



Annual Newsletter

Department of Geology and Geography

2017-2018



From the Chair, Dr. Diane Burns...

Hello, all of our wonderful ALUMNI!

Another year, another newsletter and time to update all of you on what has been happening here with us. Finally, there seems to be some silver linings popping up under our previous rain clouds. As you may have heard, the state finally managed to pass a budget, which has certainly changed the tone and morale on campus. Purse strings are loosening a bit, faculty are being hired and people are getting a chance to get back to what we do best – educate some of the finest in the nation. We have a new Provost, Jay Gatrell, who is a fellow Earth Scientist, having earned his Ph.D. in Geography and was most recently Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Research at Bellarmine University in KY. We have had several chances to meet and interact with him, and I find him to be an energetic, down-to-earth guy whom I believe is a great team player and a wonderful addition to our

campus. We are actively working on creating new opportunities for recruiting students, the main one of which is setting up more Articulation Agreements (more commonly known as “2x2’s”). These are contracts with community colleges that allow their students who graduate with good standing with an Associate’s degree to automatically be accepted into our programs with only two years to do to complete their Bachelor’s degree. We have one completely done and in place, 6 more in the works at various stages and about a dozen more that will be submitted for consideration in the next year or so. I think we are headed for much better times than what we have had to endure recently. I and all of the faculty certainly appreciate all of your support, kind words and continued interaction with our department through this rough patch.

Alas, as has unfortunately been the case for the past few years, we have some sad news to pass along. Dr. Alan Baharlou, past chair of the department and longtime devoted EIU fan, passed away suddenly in September. He was enjoying a vacation out in Estes Park, CO, his second home, when he suffered a fatal stroke. The EIU community has lost a singular light – he epitomized what it meant to “Bleed Blue.” May he rest in peace. Dr. Belayet Khan and Cameron Craig have kindly offered to write reflections on Alan’s life, which you will find later in this newsletter.

May you all enjoy the coming year, maybe get to Charleston for the Homecoming Events or a department visit, and please do keep in touch!

Best,
Diane

A Message from our Dean...

Hello Geologists and Geographers!

Things are looking good here at EIU and in the College of Sciences! As you probably know the state of Illinois passed a budget in July. This, in turn, has allowed EIU to responsibly plan for the year. We've needed to remain fiscally conservative but yet are managing to provide a modest amount of student and faculty research support and faculty travel. It is a relief to re-start some of the activities that make EIU such a great place to learn.

I know many of you have heard of and mourned the death of long-term Geology/Geography chair Dr. Alan Baharlou in August. Alan was quite a fixture around here, even after his retirement. I think of him often because the name plaque for the Alan and Carlene Baharlou Distinguished Service Award hangs right outside my office. He will be sorely missed.

One administrative item of note is that our long term Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Blair Lord, retired during the summer. We searched for and successfully hired Dr. Jay Gatrell (who is a geographer!). We're delighted Provost Gatrell has joined EIU and look forward to his insight and guidance in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Department of Geology and Geography!

—Doug

Doug Klarup
Interim Dean, College of Sciences
Eastern Illinois University
217-581-3328



Recruiting on campus – (l-r) Neil Rhoades, Geno Persico, Shay Oldham and Jasmine Winters as the T-Rex.



**In Memory of Alan Baharlou
(March 24, 1936 – August 21, 2017)**

With great sorrow and distress, we regret to inform you that Dr. Alan Baharlou, former Chair of the department of Geology and Geography, and a prominent member of the Eastern Illinois University community passed away on August 21, 2017 at his resort cabin in Estes Park, Colorado. Dr. Alan Baharlou was born in Tehran, Iran on March 24, 1936 to Yadolah Baharlou and Habibeh Khorrami. He is survived by his loving family members including his wife Carlene Baharlou, daughters Roxanne and Carlotta, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents. His death has been a great loss to the Charleston community, and he will be missed sorely by many.

Dr. Baharlou had a very distinguished academic career. After completing his Baccalaureate from the University of Tehran with distinction, Alan chose to come to the United States for higher education. He received a Master's degree in Geophysics from the University of Oklahoma in 1962 and earned the Ph.D. in Geochemistry from the University of Tulsa in 1973. Alan and Carlene were married in 1963 and their daughters Roxanne and Carlotta were born in 1966 and 1969 respectively. Alan, remarking about his wife Carlene always used to say, "It was love at first sight" and the couple celebrated their 54 years of marriage this year. The Baharlou family moved to Charleston, Illinois in 1980 when Dr. Alan Baharlou accepted a position as the chairperson of the Department of Geology/Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Since 1980, the Baharlou family has lived in Charleston, Illinois. However, they frequently visited their cabin in Estes Park, Colorado for family vacations.

Prior to joining Eastern Illinois University, Dr. Baharlou served as the Chair of the Geology Department at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma from 1967 to 1977. For three years at Phillips University he served as the Dean of the Center for Study of Systems, directing the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Mathematics, and Speech Pathology. During his tenure at Phillips University, Dr. Baharlou also directed the Geology Field Camp at St. Juan Mountains of the Rockies. Alan's academic interests in geology, petrology, and archaeology led him to conduct research beyond the United States, expanding to Israel, Scandinavia, Europe, and Russia. Apart from teaching courses on campus, Baharlou regularly taught classes at off-campus locations. His enthusiasm for academic life, teaching, and dedication to service was always noticeable. Alan was passionate when it came to teaching and he was the author of several novel courses at Eastern Illinois University. Students always counted on his help, and he was constantly accommodating to both students and his peers - truly an inspiration.

After 25 years of distinguished service, Alan retired from Eastern in 2005. Although he officially retired, the department and the university never felt his absence. He was always volunteering his service in a variety of ways to the university and the community. His adoration for the university was genuine, and he was truly an ambassador to Eastern. Baharlou's service to the university led him to receive numerous awards. In fact, many were surprised by the number

of awards Alan received that were in display to his visitation service held at the Dvorak Concert Hall at Dounda Fine Arts Center on the 9th of September. It must have exceeded one hundred honors and distinctions, some remarked. It was quite a display! The memorial service was held by the university in Alan's honor and afterwards, his daughter Roxanne and son-in-law Michael Cornebise invited the entire community to their house for food, drinks, and music to celebrate Alan's life. It was a memorable and joyful event that allowed us to celebrate and appreciate Alan's positive influence in our lives

Alan was active, even in his older years. He enjoyed walking, running, biking, and hiking among other hobbies. Frequently, he was seen running and even days before his death he was seen biking at Charleston. Any one of us would be lucky to live our lives as fully as my good friend Alan, both professionally and personally with our families and friends. Although Dr. Alan Baharlou is no longer with us physically, his legacy will continue for generations to come. Alan, you were a legendary figure by your accomplishments and presence, and we miss you!

Belayet Khan
Geology/Geography



Remembrances of Alan Baharlou...

I'll be honest; my friend Alan Baharlou could drive me crazy! He and I were both heavily engaged in service activities on campus, Alan with far more years in than I. At one point, I made the mistake mentioning that I needed to start saying "no" to some of the many opportunities I had on campus. There were just so many hours in a day, and I was finding that I never had enough time. Of course, Professor Baharlou knew me better than I knew myself, and would chide me almost every time I saw him: "I *knew* you could not say 'No'!" He was right of course; I kept volunteering. The last time I saw Alan and Carlene, we were attending an EIU Symphony concert. I had accepted my position at CSU Monterey Bay, and I know Alan was disappointed that I was leaving our beloved EIU. I think it was the one time, he would have preferred me to say "no." the wise Carlene reminded him that I was moving closer to my mother, and that family was still the most important. A devoted father and grandfather himself, he understood my choice. I will always remember that bittersweet conversation when I think of Alan Baharlou.

Bonnie Irwin, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
California State University, Monterey Bay

Alan and I came to Eastern in the Fall of 1980, he was a seasoned chair and I, a junior faculty, just starting out. A few years later, I became the Chair of Economics. As a new chair, I called Alan often. His number was on my speed dial. Sometimes I called him several times a day and every time his answer was "Hi Ebi" like that was the first time he was talking to me that day. At times, he would come over to my office to help.

In the 1990's, there was an initiative to expand technology to classrooms all over campus and needed students approval. Alan made it his mission, along with a few others, to go to every student organization, including the Student Senate, to get their support for a student fee. To the best of my recollection, the referendum didn't pass. Alan and others kept going to the same student groups next year with more vigor and conviction until it eventually passed. Since then, the students have been benefiting from that initiative.

Alan attended many graduation ceremonies. Every time he walked into the field house, he had a wide grin on his face, like he himself was graduating. He was so happy to see the fruit of years of hard work.

I loved his energy and stamina. He was both a gentleman and a gentle man, who exemplified what Eastern is and touched so many lives. He will be remembered fondly.

Ebi Karbassioon

Chair, emeritus, Department of Economics
Eastern Illinois University

His Hand is on our Shoulder

Cameron Douglas Craig

From time to time we have the fortunate opportunity to spend time with a great person. For some, that time might be short and for others it is a long time of experiencing a personality that is infectious, heartwarming, and enthusiastic. Here in this room, as we gather together, his spirit lives within each of us. His spirit is strong. A life-force that will forever be remembered as a man who embraced everything life had to offer. Alan Baharlou was life and is life today, tomorrow, and well into the future because he was a teacher to us all.

Teachers are the shapers of the future. They teach us the importance of what it is to be human. They explain the intricate details of the world we live and help us to understand the linkages between the various particulars around us. Teachers encourage us all to go beyond the minimum and seek the truth in whatever we do. Teachers are also young at heart...always finding a way to engage the youth in learning everything.

Alan knew how to embrace the youth. He also involved those young at heart like himself in learning about the physical world. He was the foundation of his grandchildren. Never once acting his age, he was always laughing with them and kidding around. He embraced them. He embraced me.

I was the last professor he hired in his final month as chairperson, retiring from the department of geology and geography. I will never forget the time when I walked into the department office in August 2005 to fill out paperwork and get keys to my office. In shorts and a polo, I stood nervously alone in the office on the third floor of the Physical Science building. Alan came out of the glass-partitioned inner-office and looked candidly at me, asking, "Can I help you find your classroom?" I responded, "I am not a student but your new geography instructor." Alan laughed and said, "You look like a student except for that nice haircut you have." I was so pleased that I hadn't lost my youthful looks! "Thank you, Dr. Baharlou! But your haircut is much better than mine!" He responded, "Great men have a lack of hair!" I agreed and said, "The world is jealous of us, sir!" Both of us laughed together and it is that signature laugh that I, and so many of us, remember so very well! He then took me to see my new office. Walking out of the department office, a quick right, and down a very short hall he opened the blue door marked "Geology and Geography Faculty." He opened it up and in the large room were bookcases, cabinets, a sink and a harvest green stove-top with those white push-buttons that hadn't been used in a few decades. Yet, these were not the focus of Dr. Baharlou's tour. It was the extremely large rug that lay on the floor that covered nearly the entire 20 by 16 foot room. "Do you see this rug?" he asked. With wide-opened eyes I responded with, "Yes!" With his hand on my shoulder he continued, "I put this rug here and this office is the best one in the building!"

The rug is harvest green with brown hollow squares and has an interesting geographic story. Since the rug was installed several decades ago, it has faded in certain places where office furniture once sat leaving a history of its previous inhabitants. Some areas on the rug are deeply faded leaving a color completely different from the original showing how long that area was exposed to the light from the north-facing windows. Students over my twelve years of occupancy often comment on the rug, "Interesting rug! You should replace it!" "Oh, never!" I interject. "This rug has a history and will never be removed!" However, the story doesn't end

there. Every time Alan visited the department and ran into me in my office he always retold the story of 'his' rug. The rug continues to embellish the office and I am honored to continue to tell students of its history..."This is Dr. Baharlou's rug."

No matter the situation, Alan was quick to provide anecdotes on and about everything. His stories were extremely contagious. Whether it was students or carpet cleaners, he could talk to anyone and tell them stories that would enlighten his audience. People listened when he spoke. We all listen when an enthusiastic personality puts his hand on your shoulder and tells you something. You don't understand how interesting it is until it's all over and then you find yourself reflecting on what he just said. Over time, it causes you to really think about what he said and then you pass on the story to others...a teacher that craftily educates any age.

As a fellow professor laureate, Alan excelled at teaching general education. He developed the capstone course, "Spaceship Earth." What is Spaceship Earth? Many students answered with uncertain expressions, "Spaceship Earth is simply the planet traveling through space as a spaceship?" "Yes," Alan would answer, "but what does it mean?" Still puzzled they would try and try to think where he was going. He would challenge his students to figure out the answer for themselves. Eventually, he would provide the answer and they were quick to write it down in their notes, "Spaceship Earth is the world view that we all must learn how to take care of the resources we are given so that our home continues to provide for future generations."

Dr. Baharlou's life is very much an experience in "Spaceship Earth." He determined in his own mind that we must continue to embrace the world around us to make the future much better than it is today. He didn't just speak of the physical world for which he taught but later in life he embraced the humanities...music. After all, Spaceship Earth encompasses both the physical and cultural aspects of our world. He was enthusiastic about the music department's concerts here in Dvorak Concert Hall. He shocked many with this new revelation of his. He was soon educating those within his reach about the layout of the orchestra and the purpose of the concertmaster. Obviously, he had done his research. He and Mrs. Baharlou attended every concert. He also dragged every family member he could to the concerts and was the most excited man in the audience! His love of the arts was a sign of strengthening his mind...to embrace the love of life.

Across campus one would capture a glimpse of Alan riding his bike or working out at the Student Recreation Center. He was as fit as a student. His mind was strong. His heart was robust. He believed in a strong community and did all that he could to support various ventures here in Charleston but it was Eastern that he strongly supported. Like his philosophy in the idea of "Spaceship Earth," he believed the strength of Eastern Illinois University came from the students, faculty, administration, and the community. The love and devotion of each and every "Panther" here in this community makes this institution the best in the state. He believed in this idea every time he wore his "Panther Blues."

Within this room, Alan's spirit is strong. He is putting his hand on our shoulders and embracing us all and teaching us to engage in our community, our youth, the arts, the protection of our resources for future generations, and, most importantly, to love life to its fullest. From here his message will grow as each of us tells of his story, teaching others just as he did everyday of his life.

The Departmental Clubs and Organizations

Gamma Theta Upsilon

Gamma Theta Upsilon had another great year on campus. Under the able supervision of James Dahlin (last year's president), the club moved forward on several initiatives. Most importantly, it was able to build a new cohort of members.

Last Fall, we assisted in planting a Burr Oak, commemorating Vince Gutowski, our late club mentor and sponsor in front of the Physical Science Building. We will shortly dedicate a plaque in remembrance of all of Vince's dedicated years of teaching and student service.

With our newly-elected president Abby Knight leading the way, GTU is expanding its service activities in the coming year, working to help clean up the Lafferty Nature Study Area in Charleston (an outdoor nature classroom for grade school students). We've recently inducted seven new members and are busy planning our Spring Break getaway.



Students, Ademola Adeyemo and Rase Collins, playing bags in the, "Get to Know the Department Outing," this fall.

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

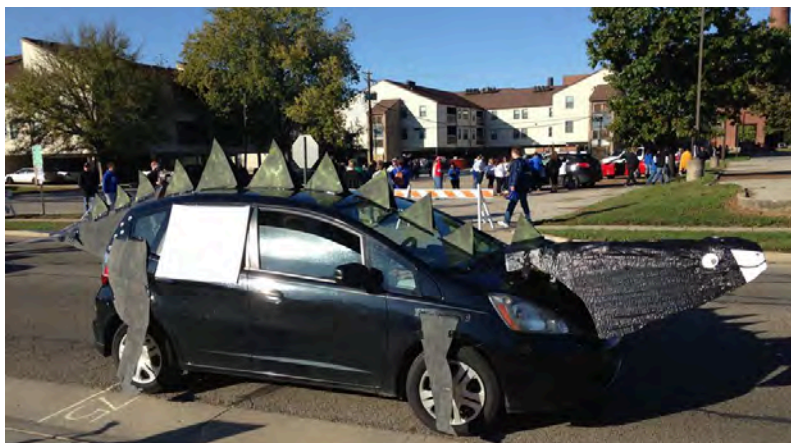
This has been a busy year for the groups! We had a fairly active set of students who contributed greatly to both having some fun as well as helping the department with recruiting activities and doing community outreach. One of the most visible was the introduction of our new mascot, the mighty T-Rex! The clubs purchased an inflatable dinosaur suit (one made popular in a lot of YouTube videos) and several students took turns donning the attire and appearing at Open Houses, sauntering around on campus during prospective student visit days and trooping along in both the Charleston High School and EIU Homecoming Parades. Additionally, for the two Homecoming Parades, the students decorated my little Honda Fit car and transformed it into Mya, the dinocar!

The groups have also recently adopted the stretch of highway on Route 16 west of Charleston. The area that we are now in charge of keeping clean is from roughly where Mediacom is to the traffic light near the entrance to Sarah Bush Hospital. There are large, shiny signs declaring us to be the keepers of the highway – good advertising for both EIU as well as the department.

Although this is getting to be a bit monotonous, Gamma Chi has won yet another set of awards from the National Office. As with the previous three years, Gamma Chi received the Service Award. As with the previous SIX years, Gamma Chi received the Outstanding Chapter Award, which is better than any other chapter in the entire United States. As there are over 200 students chapters, with ones in institutions such as the CO School of Mines, Purdue, Cornell and Johns Hopkins included, this is pretty impressive – congratulations past, present and future members of Gamma Chi!!



New sign on a stretch of Route 16 west of Charleston near Mediacom to Sarah Bush Hospital stoplight.



“Mya, the Dinocar.”

The Faculty

Diane Burns

A busy year has passed by and here is Fall and Homecoming again. Two significant changes to my professional life – I am honored to have been selected to be the Department Chair as well as the President of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national honors society for Earth Sciences. I hope all of the alumni are doing well and are enjoying their various and sundry endeavors. May your lives be filled with the wonder of Earth and the love of your family and friends. Peace to all.

Mike Cornebise

I hope our newsletter finds you all well. I'm beginning a second year as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Sciences. I continue to teach in the department and am offering World Regional Geography (GEO 1200) this semester and will offer a section of Honors World Regional Geography in the spring semester. This has been a trying year for my family as we mourn the loss of my father-in-law, Dr. Alan Baharlou. Alan passed away on the day of solar eclipse (August 21). He was the person who hired me in 2000 and I met his daughter (my future wife), Roxanne, as a result of her visits to the department. Our kids Sam (14) and Sofia (12) continue to keep us busy.

Cameron Craig

Salutations! All is well and in great spirits for another year to serve my university, department, and students! I continue to teach Weather & Climate, Spaceship Earth, Broadcast Meteorology, Cultural Geography, and World Regional Geography. I have been given another task of helping fellow geologists teach Earth Science this year and I am very happy to be helpful. I also continue to work closely with my broadcast meteorology students at WEIUs EMMY award winning news program, "NewsWatch." This last summer my student, Heaven Richey, and I assisted my sociology colleague, William Lovekamp, in producing a documentary film, "Nature's Fury & the Human Spirit: The Charleston-Mattoon Tornado of 26 May 1917." You can view it at www.TCPFilms.com.

I am nearing the end of my studies in Orchestra Conducting here at the university and very excited to participate in various ensembles in the music department. I have once again taken stage with my vocal studies and have given a few recitals with my music colleagues for my Cultural and World Regional Geography classes. I love seeing their eyes when I walk on the stage and open my mouth...amazed that humans can do more than one thing!

One last accomplishment that I enjoy to share is that I have published a book of essays about life entitled, "AN EXPEDITION: Essays of Life Experiences." It is great to see that the two copies in our library are always checked out by students...hum...they do read!

Be good, do good work and always lend a hand to others.

Belayet Khan (Faculty Emeritus)

Nearly two years 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 31 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 chairs 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. Eastern is a great place!

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 31 years ago. We had one young daughter at the time who was married in Charleston in September 2017. 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.

With our lifelong love for traveling, my wife and I have already made some trips since my retirement. In 2016, we ventured east to visit Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, and Bangladesh. After a few months back in Charleston with occasional domestic travel in the United States, we have departed again for Europe and North Africa, specifically Sweden, Finland, Spain, and Morocco. This year we have travelled to our native country with the family and visited Saudi Arabia as well. Although we are always seeking new adventures, we love coming home to Charleston, and our children know that home is the best place for all of us to converge whenever possible.

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

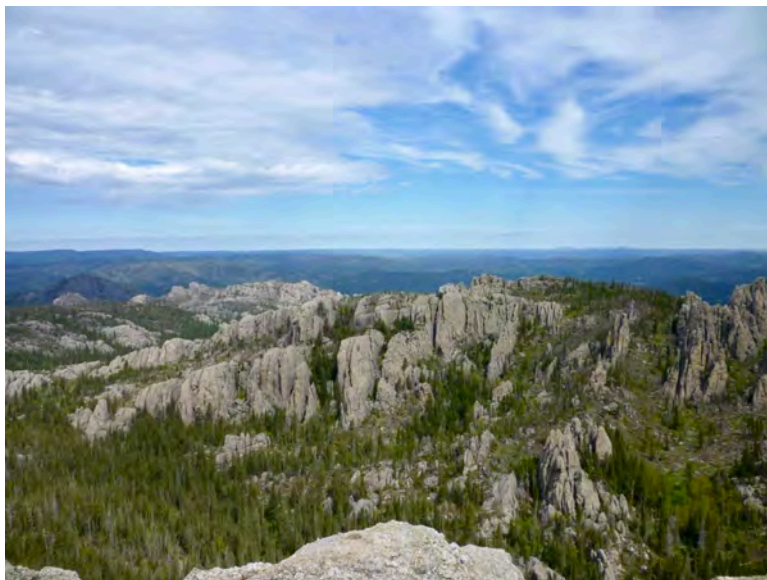
hesitation that despite occasional hardships, the community at large has always remained positive and found proper solutions. This is a source of inspiration for me, and I am confident that EIU will continue to prosper moving forward. As a graduate student in the early 1980s, I always hoped to find an academic 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.

Chris Laingen

The 2016-17 academic year was both highly enjoyable and productive. Being an academic allows me to have a job where my main task is to simply be curious about the world around me; who else can say that? It also affords me the flexibility to enjoy time with my family and friends back home in Minnesota (where I'm from), in Ohio (where my wife is from), and other places we visit during our travels.

In the classroom, I took over the responsibilities of teaching an entirely-revised Introduction to GIS course. I'm also in the process of revising my Food & Agriculture course, hoping to make it a general education course so that students from across campus can enroll.

Research-wise, I reviewed seven journal articles and book chapters for peer-reviewed consideration – what I believe to be most significant contribution academics make to their discipline. In addition to this and my two conference presentations, I also published a book review, a journal article, submitted another co-authored journal article for review, had a book chapter finalized and put into press, and had another book chapter draft accepted for publication in a forthcoming book.



Service-wise, I chaired the Council on Graduate Studies committee during the 2016-17 academic year, was awarded the College of Sciences Baharlou Distinguished Service Award, authored the Geography Program's 8-year Illinois Board of Higher Education review, served a 2nd term as the AAG's West Lakes Regional Secretary/Treasurer, and was elected chair of the AAG's Rural Geography Specialty Group.

Photo: Black Elk Wilderness, South Dakota. Summer 2017.

Katie Lewandowski

Greetings! We are in the groove of the semester at this point. I just came off of a year long sabbatical, so getting back in the classroom and in the groove took a little time for me. Last year was a rough year for me. I was very close with my sister and she died of a rare cancer last December. I am so thankful that I was on sabbatical, so that I could spend time with her. These sorts of tragedies do bring what's important into sharp focus.

During the course of the year, I was invited to contribute to a GSA Special Paper Volume on Women and Geology. I gave a couple of talks at NC GSA in the spring of 2016 that were the basis of these papers. I met the deadline of September 15 to get my papers submitted. Now, I'm waiting for the reviews. I'm very excited about the project. In addition, I continue to worry about paleoclimatology and paleoceanography through studying foram populations.

I continue to teach paleontology and historical geology to majors. In addition, I still teach the science teaching methods course, as well as overseeing the science teacher certification students at EIU. And of course, I always enjoy teaching my general education oceanography class. Looks like I'll be teaching the geology major elective, which will be vertebrate paleontology this coming spring.

My husband, Mark, and I live with our three dogs and cat in Casey. We enjoy traveling to interesting places. Our big annual trip this year was to Iceland. It was fabulous! For a geologist, it is a must-see destination. Very expensive, but worth it! Also this summer, I took my nephew for a college trip around New York state, which was fun. We stopped at Niagara Falls to see the sights, since he had never been.

Jim Riley

Jai guru deva om



Geology student, Shay Oldham, and Jim Riley presenting, "Modeling sediment transport in a stream channel in response to increased impervious land surfaces," at the Illinois State Academy of Science annual meeting in Palatine, Illinois on March 31, 2017. Diane Burns was also a co-author.

Professor Betty Elaine Smith, Ph.D.
1994 SUNY Buffalo (EIU since 1995)

I write to you from western USA, the northern California town of Cottonwood, where I am presently based and where I am conducting my sabbatical research on the historic Ponderosa Way. I am conducting field work on various segments of the Ponderosa truck trail/firebreak constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. I am also researching fascinating original documents about Ponderosa Way, stored in boxes at the California State Archives in Sacramento. The trail/road/firebreak was originally proposed in the 1930s to run 800 miles north to south along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Portions exist today as paved and unpaved roads and some parts were never constructed. In addition to the CCC, the Department of the Army, the California Department of Forestry and local counties were involved in planning and constructing this defensive route. I say “defensive” because it was designed to protect the valuable pine timber from fires starting in the valley below and it was also of interest to the Army when planning a defense in the event of a west coast invasion by Japanese during World War 2. By integrating knowledge through this research I will be better able to understand, share and preserve the little known geographic history of Ponderosa Way. I plan to present a paper at the Conference of the Pacific Coast Geographers this fall.

The past year has been productive and interesting. I taught my normal sections of Cultural Geography and Senior Seminar Spaceship Earth. I especially enjoyed offering the Geography and Culture of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean Online for the first time in fall 2016 as well as a face to face section of Urban Geography in spring 2017. I presented a research paper about the Galapagos Islands at the meeting of the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies in Dallas, Texas in February, an organization whose meeting I had often wanted to attend. The high point of my academic travels this year was my trip to Cuba July 1-10 with a group of 15 geography and social studies teachers. The trip was organized by the National Center for Geographic Education and led by the very knowledgeable Dr. Johnny Finn. I saw (and rode in) some very cool old cars, many are used today as taxis. We visited the US Embassy in Havana, thank goodness I have no hearing loss or other weird impairment as far as I know! We also visited small and large sustainable farming operations, the historic Bay of Pigs, cultural centers of art and dance, and of course a Cuban rum factory and a farmhouse where they roll traditional Cuban cigars out in the field. I did not smoke a cigar, they make me ill! But it was fun to see. Hope current and former students and friends of EIU are off to a good start this fall. I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you when I return to Charleston.

Dave Veirtel

I'm swinging into my 11th year at EIU, working to move more classes (remote sensing) online in support of our Professional Science Masters in GIScience. I continue to teach cores courses (Weather and Climate, Cultural, Cartography), as well as remote sensing electives at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I'm working with two different students on research projects as well as overseeing several internships this Fall. I continue to sponsor Gamma Theta Upsilon and Geography Club.

On a personal note, my wife and I just bought a camper and have been spending a lot of time outdoors. I hope to see some of you on the trails!



Left Photo: The “Four” at Belayet’s Retirement Party: (L-R) Belayet Khan, Bob Cataneo, Alan Baharlou, and Mike Cornebise. Right Photo: Enjoying fellowship at Belayet’s Retirement Party: (L-R) Bailey Young, Mike Cornebise, and Alan Baharlou.

Recent Graduates

Fall 2016 Graduates

Ethan Atwell
 Daniel Finley
 Kaitlyn James
 Amanda Lupardus
 Bradley Sniders

Summer 2016 Graduates

Dylan Legg
 Jordan Knuth

Brevan Marlow

Spring 2017

Ryan Bonarek
 James Dahlin
 Kiyla DeVoss
 Erik Piper
 Alyssa Taylor
 Daniel Curtis

Summer 2017 Graduates

Brian Hartman
 Alex Harper
 Ryan Kermicle
 Patrick Manselle
 Shawntay Schmitz
 Kailash Subramanian
 Abbey Warner
 Jasmine Winters



Charleston High School Homecoming Parade Team – (l-r) Alex Harper, Neil Rhoades, Shay Oldham as the T-Rex and Pat Manselle

Support the Department, Support the Students!

Would you like to help the Department in its mission of helping our students learn about, and prepare for, a career in Geology, Geography, and the earth sciences? There are a variety of opportunities to help, ranging 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. 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. 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.

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
- Vincent P. & Pamela R. Gutowski Scholarship – any student majoring in Geography.
- 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)
- John Popp Field Geology Scholarship – seniors in Geology attending field camp
- Dalias and Lillian Price Memorial Endowment – supports student observers in observing daily climate data for National Weather Service.
- 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)
- 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. Thanks so much!!!

Diane M Burns, Chair
Email: dmburns@eiu.edu
Phone: (217) 581-2626

WeatherCenter Alumni Wins First Personal EMMY Award

Our former student, Kevin Jeanes, 2010 Grad from EIU WeatherCenter and WEIU-TV SkyWatch Forecaster, and his fiancé Lisa Burris, received an EMMY Award for their "Monsoon 2016" feature on KOLD-TV in Tucson, Arizona! It was a great achievement for Kevin and Lisa as they ended their time in Tucson to move to Detroit to begin another stellar job at WXYZ. "I am looking forward to getting back into the Midwest...do forecast real weather!" Jeanes said on a recent visit to mentor, Cameron Craig. Congratulations, Kevin and Lisa!



EIU 2010 EIU WeatherCenter and WEIU "NewsWatch" graduate, Kevin Jeanes, and his fiancé, Lisa Burris, show off their new EMMY Award.