group, the program remains a key part of our curriculum. In recent years the program has run for seven weeks - three in the east and four in the west.

Karen Harpp Joins the Department

With Kim Waldron's departure from the department (Kim is working this year in the Dean of College Office as Assistant Dean) we held a national search and are very pleased to welcome Karen Harpp to Colgate Geology. Karen is a Dartmouth undergrad, and received her PhD from Cornell. She is a geochemist in the truest sense. Her undergraduate degree is in chemistry, and her research involved the chemical evolution of the mantle and oceanic basalts. Her lab is equipped with an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS). Karen also has a keen interest in environmental
applications of geochemistry, and will be developing an environmental geochemistry course with the assistance of a major National Science Foundation grant. Karen comes most recently from Lawrence University, where she held a faculty position in the chemistry department. Karen and her fiancee (David Baird - Cornell PhD in Geophysics) are living in Poolville.

**Graduate School and Career Trends**

Among our senior concentrators in the classes of 1998 and 1999, two students from the class of 1998 went directly into graduate programs and one student from the class of 1999 went onto graduate school. We have seen a trend over the last 3-4 years of fewer students going directly to graduate school, and perhaps (although this is difficult to assess without more data) a trend of fewer graduate degrees overall. 1998 and 1999 were very good years for students to find jobs immediately after graduating with a BA, and a number of our seniors got great positions with top-notch companies. The booming economy is certainly a factor in the smaller numbers going on to graduate schools, but we still encourage our students to think carefully about graduate school as an option.

**Planning for Renovation of Lathrop**

Many of us think of Lathrop as a building that is quite 'new', since it was renovated in 1970. However, parts of Lathrop have begun to show their age. The design and layout of spaces which met the needs of the department in 1970 need to be re-assessed in light of the larger size of the department - in terms of both students and faculty - and more extensive equipment holdings of the department. The department has submitted a planning document to the Dean and President to get the ball rolling. In the past two years, 209 and 217 Lathrop were renovated with new seating and video/computer projection systems. We are also carving out some new space for students who need research areas in the seminar room on Lathrop's fourth floor.

**The Chief is Retiring**

(and we're not talking about his demeanor)

Jim McLelland will be officially ending his Colgate career at the end of the 1999-2000 academic year (talk about the millennium). We are planning his festivities now so that as many of you as want to will be able to help us celebrate Jim's many contributions to Colgate and the geological profession. We will be having a retirement party just before reunion 2000. The festivities will begin Wednesday, May 31 with a casual get together and cookout. The following day we will have a symposium in Jim's honor with talks by some of his former students and colleagues. Thursday evening we will have a formal banquet with an official roast. We are scheduling this in conjunction with reunion because we hope that many of you will also enjoy that event and will be able to return to Colgate for the entire weekend. Hotel reservations will, of course, be difficult to get but Colgate is ramped up to provide housing for reunion. This is the first announcement of this momentous event and we hope that you will be able to make some long range plans. Early next Spring we will be sending another announcement to you and soliciting volunteers to give talks. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas about other things we might do to/for The Chief during this event, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. We're looking forward to seeing you next year! Art Goldstein and Bruce Selleck.
Environmental Studies Program & Environmental Geology Major

As reported in the last issue of the Alumni Newsletter, we have implemented a concentration in Environmental Geology, developed in parallel with similar majors in Economics, Biology and Geography. The environmental majors all retain a 'core' of coursework in the departments. In geology, students will take mineralogy, environmental geochemistry, choose from among a suite of courses in "core areas" of geology, and will also take interdisciplinary courses at the introductory and senior levels. We have just a few environmental geology majors in the junior and senior classes, so it is too early to gauge the impact of the new concentration on our overall program.

Wes Gibbons and Tere Moreno Visiting Faculty for Fall 1999

This Fall we are privileged to have Wes Gibbons and Teresa Moreno as visiting Faculty in the Geology Department. Wes is a Professor at Cardiff University where the Wales Study Group is based. Over the years, he has been a wonderful colleague for Bruce, Chief and Art when they led that study group. Tere just finished her Ph.D. at Cardiff University and has been awarded a Fulbright Grant to work with Chief on Adirondacks geology. Wes, who holds the rank of Visiting Whitnall Professor at Colgate, is teaching two courses: Tectonics, and Earth Science and Society. This January Wes and Tere will be leading the field trip to Spain and the Canary Islands with Karen Harpp.

Wes Gibbons

Tere Moreno

Spain / Canary Island Field Trip

This fall Karen Harpp has been collaborating with our visiting Whitnall professor Wes Gibbons and Tere Moreno to plan a trip in January to southern Spain and the Canary Islands. The trip is tied to both my volcanology class and Wes' tectonics class, but of course it's open to all geology students. It should be an incredible field experience, thanks to Wes and Tere's detailed planning. Here are some excerpts from Wes' description of the trip:

"The itinerary will include overnight stops in hotels on the Spanish plains, in mountain villages, in the incredible city of Granada, along the Mediterranean coast, inside a barely dormant volcano on Tenerife, and on the small, remote island of La Palma. Travel will be by plane, minibus, boat, and automobile. The emphasis will be on volcanoes and
mountain belt tectonics, but the geology visited will be varied. Localities will include intraplate continental and oceanic alkaline volcanoes, calcalkaline subduction-related volcanics, thin-skinned fold-and-thrust limestone belts, deeply subducted eclogites, orogenic collapse-related sedimentary basins, and the famous Messinian salinity crisis Mediterranean evaporites. The route will culminate in a visit to the youngest of the Canary Island eruptive centres: the volcano of Teneguia which last erupted in 1971. For the culturally and historically aware, the itinerary will include visits to the 16th century Castilian town of Almagro (in La Mancha of Don Quixote fame), the remains of Santa Maria cathedral in Cazorla (torched by Napoleon) and the 13th century Alhambra in Granada ("the most exciting, sensual and romantic of all European monuments"). For the scenically aware the journey will contrast the dry plains of La Mancha with the olive plantations of Jaen, the high limestone peaks of the Sierra de Cazorla with the huge, rounded mountains of the Sierra Nevada, and the sandy Mediterranean and volcanic Canaries coastlines. Weather permitting, we will also climb to the highest point in Spain: Teide volcano at 12,269'."

Spring Bread Field Trip to San Salvador Island, Bahamas

Eight students in Connie Soja's Seminar on Reefs (Geology 426) spent spring break in the Bahamas with Connie and her husband, Brian White (Smith College), exploring Pleistocene and modern reefs on San Salvador Island. Students focused on identifying coral, algal, and fish communities to determine guilds and diversity trends in nearshore and offshore reefs. Underwater cameras and slates facilitated data collection and recording, including recognition of the widespread decline of the staghorn coral (Acropora cervicornis) in the Bahamas and Caribbean. Exciting encounters with Great Barracudas, turtles, spotted rays, parrotfish, and a diversity of scleractinian corals (remember from Paleo class??) made the trip a wonderful educational exercise! Thanks to Colgate and the Geology Department for funds that subsidized the costs of this trip.
Montana Horse Trek 2000

Jim McLelland is already planning the Montana Horse Trek for the second week in July 2000. Here are a few of the details:
The Bob Marshall Wilderness is one of the most rugged and scenic areas in the west. Under the expert guidance of outfitter Kehoe Wayman, we will make our way by horseback through the forests and mountains of this roadless area until we reach the Continental Divide at 9000'. Here, above the local tree line, patches of snow persist throughout the summer, and spectacular views abound. From a vantage point atop the 1000' high Chinese Wall, one can see mountains stretching away to all horizons, and hundreds of head of elk grazing in the meadows below. After each day's ride, the cook (Mrs. Wayman) will prepare steaks, chicken, fish and other delights taken from her freezer chest. This, as well as all other gear, are transported by a packtrain of 20 mules that, along with two wranglers, moves ahead of the 12 horseback riders. Each evening there is ample time to fly fish in mountain streams that abound with cutthroat trout that you are guaranteed to catch and enjoy for breakfast. As laid forth in the September issue of the Colgate Scene, the trip is a once in a lifetime experience that should not be missed. No horsemanship skills or experience required. Includes horses, meals, camping equipment, motels, local transport. Sign-up deadline: By Nov. 15 on a first come, first served basis (a $500 deposit written to Colgate University/Montana Horse Trek will guarantee your place. For more information contact: Deb Bordelon, Office of Residential Life, 315-228-7372 or email: dbordelon@mail.colgate.edu.

Messages from the Faculty

Rich April

The past few of years have been different, but interesting and enlightening. Being Director of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has basically been another full-time job, even though I'm told it's only a half-time commitment. However, I've enjoyed learning more about how the University works and how business is conducted in other departments. And after two and a half years of this, I've come to appreciate just what a special place Colgate is! The faculty are incredibly bright and hard working, they are recognized internationally for their expertise and scholarship, and they truly love to teach. They also can conduct quality research with the best of them and fully engage Colgate students in these endeavors. Geology is still one of the most highly regarded undergraduate programs in the United States, and this reputation comes to us mainly because our graduates - you, the alumni - have done so well when you leave Lathrop Hall to enter the world of business, industry, government and academe.

I still teach mineralogy and geochemistry, but in recent years I've taught some new courses including an introductory environmental science course, environmental economic geology and a first year seminar called geology outdoors. I've been teaching less because of the administrative stuff that I'm responsible for, but I plan to eventually return to full-time teaching in the near future. Di Keller and I have been working on a mineralogy web page over the past year, and even though it is not yet complete, it
seems to be an asset to students in Mins. We'll continue revising and refining the page this year, and I hope you get a chance to take a look at it (especially if you want to review your mineralogy, because after so many years away you must be a little rusty telling apart CPX from OPX!!!!).

My research continues to focus on acid rain and air pollution and the effects of these on forested ecosystems. I'm currently involved in a couple of multi-year, multidisciplinary project in the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire with scientists from both the east and west coasts that attempts to better characterize the processes involved in forest growth, forest decline, and nutrient cycling. It's fascinating work and some of the results have recently been published in GSA Bulletin and Biogeochemistry. As always, I continue to enjoy working on projects that cross disciplines and break the bounds of traditional, disciplinary science. I am particularly fond, too, of any research that includes a bit of down-and-dirty pit digging and soil and clay mineralogy!

So, hello to everyone reading this. It's hard to believe that more than 500 of you have passed through Mineralogy 201 since I've been at Colgate. If geology has been buried in the deep recesses and cobwebs of your mind for some years now, do yourself a good turn. Next time you are at the beach, pick up a handful of sand, look for those beautiful little clear quartz and pink feldspar grains and remember David McCord's words... "a handful of sand is an anthology of the universe." Best wishes to you all.

**Art Goldstein**

Since my last Sabbatical in Fall 1996 I've been very busy teaching overloads and still getting some research done, although not nearly as much as I would like. Sabbatical was great! I spent most of my time here at Colgate getting my Taconic research wrapped up. One paper, co-authored with Jon Knight ('96) and Kari Kimball ('97), has appeared in the Journal of Structural Geology on the use of deformed graptolites as strain markers and some others remain still to be written. Last Fall (1998) I lead an NEIGC field trip to my old stomping grounds along the Lake Char Fault in eastern Massachusetts and Connecticut and the Fall before (1997) I lead an NEIGC field trip to the Taconics and had about the best field trip experience of my career (except, of course, every single OC!!!). Taconic research continues but on a different tack from work I've done before. Bruce Selleck and I have begun a collaborative effort to assess the nature, source and flow paths of fluids which moved through basement, cover and allochthon prior to, during and after an orogenic event. Eastern New York, western Vermont and western Massachusetts are one of the best places to do this and we have great hopes of success. I spent a month of my sabbatical and one frantic week this summer working in the stable isotope lab at the University of Wisconsin measuring the 18O of quartz and calcite veins from the Taconic slate belt. John Valley, a great friend of both Chief and Colgate, has set up one of the best oxygen isotope facilities in the world and has given me access to both his lab and technician. If he only knew what a "bull in a china shop" I am he would never have let me handle all that custom glassware! However, I managed to collect a lot of data without breaking anything. Bruce, John and I will be presenting our results at the GSA in Denver this October.
Last Spring I took the Wales study group, following in the footsteps of Chief, Bruce and Paul Pinet. Melanie came with me and my daughter, Kate (who is a student at Hobart and William Smith Colleges), was on a study group in Edinburgh, so the whole damn family was in the UK. We had an absolutely fantastic time. I had about the best group of students Colgate could offer, even if not a single one of them was a geology concentrator. Melanie and I traveled all over the UK visiting sites of geological and historical significance. The most thrilling for me was the visit to Hutton's unconformity in eastern Scotland and Lapworth's famous exposure of the Arnabol thrust (a member of the Moine thrust system) in the Scottish Highlands. I also had the opportunity to visit southeastern Spain with the Cardiff University faculty and students. This also was a great thrill and I am looking forward to returning there with Wes Gibbons, Tere Moreno, Karen Harpp and a gaggle of Colgatoids this January.

Karen Harpp

Greetings! It's been a real pleasure joining the Colgate Geology Department this past year, and I'd like to thank everyone who's made it such a wonderful experience. It seems that everywhere I go I meet another Colgate geology alum; I even ran into a distinguished alumnus in Puerto Rico last April (Allan Dennis), which was great!

Last year I had the chance to teach several courses, including instrumental methods, Megageology, and even a freshman seminar on the advent of the atomic bomb. This year, I've begun a new course on volcanology, with a great group of students.

Last summer, three Colgate students came with me as part of a field excursion to the Galapagos Islands, a current focus of my research. We were working on two main projects, one to investigate the evolution of a particularly puzzling island in the archipelago (Genovesa), and another to collect 360-degree panoramic images of volcanic and biologic phenomena to contribute to an instructional CD-ROM. Currently, all three students are working on independent study projects related to the samples we collected, with an emphasis on petrologic and geochemical analysis.

Di Keller

It's been a difficult year trying to put my life back together after the sudden loss of my mother last March. Here at Lathrop I spent a good deal of time this summer setting up our new x-ray lab which is located in the old "Range Room." The new equipment prompted the redesign of Mineralogy labs to include a couple of x-ray labs. Along with these Mineralogy labs, I have also been busy developing field-based labs for the new Environmental Geology course. These include not only some classic geology but also soil and water analysis to examine the effects of pollutants as well as tree ring analysis to address concerns about global warming.
Amy Leventer

It's hard to believe that I'm in my third year at Colgate! I'm having a great time teaching an old favorite - "Oceanography", as well as several new courses including "Climate Change and Human History" and "Environmental Geology". The Climate class focuses on case studies of climatic events that have impacted human societies and/or the course of human evolution over the past several million years. This gives us a great perspective from which to evaluate modern day global warming. I'm teaching Environmental Geology for the first time this year - the best part of the course is the weekly field trips, organized and led by Di Keller. Rain (Tuesday labs) or shine, we're outside!

My research on climate change in the Antarctic is progressing, thanks to lots of help from many, many students. I just returned from Iceland where I presented the results of three student summer projects - the reputation of Colgate students for excellence in research continues! I'm trying to pair research opportunities in the lab with field time in the Antarctic. So far three students, Allison Ridder, Mark Hayes, and Kate Clark, have participated in Southern Ocean cruises - but I hope to extend several more opportunities over the next year, when I visit the "ex-Larsen Ice Shelf" (is its disappearance related to global warming?) and possibly other regions of the Antarctic continental margin. Our research was recently written up in "New Scientist" and a "Discover" magazine article should appear shortly - keep your eyes open for some beautiful photographs of icebergs, penguins, sediment cores, and hopefully a Colgate student or two!

Charlie McClennen

I am currently leading the Australian Study Group. All is going well for the students and my research with colleagues in the School of Geosciences, UOW. Next winter/spring I will have the Doherty Chair in Ocean Science at Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA. Reporting on last year, my third and final as Associate Dean of the Faculty included travel to Bologna and Venice for invited talks on the channel meander dynamics and subsidence research in the Lagoon of Venice. Nature Conservancy research continues on Lake Ontario in collaboration with Don Woodrow of Hobart-William Smith Colleges. In academic 2000-2001 my sabbatical leave will allow research analysis and writing and possible return trips to Venice and Antarctica depending on grant application funding. Amy Leventer continues to do a great job in replacing my teaching/researching responsibilities of the Department.

Paul Pinet

So many things have happened recently. I've completed my first year as chair of the department and am slowly learning the ropes, trying to continue the able leadership of the recent past provided by Bruce and before him by Art. The anchor pin, of course, is
Dyann. Without her continued guidance, hard work, and experience -- the real "nuts and bolts" of the operation -- the department would implode overnight. So I'm doing my best not to interfere with all of this forward momentum. Recently, we as a department began digging deeply into our curriculum for both the geology and environmental concentrations, looking critically at all aspects of our academic and research programs. Our intent is not only to improve their quality, but also to integrate the parts into a more coherent whole. An outside review committee was on campus last this fall and helped us assess our strengths and weaknesses. During my year-long absence, Connie has agreed to be chair, and I'm grateful for her selflessness to take this responsibility on.

On a personal note, I did manage this summer to get away with Marita for 12 days on our sailboat (a sloop-rigged, gaff-headed catboat), cruising the waters of Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound. Oh, the good life! This past spring and summer, I worked hard on the second edition of my oceanography book while also continuing to write chapters for my book on "wilderness ethics." The latter project has been a four-year-long on-and-off project that I expect (hope) will be done by the end of Fall 99.

At the moment, I'm in Manchester, England, directing Colgate's study group at that site. My teaching responsibility is to explore with the Colgate students how technology has influenced and continues to shape our ethical bearing and views of humans and nature. For me, this is a challenging, valuable experience, as the students and I try hard to unpack the complexity of this important issue. Next spring (Spring 2000), I'm on sabbatical, and will be working on my wilderness ethics book, writing papers on erosional patterns along Lake Ontario with Charlie, and writing some essays on science and the natural world. I really look forward to immersing myself in all of this.

Bruce Selleck

After nine years of deaning and department chairing, I am enjoying my role as "Joe Faculty Member" immensely. Paul Pinet has graciously stepped in to lead the department, and Connie Soja will be doing the job in an interim role this year. As all of us who have done the job know so well, the department chair is mostly about pushing paper and meeting deadlines, so I don't miss it one bit! One great thing about being chair is the close involvement with searches for new colleagues. We are so pleased to have Amy Leventer and Karen Harpp join us in the department. They have made the geology department at Colgate an even better place.

My teaching duties have expanded to include offering courses in Colgate's new Environmental Studies program. Two years ago I taught the introductory Earth and Environment course, and this fall am team-teaching the Environmental Studies Senior Seminar with Ellen Kraly from the Geography Department. Our focus is 'The Adirondacks', with students from Geology, Biology, Geography and Economics departments participating. We are taking five fieldtrips to the 'dacks, and will get to see lots of fall foliage. The Website for that course is: http://offices.colgate.edu/~bselleck/Enst480.htm if you wish to take a look. I continue to offer "Seds"
(http://offices.colgate.edu/bselleck/geology302title.htm), as well as the 200- and 400-level hydrology courses. I have also had the good fortune to take the Geology "OC" to the western US for the Canyon Loop (Denver, Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce, Zion, North Rim) for the last few years.

Research projects in Alaska (stable isotopes and climate change in Tertiary sediments) and the Adirondacks (fluids, stable isotopes in late veins; Paleozoic fluid effects) and Taconics (fluid inclusions) continue, and I have taken more interest in local Pleistocene and Holocene sediments of late. Two student projects this past summer led to interesting results that will require further work. One project, taken up by Janet Baran (class of 2001) focussed on the origin of carbonate cements in kame terrace gravel. Jeb Benzing (class of 2000) developed a surface water model of Woodman Pond to contrast the pre-Chenango Canal version of the pond with the modern systems.

On the personal side, Nancy and I continue to reside on River Road in Randallsville. Daughter Caity is a senior in high school this year, so we are in college tour mode. Beth, who is in eighth grade, was able to join the Canyon Loop portion of the OC this past summer, and had a great time with the students.

Connie Soja

Life at Colgate continues to be challenging and fun! Students keep me busy in my courses on Evolution, History of Life, and Invertebrate Paleontology as well as on the O.C. when we investigate Ordovician rocks at Ingham Mills (no recent dam failings) and Trenton Falls (field quiz still very popular). In the fall of 98, I taught a new first-year seminar on "The Sixth Extinction," in which students researched and discussed evidence about past mass extinction episodes as a springboard for understanding modern threats to the Earth's biodiversity. We also experimented with preservational processes by burying (in my backyard) and later exhuming various once-living objects (clams, crab legs, pork chops, flowers, mushrooms, etc.) "collected" at the Grand Union--this exercise made it possible to hypothesize about the kinds of organisms that have the best chances for becoming fossilized as part of the geologic record. Needless to say, we discovered that Hamilton has an ample and active supply of predators-scavengers, varmints who managed to scarf up a high percentage of our experimental "corpses," thus illuminating the importance of "taphonomic" processes in paleontology and the rarity of fossilization! I continue to serve as Past-President of the Board of Trustees of the Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) in Ithaca. We hope to fulfill PRI's mission of increasing and disseminating knowledge about the history of life by building a major natural history museum in Ithaca over the next few years. Bob Linsley and I have been working with others at PRI on the design of exhibits that would eventually be on display in the museum, a daunting but exciting endeavor. Once built, the museum will be a wonderful resource to have so close to Colgate.

Summer research takes me back to Alaska annually, most recently to Glacier Bay National Park where with Colgate students (Allison Gleason, '98; Brian Flynn, '98; Stacey Joyce, '00; and Lisa Mayhew, '00) and a Russian colleague we discovered a
Silurian stromatolite reef complex and interesting assemblages of mollusks beautifully exposed in an ice-free area in the central part of the bay. Despite the rain, field work was enhanced by the exciting geology, mountainous scenery, tidewater glaciers, lack of telephones and computer hook-ups, and abundant wildlife, including the occasional bear, wolves (tracks and pre-coprolite material along the beach), whales, seals, otters, eagles, giant starfish, etc. During the summer of 1998, Dave Sunderlin and Steve Close buried alligator, emu, ostrich, and chicken eggs in the lab and at two field sites out west (Colorado and Nebraska) to replicate conditions that may have been associated with the preservation of Colgate's Oviraptor dinosaur egg. Their research showed that during three months of burial, eggs experience significant pre-fossilization changes, including stress fractures, partial sand casting, and "predation" by mammalian scavengers. See our web page for related story and more information about their project. And a special note of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fullam for their generous support of this research.

I was able to visit Russia in 1998 for field work in the Urals Mountains to compare Silurian reefs there with those I've been studying with Colgate students for many years in southeastern Alaska. My Russian colleague, Anna Antoshkina, has discovered highly similar stromatolite-sponge buildups that we investigated in a remote part of the Urals. The mosquitoes in Russia are even bigger and more persistent than those in Alaska (and their buzzzzzzzz is loud and annoying...). But the Russians know how to do field work right--travel by Russian-built army trucks (scary), a hot "banyu" (sauna) and jump in a cold river at day's end, "hired" cooks preparing simple food, and lots and lots of vodka. As they say in Russia, za vasha zdorovye (to your health...))!!

Dyann Curtis

I'm approaching my 12th year with Colgate Geology, and as I reflect on the past, the thing I miss the most is the folks that I became close to during your years here. I get some very nice postcards from many of you; postcards of places I will probably never get the chance to visit, but I love them all. I take them home from time to time and challenge my kids to locate the various places on the globe - they think it's fun and cool! Keep them coming!

There have been a few changes in the department over the last 12 years and a few to come. I miss Bob Linsley and soon I will be missing the Chief. I still keep in touch with Bob and he is doing very well. He just returned from an Alaskan cruise, and over the summer did a tour of the Civil War battle sites. He's enjoying his retirement by (you guessed it) playing video games, war games, and tending to his garden. He still drinks Coke and eats plenty of hot dogs!

I moved to Hamilton three years ago and absolutely love it. Hamilton a wonderful village to live, work, and raise your kids. My kids are doing great in Hamilton School; Jon is a senior this year thinking seriously about going into the Air Force - he's really into Karate, Judo, and body-building; Emily is a sophomore; and Sarah is in the eighth grade. The girls are both active in soccer, basketball, and track (Sarah broke the girls modified record - set in the 70's - for the 200-meter hurdles). (To those of you who know me best: "No, I didn't bring the Warden with me").
Contributions to Geology

We all want to thank those who have donated to the geology department over the last three years. If you are planning to give money to Colgate, you can specify that your contribution go directly to the Geology Department. The department's discretionary fund pays for the publication and distribution of this newsletter and other departmental projects. If you wish, you can specify that your donation goes into one of our endowed funds for students: The Norma Vergo Fund or the Bob Linsley/James McLelland Fund. The following have contributed to the department since the last newsletter (our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone!).

Linda Besse
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm W. Boyce
Chapin Brackett
Neal Durant
Edward Cazier, III
Derek Evans
Richard Fahey
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Fullam
Stephen Garzone
Dan Gaudiano
Amy Gove
David Haymes
Mark Hempton
Gerald Jasko
Krista Kantes
Tim Lowenstein
Bryan Luftglass
Raymond & Sue Mitchell

Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Morrissey
Christopher Olson
Kevin & Nancy Padian
Bruce Panuska
Kristen (Olson) Ramsey
Patrick Ramsey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ridder
Shannon Jones Ritter
S. Andrew Sandberg
Sam Savin
Kenneth Schopf
Bruce & Nancy Selleck
Walter Steinmann
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