

# The Dirt



Dig into it...



## 2017 Field Camp...

"...Mike Prior is freaken awesome!!!! Field Camp out in Montana was a once in a lifetime experience and I am so thankful for it." Rosa Murrieta, Hamilton & Associates.

- 15 Geology Seniors worked out of University of Montana Western in Dillon, with a mid-term trip to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons
- The John D. Cooper Field Camp Scholarship was awarded to Joseph Gutierrez and the Geology Department Field Camp Scholarship was awarded to Veronica Smith

In so many ways, we're proud that the 2017 Summer Field Camp was taught by a team of CSUF Alumni lead by Dr. Mike Prior (B.S. 2011) and assisted by CSUF Lecturers Angela Aranda (M.S. 2016) and Nancy Chen (M.S. 2016).

Mike earned his Ph.D. at UT Austin (2016), completing a thesis entitled "Geothermochronometric and stratigraphic constraints on the structural and thermal evolution of low-angle normal fault systems: Case studies from southwestern Nevada and west-central Arizona".

- ▶ **Mike:** Our summer was filled with some long days and plenty of hard work, but seeing students develop into capable and confident field geologists continues to be why field camp is my favorite course to teach.
- ▶ **Nancy:** One afternoon as I was hiking at Timber Hill, I kept hearing this mysterious noise from either a bear or a moose and it kept moving around me. Secretly, I hoped to see it (from a safe distance), but I never did. Throughout the whole event, I hoped that it wasn't a bear cub because I don't think I could have run fast enough if mama bear was there!
- ▶ **Angela:** Our trip to the Grand Tetons was especially memorable because we were able to raft down the Snake River, eat dinner in a teepee, and attend a hootenanny (while it was snowing).
- ▶ As for life after field camp, Mike has started a postdoctoral fellowship at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, investigating strain accommodation within evaporite shear zones in the Sierra Madre Oriental of Mexico. Nancy and Angela are both teaching geoscience: Nancy is the new geology teacher at Harvard-Westlake Prep School in Studio City, while Angela is flying the freeways between Chaffey College, Mt. San Antonio College, and Cal State Fullerton—lucky us!
- ▶ **Based on their performance in the 2016 Field Camp**
  - ▶ Jazmine Titular and Sierra Patterson were awarded USGS-NAGT internships, and
  - ▶ Amanda Shellhorn was awarded the John D. Cooper Field Camp Award!

## Celebrating Our Alumni Working in Higher Education



- 1971: James Harrell  
(University of Toledo, Ohio)
- 1974: Donna Anderson  
(Colorado School of Mines)
- 1981: Michael Palin  
(University of Otago)
- 1981: Colette Masucci-Bos  
(Mesa College)
- 1981: John Streng  
(Cal Poly, Chemistry)
- 1983: Jim Kubiki  
(Penn State University)
- 1984: Chris Fedo  
(University of Tennessee)
- 2001: Otto Figueroa  
(Long Beach Comm College)
- 2002: Dolores van der Kolk  
(Texas State University)
- 2004: Dan Sturmer  
(University of Cincinnati)
- 2005: Broxton Bird  
(Byrd Polar Research Center)
- 2007: Scott Mata
- 2011: Joanna Fantozzi
- 2012: Carolyn Rath
- 2017: Angela Aranda  
(All at CSU Fullerton)

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### James A. Harrell, Ph.D.

*Alumnus of the Year - 2017 - Professor James Harrell is a member of the first class to graduate from the CSUF Department of Geological Sciences in 1971. He was one of four in that first graduating class.*

- » Dr. Harrell graduated cum laude with a BA in Earth Science (the only degree awarded at that time) with a minor in archeology.
- » He also completed two years of study abroad at the University of Uppsala in Sweden as part of his BA degree.
- » Dr. Harrell went on to earn a M.S. in geology at the University of Oklahoma (1976) and a Ph.D. in geology at the University of Cincinnati in 1983.
- » Professor Harrell has been a faculty member at the University of Toledo since 1979 and in 2009, after 30 years of teaching at Toledo, retired as a Professor Emeritus.
- » Dr. Harrell's research focus is on the geoarcheology of Egypt where he is a leader in that field. He has published 96 scholarly papers in archeological geology and 24 articles in sedimentology, geostatistics, and paleoclimate.
- » He has taught a variety of classes at University of Toledo, authored a lab manual, and supervised 17 M.S. theses along with being honored for outstanding faculty research in 1995, and the Distinguished Doermann Lectureship in 1999 also he was the 2002 AAPG National Distinguished lecturer.

## In the news...

*Click on the links below to see news articles featuring CSUF faculty and students*

[Researchers Explore Yosemite for Clues About Volcanic Eruptions](#)

[Students Study at Sea to Search for Human Impacts to Environment](#)

[Floods are a serious threat to Southern California, say CSUF geologists](#)

[Geology Rocks This Summer in Montana For Future Geologists](#)

[OC Fossil Study Reveals Hidden History of Crocodiles in California](#)



**[The Mammoth is coming!!!!](#)**

## RESEARCH DAY HIGHLIGHTS



### RESEARCH DAY 2017 AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM...

51 Posters were presented by current undergraduate and graduate students.

Thanks to the South Coast Geological Society for sponsoring 4 student awards



Best Geology BS/Earth Science BA Research Thesis:  
**Eduardo Chavez:** *Applying laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy to geologic provenance studies*

Best Geology BS/Earth Science BA Research Proposal:  
**Sabrina Green:** *Investigating volcanic and plutonic connections in the Iron Mountain Pendant, Sierra National Forest, CA*

Best Graduate Research Proposal:  
**John Hill:** *Biogenic vs. thermogenic: Determining native sulfur formation mechanisms in Gulf Coast salt domes using multiple sulfur isotopes*

Best Graduate Research Thesis:  
**Dustin Williams:** *From sheets to blobs: Implications of multiple Kuna Crest hornblende populations for the initial construction of the Tuolumne Intrusive Complex, Sierra Nevada*

## Upcoming Department Events/Seminars

Oct 11 - Dr. Aradhna Tripathi, UCLA

Nov 15 - Dr. Robert deGroot, USGS

Nov 29 - Dr. Barbara Ratschbacher, USC

**[Oct 6, 2017 - 5th Annual Alumni Event](#)**

**[Apr 13, 2018 - Research Day Fullerton Arboretum](#)**

**[23rd Annual Poster Session - South Coast Geological Society](#)**