

GEOflyer REUNION

2008 Reunion Report

Reflections from the Chair

Greetings GeoFlyers!

We've decided to delay the normal pre-Christmas publication date of your annual GeoFlyer newsletter until spring this year so that we could deliver a brief follow-up report on our first GeoFlyer Reunion this fall. However, fear not – a full GeoFlyer newsletter will be coming later this spring!

I am pleased to report that the first Geoflyer Reunion was a success! And to me at least, it was also an inspiration. In the pages that follow you will see images and read stories about the outstanding contributions of your fellow UD alumni, and I hope you may find their stories and their contributions as inspiring as I do. One of the great joys and revelations for me in my first year as chair has been the “discovery” of our alumni. Of course, I always realized you were out there, and had even met several of you before, and count several of the younger alumni, my former students, among my most respected friends. However, my new role has given me a vantage point on the tremendous accomplishments of our alumni as a whole that I can only describe as humbling.

I wonder, when George Springer set out to take that summer job teaching at Dayton in 1946 did he have a clue what he was starting? Today, UD Geology alumni stand over 300 strong, and just about 10% of you came from far and wide this past weekend of October 17-19 to see friends and remember old stories, but also to give back by paying forward to the next generation of UD Geology alumni: our current students. Among

your number are individuals of outstanding professional accomplishment: pioneering researchers, directors of exploration companies - uncovering increasingly scarce natural resources for an ever-needy world, committed environmental professionals, and dedicated teachers at all levels. In the 20th Century no other undergraduate geology program in our category (comprehensive M.S.-granting Universities) in the nation produced as many alumni who went on to earn PhD's in the earth sciences. Yet there are also many

who have applied their geological education in ways that are more subtle or private as they have pursued careers in a variety of fields:

lawyers, doctors, airline pilots, and even that most Marianist of all callings; mothers working primarily inside the home.

Wherever your individual footsteps have taken you since leaving

UD, all your paths trace back to a single, common point of origin; a small, rich community of scholars exploring the multi-faceted wonders of this dynamic Earth in the context of a values-centered education. I know I speak for our entire current faculty when I say how privileged we feel to be a part of that tradition and are committed to continuing it.

We owe a special debt of thanks to all of you who made the effort to “come home” this last October, and to all of you who have done so much to support us whether you were able to make it back this past autumn or not.

Thank you,
Allen J. McGrew, Chair



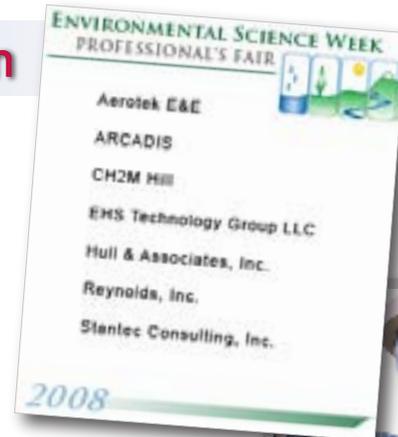
ESW and Welcome Reception

The weekend kicked off as several alumni arrived early Friday afternoon to mix with students while participating in the Environmental Science Week Professionals' Fair and Career Mini-Symposium. Dieter Krewdl and Greg Kraus represented the resource development industries; J.P. Hogan discussed careers in environmental consulting, and Lisa Osterman shared insights from her career in government-sponsored research. J.P. and Lisa also participated in the career professionals' fair earlier in the afternoon, providing students with information on opportunities at Hull and Associates and the U.S. Geological Survey, respectively.

Like all the speakers, Lisa Osterman ('75) emphasized flexibility, adaptability and hard work as keys to building a successful career in any field. *Check out more on Lisa's work on the next page covering Saturday's events.*

Dieter Krewdl ('65) generously shared with students the lessons he learned during 35+ years in minerals exploration, both in the U.S. and internationally. Dieter emphasized that minerals exploration has been booming in recent years and offers exciting opportunities to conduct true field research in fascinating field settings around the world. After graduating from Dayton, Dieter earned his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. Now retired, Dieter currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Geological Society of Nevada as well as serving on the Board of Directors of five companies involved in uranium, precious and base metals exploration. Dieter stayed on in Dayton for about a week after the reunion and also delivered a seminar presentation to our majors the following Friday on Gold and Silver Exploration in Southern Chile and Argentina.

Greg Kraus ('65) gave students an insightful perspective on the hydrocarbon industry based on 40 years of experience in oil and gas exploration



and development, both in the U.S. and internationally, principally in Australia and the South Pacific. He reported that careers in oil and gas exploration have never been more lucrative, but also cautioned students about the relative lack of job security in this boom-and-bust industry. After graduating from Dayton in '65 Greg earned a Master of Science degree in petroleum geology from the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla. He is presently President and Director of American Land and Exploration Company (AL&E), a Colorado corporation that he founded in 1985.

J.P. Hogan ('96) was the youngest of the alumni speaking at the Mini-symposium. After finishing at UD he went on for an M.S. degree at the University of Tennessee and has since worked his way up to a position in Project Management for Hull and Associates in Indianapolis. J.P. echoed some of the same themes of flexibility and adaptability that previous speakers sounded. J.P. underscored the importance of communication skills in the environmental consulting industry, both written and spoken.

Altogether it was a wonderful event, and the students left it being both enlightened and impressed by the rich tradition that the alumni collectively represent. Greg, Dieter, Lisa, J.P.: thanks to each of you for your generous gifts of time and mentorship to the next generation of UD alumni!

Reunion Saturday

In addition to lots of time for reconnecting with UD and the Geology Dept., Saturday's events featured a field trip to Fairborn Fossil Park, tours of the Department and campus, a lively discussion of "Our Energy Future," and a keynote address by distinguished alumna Lisa Osterman ('75).

"Our Energy Future" Blue Bag Lunch

At lunch on Saturday, the group gathered for a stimulating, vigorous and friendly-spirited discussion of a timely issue of relevance to everybody these days: how long can our hydrocarbon-based energy economy sustain itself, what energy sources will we rely on in the future, and how long do we have to make the transition? It seemed like everyone in the room was an expert on some aspect of our energy system, so there was no lack of informed opinions, and it is impossible to do them all justice in this short space. Bob Brecha, UD Physics professor and current holder of the Mann Chair in the Sciences, gave the group a brief overview of UD's SEE initiative (Sustainability, Energy, and Environment), and shared his wide-ranging expertise on all aspects of the energy challenge that our society faces. Speaking from the vantage point of his expertise in the Oil and Gas Industry, Greg Kraus rendered his opinion that the age of "Peak Oil" is imminent and the time has come (or even past?) when our society needs to begin investing heavily in alternatives. Dieter Krewdl made a vigorous case that nuclear energy is the most viable proven alternative energy source that is available for development today, and argued that it is time to begin permitting new nuclear power plants. Also joining the discussion were our newest UD geology professors, Shuangye Wu and Umesh Haritashya, who weighed in on the hydropower potential of the U.S. and the world. Don Puglio also offered his insights based on the coal industry and the gas boom currently underway in coal-producing regions. Did we succeed in unraveling the Gordian's knot of the



global energy challenge? Well . . . maybe not, but a lively and engaging discussion was enjoyed by all.

Keynote Address

Lisa Osterman '75 was the keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon, delivering a fascinating talk on hypoxia (low-oxygen conditions) and the Louisiana Gulf Coast "dead zone." After graduating from UD in 1975, Lisa earned an M.S. from the University of Maine in 1977 and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1982. For several years thereafter she worked as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Colorado-Boulder and the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History, where she focused on using foraminifera to decipher the oceanographic and environmental history of high latitude seas. Beginning in 1986 Lisa taught for several years at George Washington University before returning to the Smithsonian Institution as a research associate in 1993, a relationship she maintains today. In 1996 she began her career with the U.S. Geological Survey, researching millennial-scale climatic variability in the Arctic and Antarctic until 2000 when she shifted focus to the oceanographic, climatic and environmental history of the Gulf of Mexico. She continues that work today, and in recent years has focused on using foraminifera as proxies to delineate a 1000-year record of Gulf Coast hypoxia, shedding new light on the history and causes of this important environmental problem.

Fossil Park Field Trip

It was a very pleasant and sunny October morning that greeted us for the Alumni Reunion field trip. Fifteen participants, lead by Dr. Mike Sandy, made our way to the first stop - the rail road cut by Huffman Dam, a stone's throw from the Wright Brothers' Memorial. This is probably the closest accessible bedrock outcrop to UD. Here, those who hadn't seen an Ordovician fossil for a while had the chance for another reunion! We found mostly Bryozoa and brachiopods – but corals, crinoid ossicles, and fragments of trilobite are not uncommon. This is a popular locality that field trips from UD have been visiting for many years.

Next we stopped at the Wright Brothers' Memorial. To mark the centennial of powered flight in 2003 a visitors' center was constructed here which is well worth a visit if you are in the area and haven't seen it – it is rather tucked away but a very nice facility. As we took in the grandstand view of the outwash plain from the memorial, Sherm Siegal ('75) shared his insights into some of the local groundwater contamination issues that he has been working on at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Pat Bernard joined up with the trip here so our numbers swelled to 16!

Our final stop was at "Oakes Quarry Park" to see Silurian strata and a glacially striated pavement on top of the Brassfield Formation. This is perhaps a "dream park" for a geologist as it is an old quarry! The quarrying still continues for cement production elsewhere in the nearby large quarry complex. This park was established a few years ago and is intended as a field trip locale for school groups and is a good place for the public to hike and collect fossils from a spoil heap. There is signage too, explaining the geology and geological history of the area. At 190 acres this is Fairborn's largest park. We then made our way back to UD suitably



invigorated with some of us more laden down than others with rocks and fossils from our trip. I have posted some pictures from the field trip at: <http://academic.udayton.edu/michaelsandy/> - look under the link "Alumni weekend 08".



Walt and Esther Baker ▶

UNION 2008

Reunion Banquet Dinner



The Geoflyer Banquet was attended by 31 alumni, spouses and faculty members. After a convivial meal and mixer, current chair Al McGrew delivered a brief “State of the Department” report in which he emphasized the hallmarks of a UD Geology education: a strong faculty delivering a sound curriculum, excellent facilities, close mentoring relationships and collaborative research between students and faculty, and a strong field orientation. Former chair and Associate Dean Don Pair followed with a few minutes of recognition for Walt and Esther Baker and their gift that has made possible the new Walter and Esther Baker Field Scholarship Endowment (see below). Finally, the highlight of the evening, Emeritus professor and chair, Dr. Charles Ritter offered a brief recounting of the rich history of the UD Geology Department, opening the floor for a sharing of stories and memories of seminal figures in the history of UD Geology such as Dr. Coryell and of course long-time chair and inspiration to generations of UD alumni, George Springer.

Walt and Esther Baker Endowed Field Scholarship Fund

A real highlight of the banquet and the entire weekend was the recognition of Walt and Esther Baker and their generous endowment of a new fund to provide scholarships to UD geology students to help defray the costs of field programs in perpetuity. Whether in New England, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, overseas in England with George Springer, or in Colorado with Chuck Ritter or the current faculty, generations of UD students have benefited from field education. In fact, for many students “field camp” is a highlight of their undergraduate career.

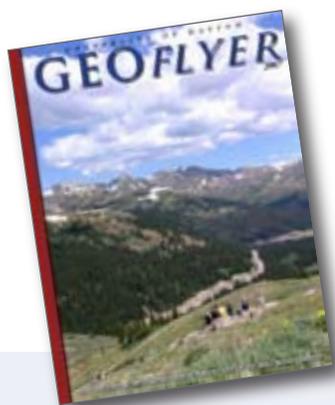
A Navy veteran in WW II, Walt attended UD on the GI Bill after the war and graduated in 1950 with UD’s first graduating class in geology. Walt then went on for an M.S. degree from the University of Michigan and a 33-year career in oil exploration. His career included oil exploration in

the western United States as well as 16 years living and working overseas in such areas as Iran, Peru, The Philippines, Australia, Somalia and Dubai. He retired from Atlantic Richfield Co. as Vice President and Resident Manager for International Oil Exploration and Development. In 1979 the University of Dayton recognized Dr. Baker’s distinguished career in oil exploration by awarding him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

With foresight and generosity, Walt and Esther have now created a fund that will help ensure that the field experience continues to be a hallmark of a UD geology education in perpetuity. Beginning next academic year, this fund will generate enough income annually to assist several UD students per year.



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Coming this Spring!

The 2009 GeoFlyer Newsletter

Alumni...remember to send us your Class Notes updates before the next newsletter is mailed. Email Donna Hess with the latest news on what you are up to.

donna.hess@notes.udayton.edu

Thank You!

We would like to especially thank those who contributed photos for this update: Sherm Siegal, Don Puglio, and Mike Sandy.

Thanks to our local organizing committee, faculty, and friends that helped put on the Reunion: Mary Anne Cella '66, Jim Davis '89, and Kerry Glassmeyer Ulery '99, Chuck Ritter '59 pitched in and led tours throughout the day and was a terrific departmental historian and host for the evening's festivities, Michael Sandy did a terrific job leading the morning field trip, and Sherm Siegal pitched in a cameo role explaining the groundwater clean-up and monitoring at the Air Force Base.

We would like to once again recognize our presenters: Distinguished Alumna and keynote speaker, Lisa Osterman '75 and fellow panelists Greg Krauss '65, Dieter Krewdl '65, and JP Hogan '96. Most of all, we would like to thank everyone who made the effort to come home to UD for the reunion. We cannot express to you how much your continued support and engagement means to us. In total, 21 alumni and 9 current or former faculty participated in some aspect of the weekend's festivities.