

The KU Geologic Record



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Geology Associates Seek to Raise \$2 Million

The members of the Geology Associates Advisory Board have given or pledged \$730,000, which puts them on track to meet their goal of raising \$2 million for the new Earth, Energy and Environment Center.

“We are grateful for the enthusiastic support of the advisory board members,” says Chair Luis A. González. “Many who have not yet donated say they will give soon, while others say they will give again. They are truly an amazing group of people.”

Among the members who already have given are Steve Dixon (BS '80) and Maggie Dixon, Bill Fisher (MA '58, PhD '61) and Marilee Fisher, Jim Funk (PhD '82) and Sherree Funk, Chris Holien (MS '82), Bill Pollard (MS '70) and Kathy Pollard (elementary education BS '64), Scott Ritchie (BS '54) and Carol Ritchie (music education, BA '54), Dale Schlinsog (MS '82) and Suzanne Schlinsog (MS '82), Craig Slawson (BS '80) and Denise Slawson, and Andrea Steinle (BS '90, MS '96) and Gary Steinle (urban planning BS '90, MS '93).

The new facility will attach to Lindley Hall. The 40,000-square-foot, four-level building will include a Data Analysis and Visualization Suite, state-of-the-art geoscience laboratories, classrooms, a new auditorium and a new field research staging area.

González Wins Seat on Board

Chair Luis A. González has been elected to the SACNAS Board of Directors. SACNAS is a society of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists—from college students to professionals—to attain advanced degrees, careers and positions of leadership in science.

Ludvigson Elected Geological Society of America Fellow

KGS Senior Scientist Greg Ludvigson has been elected a Fellow of the 25,000-member Geological Society of America.

GSA Fellows are chosen in recognition of their contributions to the advancement of the geosciences through such achievements as publications, presentations, leadership in professional organizations, teaching and promotion of scientific advances to the public. Greg has been author, editor or contributor to more than 150 articles and publications.

“Greg has made significant research contributions in paleoclimatology as well as in his administration of the county geologic mapping program at the Kansas Geological Survey,” said Rex Buchanan, KGS interim director. “He also advises graduate students at the University of Kansas and lectures widely.”

Geochemical Society Salutes Walker

The Geochemical Society has named Union Pacific Resources Professor J. Douglas Walker as one of the four winners of its 2013 Distinguished Service Award.

Given at the discretion of the Society's Board of Directors, the award recognizes and documents outstanding service to the discipline. Doug and his co-winners were honored for their "long-running efforts to bring modern online data management to geochemistry."

Doug was recognized for his work on EarthChem, www.earthchem.org, and NAVDAT (The North American Volcanic and Intrusive Rock Database), www.navdat.org. Other researchers were recognized for their work on GeoReM and GEOROC.

"Between them, these databases freely present to the geochemical community hundreds of thousands of rock and standard analyses with intelligently designed query structures that allow quick retrieval of the most pertinent data with the minimum of effort," the Society's citation read. "Their contributions in data compilation and improvements to the standard of data reporting in the geochemical community are paving the way to a future where geochemical data can be efficiently preserved, easily and intelligently queried and discovered, and thereby be used for scientific discovery by the broad geoscience research and education community."

Kansas Geological Society Honors Watney

The Wichita-based Kansas Geological Society has named Lynn Watney an honorary member. Present and past members are selected for honorary membership based on their distinguished service to the society and the science of geology. Lynn is a senior scientific fellow at the KGS. In 2010, he served as president of the society.

Benson Schneider Wins Self Fellowship

Doctoral candidate Blair Benson Schneider has won KU's prestigious Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship. As a Self Fellow, she will receive \$29,000 a year for four years and get specialized training in communication, management and leadership. The training program is designed to prepare Self Fellows for future leadership roles.

Blair blends geophysics and archaeology to develop noninvasive techniques for identifying and excavating archeological sites. Her professional goal is to advance near-surface geophysical imaging methods for private sector and government research. She is the president of the Association for Women Geoscientists Osage Chapter, the south-central delegate for the AWG board, and co-founder and director of the KU Geology Mentor Program.

Blair is a student of Don Steeples, McGee Distinguished Professor, and Rolfe Mandel, executive director of the ODYSSEY research program at the KGS and a KU anthropology professor.

KGS Emeritus Director Bill Hambleton Dies

Bill Hambleton passed away Oct. 4, 2012, in Lawrence after a long illness. A World War II combat veteran, he began his teaching career as an instructor at KU in 1948 and earned his doctorate from the University in 1951. He was state geologist of Kansas and director of the KGS from 1970 to 1986. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Geology and Geophysics in 1987. A full memorial will be published in the fall issue of the *GHawker*.

Fowle Pioneers Freshman Seminar

Associate Professor Dave Fowle is one of a handful of KU professors piloting a program to increase KU's student retention rate. The new program provides freshmen with access to specially designed seminars. All of the seminars are limited to 19 students and are taught by faculty members who have done research in the field.

One of only 11 seminars offered through the program, Dave's course, GEOL 177 *Our Future Energy: Myths and Solutions*, got rave reviews in a Lawrence Journal-World article.

"I like it a lot," Freshman Peter Beatty of Bonner Springs told the newspaper. "Our professor seems like a really intelligent guy, and you can kind of get engaged a little more, especially since it's a smaller class, and you can relate to people a lot more because they're all freshmen."

Geology Undergrad is EDMAP's 1,000th Student

This year marks the 17th anniversary of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's EDMAP component. Geology undergraduate Blake Miller had the honor of becoming KU's 1,000th student to receive EDMAP funding. Blake and his fellow undergraduates Jake Elder and Mallory Stevenson mapped alluvial landforms and characterized alluvial stratigraphy in the Kansas River Valley corridor for their project with Principal Investigator William C. Johnson of the KU Geography Department.

Student Chapters Excel

KU Geology's student clubs have racked up yet more successes.

The national office of the Association for Women Geoscientists named the KU-based Osage Chapter as the best chapter in the nation and gave it the AWG 2012 Chapter Excellence Award. In its email notifying the chapter of the award, the national office noted that the chapter won because of "activities that support AWG goals, including outreach and networking events and especially your support of the Osage Chapter Undergraduate and Graduate Research Scholarships and the Osage Chapter Service Scholarship."

KU's student chapter of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists produced an award-winning photo, entitled "It's All About The Source." The photo was featured on the cover of the January 2013 issue of SEG's *Leading Edge* magazine.

Faculty and Students Remain On the Go

KU geoscientists continued their globetrotting ways this year. Among the many research excursions were Assistant Professor **Andreas Möller's** two field trips to southeastern Turkey and Albania and his working sojourn in Egypt. Andreas' collaboration with Nigel Kelly at the Colorado School of Mines is also bearing fruit. Their paper about very complex recrystallization reactions in monazite grains from high-grade gneisses in Antarctica has been published in *Chemical Geology*. Nigel presented new data at GSA from Andreas' laser-ICP-MS lab showing that these rocks were sheared and reheated 500 million years later than previously thought. Their 2007 publication with Professor Simon Harley "Zircon Behavior and the Thermal Histories of Mountain Chains" has now been cited more than 100 times.

Andreas and his student **Jeff Oalman** presented two talks on their research on the "hottest rocks in the European Alps" at the International Geological Congress in Australia. Jeff and senior research student **Jessica Savage** also both presented posters about this project at AGU in San Francisco.

KU Geologists Thrive

Associate Professor Mike Taylor, and graduate students **Gabriel Veloza-Fajardo** and **Richard Styron** collaborated on the lead science article in the October 2012 issue of *GSA Today*. The piece focused on the active tectonics of the northern Andes.

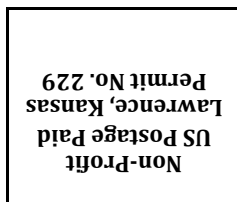
Grad Student Charity Michelle Lander presented a poster at the American Geophysical Union's December meeting in San Francisco. The poster described how microbial biofilms concentrate economic (Cu, Au, Ag, Zn) metals in a hydrothermal system and may indicate epithermal ore deposit formation at depth. Charity also accepted an internship at the ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company for this coming summer.

Freshly minted KU PhD **Brian Platt** taught stratigraphy for the Department in the fall and is working as a postdoctoral researcher at the KGS. In the past year, Brian has also been lead author or co-author on three papers and presented at GSA.

KU picked grad student **Hunter Harlow** as one of only seven students to represent the University at a recent research symposium at the Kansas Statehouse

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