

The Dirt

Dig into it...

Where are they now?

Please indulge us with one last newsletter for 2018. First, it was great to see so many people at the Alumni Dinner in October. We had over 110 people at Florentine's. Put April 12, 2019 on your calendar. That will be our 10th annual Research Day Celebration. If you haven't been back to campus in a while, this is held at the Arboretum and features student posters highlighting their undergraduate and graduate student thesis work. It's always a great afternoon and the students enjoy being quizzed by alumni. Well, probably not, but it's fun anyway.

This is my favorite newsletter – and it's not just because I don't have to write anything. This is my favorite because I enjoy reading about everyone's adventures.

- Jeff Knott, Chair

Jeremy Cordova B.S. '15

After CSUF I did an internship for the USGS earthquake science center in Menlo Park, CA working on seismic hazard assessment and an Earthscope project called ENAM, eastern North American margin. After USGS I moved to Bellingham, WA, and got my masters in geology at Western Washington University, I am about to publish that work in Lithosphere, "Subduction initiation and evolution of the Easton metamorphic suite, Washington".



Garrett Mottle B.S. '15

I currently work as a staff geologist for a geotechnical consulting firm and my work focuses on the geotechnical aspects pertaining to construction, development and geologic hazards. I'm being lowered down a 72 feet deep boring in the picture. I recently took the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) exam. I'm an active member of the South Coast Geological Society (SCGS) and have recently led group hikes for SCGS to various locations in Southern California.

Kelly Shaw B.S. '15

I have been working for Diaz•Yourman & Associates since I graduated in January, 2015. We are a small Geotech company that focuses mostly on public works projects like airports and freeways. I have had some amazing experiences throughout my time here. My first project when I was hired was for the Palmdale to Burbank section of the High Speed Rail. I literally got paid to hike the Angeles National Forest for 2.5 months!! I spent a week on Catalina Island for a bridge study, I've spent countless hours at LAX, LGB, ONT, SNA & BUR drilling and performing construction observation. I work with the Army Corps of Engineers in ports and am lucky enough to get boat duty taking cores from the harbor and sea floor. I've been on the ocean in Morro Bay, Santa Barbara, Port Hueneme, Los Angeles, Camp Pendleton & San Diego doing work on harbor rehabilitation. I absolutely love that I get to travel for my projects...although it isn't all great. Like the month I spent in Lemoore on the Naval Air Base doing mud rotary borings for a proposed hangar, drilling in the rain or the many hours on the side of the 91 and 15 freeways in 100 + degree weather drilling and rock coring for freeway improvements. All in all, I do love my job and the people I work with. It's always something new and I am always learning something.



Kyle McCarty '14

Since graduating from CSUF's undergraduate Geology program back in 2014, I have had the unique opportunities of experiencing work at a local geotechnical consulting firm as well as the nearby Pomona College. These opportunities have been primarily manifested by the relationships that were formed during my time in the geology department at CSUF. After not being excited about working at the geotechnical consulting firm, a CSUF professor suggested I apply for a post-baccalaureate research assistant position where I would work under a geology professor at Pomona College. Being a research assistant exposed me to a lot more geology and science in general, which I am very thankful for. Ultimately, this opportunity transformed into what I do now. As a scientific instrument technician at Pomona College, I get the privilege of facilitating research at both the student and faculty levels. Teaching students about the methods and instrumentation used to solve geological questions is rewarding just as much as collaborating with faculty is mentally stimulating. In the end, maintaining and managing instruments can be a drag sometimes, but not many people get to say they handle molten rock, shoot lasers, or harness plasma hotter than the surface of the sun every day!

Aaron Case '14

I've worked at EEC Environmental (EEC) for 5 years now where I'm now a Senior Staff Geologist. I conduct various drilling and groundwater activities. I've worked on projects with the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) and indirectly with the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and other local water districts with assisting in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) sampling and other related sampling procedures. I also completed a MS in Environmental Studies at CSUF.

Ernie Nunez '13

After graduation I entered the Geology Master's Program at CSUN. In December 2014, I was hired on with Thomas Harder & Co. as a Staff Geoscientist developing groundwater flow models in Tulare County, San Bernardino County and Riverside County, and occasional hydrogeological field work. After working as a consultant for 3 years, I accepted a position at Orange County Water District as an Environmental Specialist/Data Analyst. At OCWD, I manage the Water Resources Management System (WRMS) which holds all of the records for Orange County wells and water level/water quality data. I am constantly updating our records with new wells drilled in OC and maintain our database with the most current water level and production data to maintain the Orange County Groundwater Basin. I am the Secretary for the South Coast Geological Society for 2019.



Bev Berekian '08

After teaching Earth Science and AP Environmental Science at Magnolia High School for 8 years, I moved to teach Integrated Science at Lexington Junior High School. This is my 2nd year teaching both 7th and 8th graders. I also continue to work with post-secondary education at Cerritos College as well as Santa Ana Colleges teaching Earth Science, Geology and soon I will be teaching Earth Science for Educators - a class I have wanted to teach for a very long time!

I have been involved with the Next Generation Science Standards for several years now and am a State Trainer-of-Trainers for the NGSS Rollouts. Each summer I work with GEAR-UP at CSUF implementing instruction for 200 students from Anaheim Union High School District. Summer of 2019 will be our summer of California Geology, which in the past, has been one of our most exciting topics.

On a personal note, I spend my "spare" time working on my house, taking care of my 3 dogs - Xena (Doxie-Doberman), Xander (Doxie-Pitbull) and PeeWee (ALL Doxie) and occasionally getting on my Harley and going for a ride. I just went to my 40th High School Reunion and boy was that a hoot and a half!

Charles Powell, II...

Chuck's USGS career started in 1981 working in the Alaska Branch with the famous Alaskan geologist Dave Hopkins. In 1982 he joined the Branch of Paleontology and Stratigraphy where he stayed until the Branches demise in the reorganization of 1994.

Since that time he has worked for the Geology, Minerals, Energy, and Geophysics Science Center on various projects, usually related to geologic hazards, age dating, and paleoenvironmental interpretation. Most recently molluscan systematics have played a larger part in Chuck's career.

Chuck specializes in Northeast Pacific (Alaska to Mexico) Tertiary and Quaternary molluscan faunas, although he also works with brachiopods, arthropods, echinoids, and other larger invertebrate groups.

Charlie Chou '17

I currently attend graduate school at the University of Washington as part of an applied geoscience program in the Earth and Space Science Department. I've worked in Environmental Geology on remediation and tidal studies since graduating and recently took my ASBOG test.

Holly Eeg '16

I graduated with an Earth Science BA degree and moved to Christchurch New Zealand in 2014 to attend a field school and study mineralogy and volcanology.

I am still in New Zealand and have recently been offered a position with ENGEO in Christchurch New Zealand as a Staff Environmental Scientist. They heard about PDP offering me a position and offered me a much better role. I start in two weeks at ENGEO and I am super excited because they are a US-based company in Irvine, California.

They came out to New Zealand in 2012 following the 2011 September Earthquakes and have been here ever since. For the last 2 years I've been working in a mineralogy lab, however for my new role I'll be project managing several different types of sites and developing remediation options for our clients. This will include conducting surveys, sampling soils, groundwater, air, etc. and writing scientific reports while utilizing geospatial applications.

It has been an eye opening experience getting into industry but I am glad the geology department at CSUF truly prepared me for it. I never thought I would be able to work at a civil engineering company with a BA but they looked at my transcripts, research and core courses to understand my background on earth science and history. I suppose I would like to let current Earth Science students know that they are able to apply their degree in a multitude of ways and it is truly exciting!

Adam Piestrzeniewicz '13

I graduated with my BS in Geology in 2013 and worked at NMG Geotechnical in Irvine, CA between 2012 and 2013. I decided to continue my education and completed my MS in Geology at the University of Cincinnati in 2015. My Master's thesis focused on North American Plate response to terrane accretion in southeast Alaska and southwest Yukon using low-temperature thermochronology. Shortly after graduating, I took a Staff Geologist position at Haley & Aldrich (environmental and geotechnical consulting) in Costa Mesa, CA. In July 2018, I moved to the Bay Area to be closer to my girlfriend (who is also a geologist and works at Stanford University) and I am currently a Senior Geologist at Haley & Aldrich in Walnut Creek, CA. In our free time, we are often recreating in the Sierra Nevada Mountains or traveling. Most recently, we travelled to Peru where we climbed up to Machu Picchu and backpacked the Ausangate Trek, which took us up to 17,000 feet above sea level in the Andean Altiplano.



Picture: My girlfriend, Katie, and I at the top of one of the 17,000 foot passes along the Ausangate Trek in Peru.



Sean Hartman '12

I finished my PhD at University of Southern California (USC) last December and have been teaching ever since. I taught igneous and metamorphic petrology at USC this Spring, and I am now hopping all over the place as an adjunct at several community colleges in southern California, teaching geology. In June I published my first paper as a first author, and I am currently working on several more papers that I will be submitting soon.

Save the Date!

*CSUF Geological Sciences 10th Annual
Research Day and Awards Event!*

*Friday, April 12, 2019 – 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Fullerton Arboretum Pavilion*



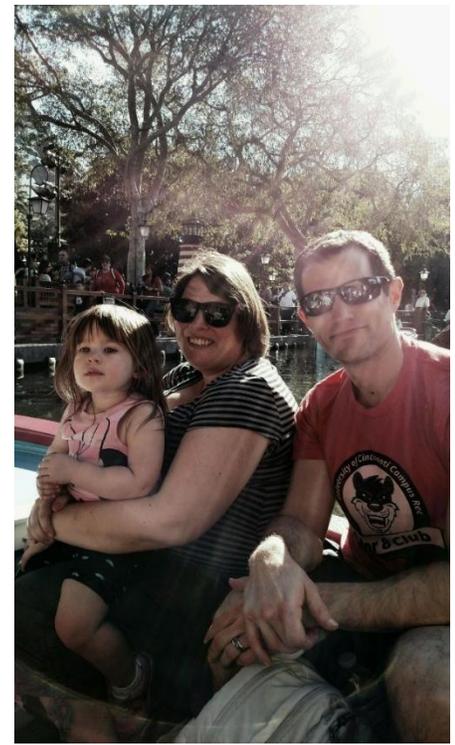
Kelly Vreeland B.S. '10, M.S. '14

I am currently in my 3rd year at LSA working as a Paleontologist on many projects throughout southern California. I work primarily in Orange County, LA County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County. I do paleontological monitoring on various development projects and also assist with fossil excavation, preparation, and identification. I have even had the pleasure of working alongside a few of the extremely talented geology alumni from CSUF on a few projects.

Dan Sturmer B.S. '04

I am currently an assistant professor in the geology department at the University of Cincinnati. My position is in basin dynamics, which means that I do a little of everything from stratigraphy, to structural geology and tectonics, to geochemistry and geophysics. After my time at CSUF I completed an MS and PhD in geology at the University of Nevada, Reno. I worked for a few years at Shell where I met my wife Sarah. Sarah and I also have a daughter named Ivy who is 2 and full of energy.

I just completed my second year here at UC. I currently have two M.S. students, one who is working on sediment provenance in the Pennsylvanian-Permian Oquirrh Basin of Utah and one who is working on the Blue Diamond landslide outside of Las Vegas. My research is broken up into a few projects, including tectonics and basin analysis of southwestern Laurentia during the late Paleozoic, mega-landslides in the Basin and Range, and analysis of conglomerates along the southern Nevadaplano margin. I am also running our XRF lab here at UC. I look fondly upon my time at CSUF, especially my time in the geology department. The education I received really set a solid foundation for me to succeed. I am also excited to do some more work with Diane next year on samples from my senior thesis area, where I first worked in 2002-2003! Photo: Dan, Sarah, and Ivy Sturmer riding Storybook Land at Disneyland in Nov. 2018. Dan worked on Storybook Land during his time at CSUF.



Andrea (M.S. '05) and Otto (B.S. '02, M.S. '03) Figueroa

Last spring Otto earned tenure at Long Beach City College. He is developing a class to teach elementary school teachers Earth Science and continues to lead students into the field. Andrea continues to teach AP Environmental Science as well as lead her district in developing curriculum and pacing guides for teaching Earth Science. She is enjoying developing rigorous exercises to help students meet the Next Generation Science Standards.

Lynne Yost B.S. '96

Barney (B.S. '97) retired from Fullerton Joint Union High School District on June 30th and is enjoying getting paid to golf, hike, read and go to the beach. His retirement party at Doheny State Beach was attended by fellow alumni Mike Putt (B.S. '97) and Professor John Foster (photo attached). In spite of Barney's retirement (or because of it?), Lynne continues her career at NMG Geotechnical with several fellow CSUF alumni. Lynne and then 16-year old daughter Loia went to France and Iceland (while Barney worked his last two weeks of work EVER) where Lynne was delighted to stand in the Mid-Atlantic Rift zone (photo attached).





Megan Murphy...

Since I graduated I started working for Kleinfelder as a Staff Geologist for our geotechnical division in June 2016. I started at our Pleasanton office and have been able to work on some really cool projects. While working in the Kleinfelder Pleasanton office I worked on a fault trench investigation for a Bay Area community college. There was 600+ lineal feet of 17-22 feet deep trench that we logged for evidence of the fault splays from the Hayward fault. I have also worked on a couple high profile landslides, geotechnical investigations for California's infrastructure among many other things. Just this last week I was on a ship drilling borings in the deep water channel of the San Joaquin Delta. For the past year, I have been working out of the Kleinfelder Stockton office and love it. I technically work for our environmental division here, but still do mostly geotechnical work. I also got married in September to my longtime boyfriend Matthew. Big things happening here in Northern California, if anyone is looking for opportunities or have questions about the work we do, feel free to pass my contact info along.

Adam Ramirez...

I work as a Staff Geologist for Hoque & Associates, Inc., and currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona



Margaret Gooding...

I am currently working at the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters office doing GIS. I was laid off in February, 2018 from LSA after 13 1/2 years (11 laid off that day). My husband retired two years ago after being a mechanic for more than 45 years. I plan to retire soon myself. I will turn 70 October 29th, 2018, so I am ready, but it will have to wait a few more months.

I am still the treasurer for Inland Geological Society and a committee chair for the Redlands Art Association. I have been a member of SCEC for several years, as well. I have also been very active politically for the last two years, participating in many marches and rallies, signing all kinds of petitions, and volunteering for local candidates. I also did some voter registration drives and gathering signatures for ballot initiatives.

Ben Lewis...

I'm a Senior Hydrogeologist working for a local groundwater resources consulting firm.

I am the 2018 President of the South Coast Geological Society and lead a trip with 65 people to the Mount Shasta area. Dr. Brandon Browne, a previous CSUF professor, was the main speaker with lots of help from CSUF alumni Jenifer Leidelmeijer and Tom Devine.

My son Carson is 10 and shows no appreciation for rocks but does love camping and dinosaurs.



At the Alumni Dinner on Friday, October 12, 2018, we announced that Dr. Prem Saint was hospitalized with pneumonia. Everyone will be happy to know that Dr. Saint was out of the hospital that week and is on the mend. Titan generosity raised \$7,151 for the Prem Saint Award, which doubled the endowment to \$14,082. We are now \$11,000 from our goal of making the Prem Saint Award a perpetual endowment that will award over \$500 annually to a hydrogeology student. If you're thinking of end of the year giving, please keep the Department in mind. Giving is easy through the Department web site.

Thanks to everyone who gave generously in the last 3 months (* indicates Dean's Circle donor)

Prem K. Saint Award

Mr. Rene A. Perez
Mr. Eric S. Patschull
Ms. Anna L. Garcia*
Ms. Leslie R. Hargrove
Mr. Brian A. Killeen
Dr. Diane Clemens-Knott & Dr. Jeffrey Knott*
Mr. Taylor Wilson Kennedy
NMG Geotechnical, Inc (Mr. William Y. Goodman)*
Dr. Kari A. Knutson-Miller
Ms. Lucy Cortez-Johnson
Mr. Carlos M. Landaverde
Mr. Cullen Scheland
Mrs. Andrea M. Figueroa & Mr. Otto Figueroa
Ms. Alyssa M. Beach
Mr. Michael J. Cruikshank*
Mr. Michael A Blazevic
Mr. Michael Anthony Baez
Mr. Thomas B. Feistel
Mr. Erik Michael Cadaret

Geology Department Fund

Mr. Carlos M. Landaverde
Mr. Timothy A. Alderman

Marilyn A. Brown Scholarship Fund

Dr. Merri L. Casem
Ms. Mary C. Lacey

Geology Field Camp Alumni Scholarship

Mr. Brian A. Killeen

Dr. John D. Cooper Scholarship

Ms. Nancy H. Cooper

John H. Foster Engineering Geology Fund

Johnson Screens (Mr. Thomas Hanna*)

Geology Walk Through Time

Dr. Diane Clemens-Knott & Dr. Jeffrey Knott*