



Pete Trexler

Upcoming Event:

On-campus Field
Study Experience
April 8-9, 2016

For more information about
the Juniata College Geology
Department and to register
for upcoming events, visit:
www.juniata.edu/geology



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Dear Juniata Geology Alumni:

My name is Jim Dinger and I am a 1967 graduate and a member of the second class of graduates of the geology program at Juniata.

Many of us have had lifelong careers in geology. Some of you were geology majors but have found your vocations in other fields, and others of you took only a few courses in geology while majoring in another field, but went on to graduate school in geology. Now in retirement, I have been able to sit back and contemplate the value of my Juniata experience, compare it to the backgrounds of colleagues I've had over the past 50 years, and come to appreciate the complete education I received, some of it not so willingly, all of which helped me to find out who I was and what my strengths and weakness were. It was easy to observe that my undergraduate geologic education was equal to and in many instances far superior to those graduating from major universities and in several cases from what we consider the top-tier schools, at least in graduate education. In addition to factual knowledge, we were taught in all aspects of our education how to evaluate and solve challenges. We have carried this attribute into every phase of our lives.

Our knowledge and skill were nurtured and mentored under the watchful eye of most of the Juniata faculty, but one faculty member stands out above all the rest, Peter J. Trexler, the founder and developer of the geology program. Now in his elder years, Pete is still of keen mind and is very active in daily life in the Huntingdon area. However, in my recent visit to campus to interact with the students and faculty, I became astutely aware that there was little recognition of what he had initially established and created as a model for the successful education of geology students at Juniata throughout the past 50 years. With this foremost in my mind, I would like to develop an endowment (a fund in his name), and in so doing help establish a firm financial footing upon which the geology department can continue its excellent education. And, unlike many such honors, I would like to do this while Pete is still able to realize the great impact he has had on all our lives.



Pete Trexler with Donna (Roys) Blauch '79, Lia (Fong) Gough '79, Robert Goldstein '79, and Mark Buscheck '80 at a campfire on Adirondack Field Trip.

Toward this goal I have been in contact with the department faculty and the Juniata development office. We propose to construct the Peter Trexler Geology Alumni Fund. The objective of the Fund is to recognize his outstanding career at Juniata by using investments generated by this endowment to support student and faculty in the geology program. Details of the Fund are described on the reverse side of this document.

To acknowledge the significance and value of the experiences you had with Pete, we are organizing a gathering of alumni to meet on the evening of April 8, at 7 p.m. in the geo-wing of Brumbaugh Academic Center (formerly the Brumbaugh Science Center, room P116) for a reception to honor Pete. The following day at 10 a.m., beginning from the same location, we will go on an alumni field trip to his favorite location in the Huntingdon area.

In closing I want to tell you that we are organizing this effort without the knowledge of Pete. We want our success to be a complete surprise to him!

Thank you for being part of this important opportunity!

Jim Dinger '67



Local field trip with Dawna Yannacci '81 behind Pete Trexler and JoAnne Goshorn '81 looking at the outcrop.

New Faculty Member

Professor Katy Johanesen joined the department last fall as our new hard-rock geologist. She is teaching Structural Geology, Mineralogy, Petrology, and Petrography as well as taking a turn with the introductory Environmental Geology course. Last October she led a joint field trip to northern New Jersey with professors Matt Powell and Larry Mutti. They explored all three rock types and a billion years of geologic history, from the stream morphology of the Delaware Water Gap to the Precambrian highlands to the Jurassic sediments and the Palisades Sill, camping along the way of course!

Katy comes to Juniata from western New York, where she taught at SUNY Fredonia for two years. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California and her bachelor's degree is from Beloit College in Wisconsin. She grew up in central New Jersey and has been interested in geology ever since a family trip to Colorado when she was 11. "I've always associated geology with traveling," Katy says. "When you study the earth, the whole world is your laboratory."



Field Method 1 students examining a glaciated stromatolite outcrop in New Jersey.



Katy Johanesen sitting on metamorphic rock in the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

"When you study the earth, the whole world is your laboratory."

—Katy Johanesen, Assistant Professor of Geology

Her dissertation was on the structure and petrology of the Ronda peridotite in southern Spain. She studied the pressure-temperature and deformation history of these olivine-rich rocks to determine how they made it into a mountain range from their mantle origin. The fault that moved these rocks into place is likely related to the past plate boundary between Spain (Iberia) and Africa, a plate boundary that is still poorly understood.

Currently, Katy is researching metamorphosed ultramafic rocks in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. She is planning a trip with Sam Zucker '17 and field assistants to map part of the region this summer. The team will map and sample the ultramafic and mafic units to better constrain how they were emplaced into the meta-sedimentary rocks of the region. Preliminary work was published in two posters at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Baltimore, Md., last fall. In addition, Katy has applied for an ED Map grant from the U.S. Geological Survey to support student mapping and propel this project into full swing.



Field Method 1 students exploring the Bear Valley whale back.

Updates from the Geology Department



Ryan Mathur '96, Professor of Geology and Chair of the Geology Department, enjoying the rainbow in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



Friends gather to celebrate Larry's retirement.



Matt Powell, Associate Professor of Geology, showing that not even snow and ice can stop field work.

From Department Chair, Professor Ryan Mathur:
Greetings, geology alumni! This has been a time of great change for the department. Last year we constructed an Alumni Board, had a retirement and corresponding retirement party, hired a new geology faculty member, acquired a quarter-time faculty member, devised new courses and curricula, constructed two new endowments, and had several room renovations. Many things have happened in 2015-16 for the geology program.

This past fall I completed a sabbatical where I spent a month in China and a month in Tucson, Ariz. The remainder of my time was spent in Huntingdon writing about the experiments conducted. I had several articles published during this time, which appear in *Elements*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Rocks and Minerals*, and *Mineralium Deposita*. These, coupled with several talks locally and at other institutions, took time.

Finally, a small portion of my time was dedicated to making a new course entitled Environmental Geochemistry, which is moving along nicely.

From Professor Matt Powell:
The major event of the past year was his selection for the Exxon/GSA Bighorn Basin field trip last August. A mixture of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty spent a week touring the geology of Montana and Wyoming with Exxon geologists, which culminated in a project examining different clay concepts in the basin. According to Matt, "Even more important than seeing the regional geology, as spectacular as it was, was coming back with a better understanding of the approaches used by petroleum geologists, which I can now incorporate into my teaching."

On the research front, I have spent time since my sabbatical preparing an article that explains why there are more species in the tropics than at the poles. I used data on fossil marine plankton from deep-sea sediment cores to show that most species will expand their geographic range toward the equator after they appear in the fossil record. Over

time the tropics receive an excess of immigrant species relative to the high latitudes, and a latitudinal gradient in species diversity is created. I'm proud of this work: it's the most complex I've undertaken and the one that I think has most advanced my own understanding of how the earth works. We had a strong showing of Juniata Alumni at the Baltimore Geological Society of America (GSA) in October. It was nice to see more than 15 different alumni at one meeting. Good work!

I'm excited by the energy and new ideas that Katy brings to our department. We taught Geological Field Methods together last semester and had a great time, especially on our extended field trip to Katy's old stomping grounds of New Jersey. Larry was able to accompany us, which meant that the students were still able to experience his legendary oatmeal-making abilities. That continuity between eras continues to be important to me.



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C O L L E G E

Office of College Advancement
1700 Moore Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Ryan Mathur '96 and Caleb McMullen '14 examine fossil rich Mahantango shale behind the J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon, Pa.

We measure our success as a department by our students' opportunities and achievements. That's important. It means that the Geology faculty is behind each student, every step of the way.

Read additional points of interest at:
www.juniata.edu/geology

How can you help?

We rely on the support of our alumni, parents, and friends to enhance the experience of our students. We are grateful to those who have already supported the Mutti-Washburn Fund for Field Studies that was established last year and the renamed Geology Alumni Fund which has become the Peter J. Trexler Fund for the Department of Geology. The Mutti-Washburn Fund is still in need of donations so that we can reach the minimum level for distribution. Please use the form below to indicate your gift or give online.

www.juniata.edu/give

Come and support our students when they are in your area, or come to campus to catch a couple of events. We'd love to see you!

There are three ways to support Geology at Juniata. Please note Mutti-Washburn Fund for Field Studies, Peter J. Trexler Endowment Fund, or Geology Department in the comments field below or online.

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

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