Welcome

It has been another great year for the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment. We welcomed two new temporary faculty, Heidi Hensen in geology and Julia Chandler in geography. We had a great camping trip to Letchworth State Park with the first-year students, and many of our upper level students got to present their research at national conferences.

There are many changes and challenges ahead, including a revised Liberal Studies program and a possible restructuring of PASSHE. I am confident that GGE is in a good position to deal with whatever comes our way -- we are, after all, the department that studies sustainability! We have a strong department and I am excited to see what the future holds.

Dr. Stentor Danielson, Chair  
Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment

The GGE Department will be publishing an annual Newsletter in November of every year. We would love to hear from any alumni with news.

Send Communications to:
GGE Newsletter  
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Help us send students to field camp!

The GGE Department has decided to create a scholarship for Geology majors who are in need of funding to attend field camp. Geology field camp can be a costly component of finishing your geology degree. If you are interested in donating to our new Geology Field Camp Scholarship, please follow this link: https://raise.sru.edu/project/2923. We greatly appreciate any donations that help the students in the Geography, Geology, and the Environment Department.

Cover: Students and faculty enjoy a campfire during the first-year field trip to Letchworth State Park in upstate New York. Left: Tabitha Giacalone, Derick Fiedler, and Dr. Julie Snow attended a Climate Reality Leadership Training led by Al Gore.
Students, faculty experience China

Over the Summer, Dr. Livingston and Dr. Chen took six students to China as part of the ASIANetwork program. The following are short excerpts from essays written by the students.

Victoria Yeager

The students interacted with Chinese graduate students and professors, conducted fieldwork near Shihezi on the northern side of the Tian Shan and in the karez systems of Turpan, and travelled around the Tian Shan from city to city experiencing local life and customs.

Trevor Chambers

A crucial activity our group participated in was eating. The food we ate was very different from the food we usually eat in America, and so was the dining experience. My favorite dish was beimein with a side skewers along with a cup of hot tea. Other favorite foods were pork buns, lamb, and pork skewers, and various types of noodle soups. Eating in restaurants was amazing. One can watch their food be freshly made right in front of them and eat a large amount of food for cheap. During times when I had to make purchases, go off on my own, or talk to anyone, people were very friendly and patient with me because I could not speak Chinese.

Luke Sherer

We travelled through the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to become more familiar with the area’s history and culture. Upon arriving in the capital Urumqi, we visited the Xinjiang Institute of Geography and Ecology. The following day we met our professional drivers who escorted us through Xinjiang. The first site we visited in Xinjiang was the Tianshan Tianchi National Park. We witnessed beautiful alpine forests as well as the glacier fed lake known as the heavenly lake. The next two days were spent collecting data from our study area. Our group split into two teams collecting a total of eight transects, 250 meters long. We took photographs of the desert vegetation that will later be digitized.
Nick Orbash

The visits made to the Fayuan temple and the Yonghegong Lama temple were special because they felt like two different atmospheres. The Fayuan temple was the oldest Buddhist temple in Beijing, and during our visit here, we witnessed a closing prayer being conducted by the monks. The calling of monks to gather by hitting different gong-like instruments gave this place a beautiful presence. Another temple we visited had a different aura. The Yonghegong Lama temple felt like it had infused their religious site with a tourism site.

Josh Paluh

As a student photographer, I treasured the opportunity to see this country’s impressive sites along with capturing the spirit and pride of the people’s tangible culture. My favorite experiences in Beijing were not just centered around the attractions but were our interactions with the local people. I perceived the people themselves to be the true heart of the Chinese culture. Photographing each person’s individuality was very special. I loved the local people of Beijing’s sense of community. I felt very welcomed by everyone we met and never did I meet someone who did not return a warm smile.

Autumn Mohler

We were fortunate enough to stay in one of these villages overnight. The few herders that resided there lived a humble life. A village secluded enough to see the arm of the Milkyway streaked across the sky, but built beside a large highway of lights and noise. The valley in which they resided held pristine examples of varying geomorphological landscape. Mountains jutting up into the sky carved by glacial movement created sharp peaks and U-Shaped valleys. As we traveled around Tian Shan our drivers were exceedingly considerate when we asked to stop and view a landscape. Massive canyons and unique erosional patterns within an area of red rock flecked between the hours of driving in some of the most barren and flat terrain in Xinjiang.
One of my sabbatical goals was to teach and study abroad, so I traveled to Italy. In Italy, I took a language class (still not fluent but know a few more phrases), taught a seminar course at the University of Pavia (just south of Milano), learned about the geology of Italy and drank fine wine. Some of the major highlights of my trip were visiting Rome, Florence, Naples, touring Pompeii, and living and learning in Poppo, a small Tuscan village. Pompeii is an impressive archaeological and geological site that really offers an insight into the ancient culture of Italy. The preserved remains from the 79 AD eruption of Mount Vesuvius point to a civilization that was rich in the arts and scientifically advance for its time. As I traveled around learning about the culture and geologic history I put together a field trip that I hope to offer to SRU students in the summer of 2019. The plan is to start in Northern Italy exploring the geology of the Italian Alps and then traveling to the south visiting Naples and Pompeii.

After returning home from Italy, I began to work (volunteer) in the Invertebrate Paleontology section of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. As a paleontologist working at the museum, I assisted them with their fossil cephalopod collections and worked on my personal research. It was very rewarding working on not only my research but helping them out as well. I had an opportunity to receive training on their brand-new Scanning Electron Microscope. This was a unique opportunity that will make it easier to take pictures of microfossils without having to travel a far distance. One major benefit to working at the museum was interacting with a variety of scientists each day. I learned so much from them and am a better paleontologist for it. I developed an excellent working relationship and will continue to volunteer and conduct research there during our winter and summer breaks.

Probably the most exciting thing to have happen to me towards the end of my sabbatical year was receiving the notification that my application for promotion to full professor was approved. After several frustrating and upsetting attempts, I have reached one of my ultimate life goals and am a Full Professor. I look forward to advancing and becoming more knowledgeable in my field. Ultimately, I hope to become an even better professor of geology, by offering the best courses I can to prepare our geology students to enter the profession as successful SRU graduates.

*Top:* Dr. Schiappa with Dr. Ausonia Ronchi of the University of Pavia. *Left, upper:* Cenozoic marine deposits with the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on top. *Left, lower:* Frescoes and mosaics in Pompeii.
IN THE NEWS

Alumnus Derick Fiedler gives TEDx talk

I attended Slippery Rock from 2010 till 2014. I was on the collegiate track team as a Decathlete, I won PSAC Championships and was ranked 16th in the nation. As an Environmental Studies Major I participated in GGE Club meetings, as well as department trips to the Badlands National Park in South Dakota, and The Bahamas.

In the Spring semester of 2013 I was stricken by clinical depression. It was such a struggle to do everyday routines like get out of bed, shower, and feed myself, that I nearly lost everything. I had no choice but to quit the track team. I was missing classes and thought I’d have to drop out of college with only a semester left. With the support of friends, family, and the incredible patient understanding professors in the GGE department, I managed to graduate on time.

Three years later, after reaching out and getting the help I needed, I have become determined to be a public speaker for mental health awareness. This past April I was able to crack open that door and be a speaker at TEDxPSUberhend. Since then I have been invited to the Pennsylvania State Dinner with Governor Tom Wolf to be recognized for my TEDx talk. I plan to continue speaking at high schools, colleges, and any venue that will give me an opportunity. Sometimes the most tragic things can turn into the most incredible opportunities. Be patient.

Freshmen field trip goes to Letchworth

The GGE Freshmen field trip headed to Letchworth State Park, and Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Reserve in New York this year. We examined the influence of dams on the Seneca people and hiked throughout Letchworth State Park. We spent time getting to know each other and the GGE faculty. A highlight of the trip was fossil hunting where students laid claim to trilobites and horn corals from the Devonian Period.
GGE honors students learn from Belize

They say experiences are the best teachers. It’s hard to understand that until you’ve had your own experience that has left you a bigger and better person. This past summer, Clare Clark and I, Ellie Schiappa, were lucky enough to have an opportunity that taught us just that. We were honored to receive the PASSHE Honors Scholarship through the Honors Program at SRU. Every year two honors students from each PASSHE University are selected to represent their respective institutions and participate on the PASSHE Honors Scholarship Study Abroad Program. The program is a summer experience that varies from year to year.

This summer we traveled to Belize for two weeks to study the diverse culture, politics, and sustainable development of the country. The program was structured as an independent study, and we were able to focus on a topic that interested us the most. As an Environmental Geosciences major, Clare chose to study the impact of globalization on their agricultural practices. I, an Environmental Studies and Sustainability major, focused on determining if the tourism industry in the country (their main import) was sustainable. Our group traveled through the country starting in Orange Walk Town and then to the Monkey Bay educational center. After spending time at Monkey Bay we spent a week in San Ignacio on the Belizean/Guatemalan Border, finally ending the experience at the beach in Caye Caulker. Throughout the trip we had opportunities to interview multiple community members and leaders about life as a Belizean. We asked them a variety of questions regarding politics, culture, community movements, and environmental approaches. These interviews gave us great insight into the country of Belize and their struggles as a developing country.

Besides the research for our papers, we also had awesome opportunities to explore the country. We went ziplining through the rainforest, snorkeling on the second largest barrier reef, spelunking through an old Mayan cave, and climbed ancient Mayan Pyramids. We not only experienced the country but its history as well. We were all hit with some form of culture shock being in Belize. For many of the students traveling on the trip, it was their first time in a developing country and being exposed to impoverished communities. We visited a community without access to medical supplies, transportation or even proper plumbing. One of their community leaders, Raquel Vasquez, told us that she honestly felt that the Belizean government had just forgotten about them. A comment like that is unheard of in our American society and became one of the most impactful moments for many of us on the trip. Being in Belize really put our own lives in perspective, and we came back with new insight on the world and in ourselves. Coming home from Belize we experienced another form of reverse culture shock; we left
the simplicity behind to come back to the fast-paced life of America. For many of us, it was hard to come home to our nice houses, big closets, and never ending food supply. What seems like normal reality to us is a dream for many Belizeans. Belize taught us more than to be just grateful for what we have; it inspired us in many ways. For some, the program helped clarify what they wanted to do in the future, some built confidence and expanded their comfort zones; others are taking advantage of opportunities that they would not have considered before, and others were just simply able to get out of their small bubble. But overall the program created lasting memories and lifetime friends. The PASSHE Honors Scholarship Program was not just a research opportunity in Belize, but it was also an experience that helped change our outlook and perspective on the world. It was an honor to receive the scholarship alongside Clare to represent Slippery Rock, and an honor to experience the country of Belize as well.

FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Patrick Burkhart

Hey Alumni,

This year has been memorable. Last March I co-chaired another NEGSA meeting at the William Penn Hotel. It was a joint meeting with the NC GSA section and very well attended. We had a nice entourage of students from our department attend, including many who volunteered their service. One highlight was the world premiere of the Nova production Holocaust Escape Tunnel. Of course the subject was despicable, but the use of geophysics was invaluable to a reconstruction of the past. Rarely in my experience does one get the feel the immediate value of data collection, as was revealed in that story from Lithuania.

March also included some big news for my scholarship record, when I arrived to my office early one Friday morning to an email from the Associated Press asking for an interview. Later that day, the Washington Post had called. By Sunday, my paper Savor the Cryosphere was featured on the Weather Channel. In August it became the cover article on GSA Today, which was mailed to 36,000 geoscientists worldwide. The project spanned two years and involved the most rigorous peer review I have ever encountered. Rewrites of the article consumed countless hours, while the editor also required substantial additions that led me to a much better understanding of satellite measurements of the surface of the Earth. The most rewarding aspect of this project was the opportunity to work with renowned scientists Richard Alley and Lonnie Thompson, award winning environmental photographer James Balog, and two old friends from field camp days Paul Baldauf and Greg Baker. It was so much fun collaborating with this great team. The text of the article can be found at http://www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/science/G293A/GSATG293A.pdf

In June I returned to the Badlands with Kay Mickle for more research. GGE students on the expedition included Mitch Kohler, Henry Kramer, Maraina Miles, and Joe Price. Celia Laporte received a grant from the NE Section of the GSA to underwrite her participation in the expedition. There have now been over 100 undergraduates from SRU completing research with the Badlands Working Group. Thank you all for your continued support of our department and programs. I look forward to seeing you around the Rock.
Dr. Patricia Campbell

Greetings Alumni!

My research this past year continues to focus on the structural complexity recorded at the base of the Pennsylvanian-aged Morgantown Sandstone. Two geology students, Logan Jacobs and Michael Chojnacki mapped the basal Morgantown at an outcrop off 279 north of Pittsburgh. They presented their results at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), the northeastern GSA meeting and on student night at the Pittsburgh Geological Society, where they won best student poster award! Two summers ago I took an interesting short course with Robert Jacobi from University of Buffalo looking at fractures in shales in New York. I also took a short course offered at the GSA on Petroleum Structural Geology, which was quite interesting.

Dr. Stapleton and I continue to enjoy outdoor adventures during the summers. In the past couple of years we took a 9-day kayak trip on Atlin Lake in British Colombia and hiked in North Cascades National Park. Unfortunately I tore ligaments in my foot last spring during a fall on an icy parking lot on campus limiting my ability to hike. However, we decided to take a beach vacation to St. John in the Virgin Islands, which was incredibly beautiful but sadly suffered a lot of damage during Hurricane Irma. My foot has mostly recovered and I hope to once again resume hiking adventures.

Our dogs Moose, Wolfgang and Rohan are fine. Moose continues to chase balls, Wolfgang continues to ask everyone for a belly rub and Rohan is just Rohan. Dr. Stapleton and I hope you all are doing well.

Dr. Julia Chandler

I am a spatial ecologist, with a PhD in Forest Sciences earned at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Ongoing research includes examining landscape-scale forest management practices with an emphasis on fire, endangered species and cultural values in central British Columbia. Recently, I have joined a team holding one of the first licenses administered by the USDA to conduct industrial hemp research in the state of Pennsylvania. For this project I am interested in the use of hemp as a phytoremediator, and restoring lands contaminated with heavy metals across the state and beyond.
Dr. Xianfeng Chen

My research interesting areas include remote sensing, geographical information system (GIS), and geomorphology. Recently, Dr. Livingston and I have collaborated with Chinese scientists at Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Science, focusing on desert vegetation study with remote sensing technology in Xinjiang, China. We have received the AsiaNetwork and SRU student/faculty research grant. In the summer of 2017, we brought six SRU undergraduates to China sponsored by AsiaNetwork. In this trip we also conducted field research over Manasi river watershed, Xinjiang, China--our study area.

Dr. Stentor Danielson

This year I had a lot to learn, as I took over the responsibilities of department chair. I spent my summer playing Tetris with the upcoming spring schedule, and the fall doing likewise for next fall’s schedule. I did get to participate in a conference for department chairs sponsored by the AAG, which gave some great insight into how differently geography departments are organized around the country. I also continued my research into geocaching with a couple of students doing independent studies. And of course I kept finding geocaches -- here you see me with a flashlight signing the log for GC54WFA deep in State Game Lands 95 near Bruin.

Dr. Heike Hartmann

In the last academic year, I presented my work on seasonal precipitation forecasts in the Tarim River basin, China, at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers and the Pennsylvania Geographical Society in Altoona, PA and at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Boston, MA. The tree-hugging attempt I made while I was in Tübingen, Germany, where I taught a class on Global Environmental Change during the Winter Break. It is a Giant Sequoia and there are several of them. Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, had seeds shipped from North America in the 1860s. Due to conversion error, he obtained much more seeds than he anticipated. Initially there were several thousand plants; however, most of them died in the cold winter of 1879/80. The few that survived are not very huggable.
Dr. Jack Livingston

It is great to be back to teaching. Spring semester was a challenging time but I received so much support from the department and the University as a whole. I feel healthy and strong although my voice is not what it used to be. I continue to work with Xianfeng on land cover change in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. We received funding for a summer field experience in the region through AsianNetwork and conducted research there in the summer of 2017 with six SRU students. I continue to focus on applications of GIS across disciplines.

Heidi Hensen

I am new to SRU this semester and will be here for 1 year to teach some of the introductory geology courses as well as the upper level geophysics course in the Spring. My background is in environmental geophysics and I do research involving groundwater, soil remediation, and reservoir sedimentation. I am originally from Houston, but have most recently spent time in the Midwest teaching and studying the Ogallala Aquifer.

Dr. Tamra Schiappa

Greetings Everyone:
I am back from my one-year sabbatical and have pretty much adjusted back to teaching, advising, department meetings and university committee work. My sabbatical year was pretty busy, and I accomplished a variety of goals. My year began with a month long intense yoga teacher certification training class offered through Broad Street Yoga in Grove City. After completing my training and practicing for several more months, I began teaching at Broad Street Yoga. I teach a Monday morning Ashtanga class at 6 am. Come visit me if you are in the neighborhood and want to do some yoga.

Mrs. Cynthia Schnur

Cynthia Schnur is still our amazing secretary and holding it all together at the front of the office. She is a grandma to four beautiful grandchildren and spends her time outside of the office enjoying them as much as possible. We are always thankful for Cindy's expertise in everything!!!!!!
**Dr. Langdon Smith**

Dr. Smith has been on sabbatical during the fall semester. We look forward to his return for the spring!

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**Dr. Julie Snow**

These days I am really focused on growing and developing Rock Roast, Inc., the student run nonprofit coffee company that I started last year. I now have two GGE students that work for the company and we are currently raising money to conduct a research project with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center looking at the differences in soil on shade grown and sun grown coffee farms. With this research we hope to understand how the rainforest canopy can maintain biodiversity and help mitigate climate change through carbon uptake. If you are interested in learning more about our nonprofit, want to purchase some coffee to support us, or donate to help rebuild the rainforests and provide educational opportunities for our students, visit rockroast.org or find us on social media #drinkrockroast.

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**Dr. Jialing Wang**

In the last academic year I continued my research on China related topics. I presented part of my work about Chinese tourism at The International Conference on Information and Social Science in Kyoto, Japan. I also conducted fieldwork with some professors from other universities to map the changes in the land use/cover in the watershed of Dianchi Lake in Kunming, China.

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**Dr. Michael Zieg**

I am on sabbatical leave this year. During this time, I will be continuing my research into the characteristics and consequences of magmatic reinjection events in igneous intrusions, specifically attempting to document the inflation history of the Black Sturgeon Sill, Nipigon, Ontario.
An adventure in Nicaragua

In January 2017, Dr. Snow and twelve students traveled through Nicaragua using all travel means possible; chicken bus, the occasional passing truck, and our feet. The group started their adventure in Managua and headed north into the rainforest to visit Selva Negra and La Bastilla coffee farms. With time set aside for hiking and even a night exploration of the rainforests, the group saw an amazing amount of biodiversity including Howler monkeys and amphibians. While on the farms, the group handed out school supplies, tooth care products, and baseball gloves to the children of the coffee pickers. After the rainforests, we had a long, exciting day of travel to Leon where we experienced the city life and went volcano boarding down the active Volcan Cerro Negro. Then it was off to the coast to try some surfing (maybe more wiping out than actual surfing) and we kayaked to a turtle hatchery. We arrived at the beach as the sun was rising and the little baby Olive Ridley turtles were hatching from their shells. An incredible and memorable experience! Only halfway through our trip, we next headed to Granada for a little rest and relaxation. After the city came the most remote location for the group; we stayed on a permaculture farm on Ometepe Island in the middle Lago de Nicaragua. Here we encountered tarantulas, scorpions, and unbelievable sunsets over two active volcanoes. We also learned how to weave traditional baskets from the vines in the rainforests. For the rest of the trip, each person had their own basket hanging from their backpack. From the island we headed back to Granada to visit with a nonprofit and we stayed at the Chocolate Mansion. Some of the students even got chocolate massages. Sweet! We took a day to see Volcan Masaya, which is a very active volcano and actually erupted 2 days after our visit. We finished the trip with a stop at Laguna de Apoyo, an active volcanic caldera that has an incredible fresh water lake for swimming. We spent a day touring the rim of the volcano, where artists are living in villages according to their craft. We purchased hammocks, pottery, and even some paintings from these very welcoming artists. Then it was back to the United States, leaving behind many friends and taking home many memories.
**Jim Hughes**

After teaching for thirty-four years in the department, Jim Hughes (Professor Emeritus) is retired and living in Grove City. He teaches in SRU’s Institute for Learning in Retirement. Judy is District Governor for Rotary International, and Jim has accompanied her on official visits to all forty-two clubs in northwestern Pennsylvania. They have a daughter, son-in-law, and grandson living in Los Angeles.

**James Hathaway**

A crew of penguins employees were moving the Stanley Cup around Pittsburgh and while I was biking I happened to cross their path!!

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**AWARDS & HONORS**

**2017 Scholarships**

Alumni Scholarship in Geology - Sam Hone  
Flash Yager Scholarship - Allison Mattern  
William Anderson Scholarship - Chandler Sendek  
Michael A. Starker Scholarship (Bartramian Audobon Society) - Nicole Pollock  
Paul A. Rizza Scholarship - Robert Parquette  
Robert Davis Scholarship - Samuel Hone  
Environmental Geoscience Scholarship - none  
Gene & Joanne Wilhelm Scholarship - Jessica Schottanes  
Timothy Trautman Scholarship - Kelsie McGranahan  
Veltri Scholarship - Megan Stephenson  
Pearl K. Stoner Scholarship - Thomas Winschel

**Outstanding E GEO Student Awards**

Freshman - Megan Stephenson and Marlee Theil  
Sophomore - Samuel Hone  
Junior - Ryan Naylor  
Senior - Blake Wallrich

**Outstanding GES Student Awards**

Freshman - Josh Paluh and Lauren Patel  
Sophomore - none  
Junior - Joshua Kaufman  
Senior - Hannah Schmidt

**Outstanding Service Award**

Victoria Yeager and Jessica Schottanes
Cody Cribbs (2012)

It has been awhile, I hope you still remember me. My name is Cody cribbs from the class of 2012. Here are a few pictures from days at work. I work for American Electric Power as a senior environmental technician. We do emissions testing for coal and natural gas power plants all around the country. I love what I do for work and apply what I learned at SRU everyday. It is so awesome to help the environment in any that we can but I get to do it for a living. I hope to see you around sometime. Oh, and by the way, keep up the great work with the coffee! I can’t wait to try some. Thank you for everything you have taught me and much more. Have a great day.

Krystal Levstek (2013)

I currently live in Barberton, Ohio which is right outside of Akron. Right after graduating from Slippery Rock University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and a minor in nonprofit professionalism, I attempted a Masters in Geography from Kent State and worked as the TA for The Geography of Wine Course for two years. I didn’t want an academic career but wanted to be able to make a difference in the problems I was researching so i joined AmeriCorps in 2015.

After serving two years through AmeriCorps VISTA at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank as their PantryTrak Building Capacity Coordinator, I joined the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in June 2017 as a full time employee as their Network Research Connector.

I am currently working with my supervisor and the ACR Foodbank to map out areas of need, help target our SNAP outreach efforts, and provide a big picture view of our service area and mission. I use a client system called PantryTrak to help pull service reports for grant funding and to assist in food programs executive decisions.

I also sit in on our emergency preparedness committee. There are not many natural disasters here in Ohio but the foodbanks are a part of the national FeedAmerica Network and we provide support to fellow foodbanks all over the country. Currently we are providing aid to the foodbanks in Texas and are on standby for those in Florida.

I greatly enjoy my work in the public service sector and use much of what I learned as an environmental studies major everyday in my work.
Fred J. Lang (1976)

I’ve been working at Grove City College since 1997. I’ve been working in the Registrar’s Office since 2000 and the past five years as the Director of Academic Records/Associate Registrar. I received my Master of Arts in Leadership and Liberal Studies from Duquesne University in 2007.

My wife, Rondi, is a retired school teacher. We have one son, Fritz, who is a special needs teacher. We live in New Castle, PA.

Corey Gens (2013)

Hey GGE Department! I work for Esri as a Solution Engineer on their Global Water Practice. I graduated from Slippery Rock University in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Geography: Applied Geographic Technology. I had a couple great internships in Pennsylvania and then pursued grad school at Florida State University where I received a master’s in Geographic Information Science. At FSU I had several GIS focused internships and part-time jobs and learned even more about geography, GIS, and programming. After Florida State, I worked at Collier County as a GIS Tech and at CDM Smith as a GIS Specialist II. In 2016 I moved north to the greater Philadelphia area where I currently reside. I want to thank the GGE department for providing me the foundation for where I am today.

Marah (Vecenie) Fielden (2010)

Marah (Vecenie) Fielden secured a position with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy shortly after graduating from SRU. She served as the Community Forestry Coordinator for 4 years and worked in communities across the region to administer grants to neighborhoods seeking trees for their parks, streets and other open spaces.

Since then, Marah transferred to a new position with the Bureau of Forestry at DCNR in Harrisburg. She works as a Riparian Forest Technician where her responsibilities involve working closely with rural landowners to plant trees along their streams to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.
David Fuji and Kelly Blake (2007)

David has been working for Epsilon Solution Systems for 6 years as a GIS analyst supporting the Naval Weapons Station China Lake. His work involves both archaeological and biological survey mapping and support of other work on the naval base. He was recently put in charge of the biological project work occurring within Epsilon.

Kelly has been working for the government for 6 years and recently was promoted to a senior geologist within the Navy’s Geothermal Program Office. In the last year, her activities include collecting ground gravity measurements, shallow ground temperatures and temperature logging wells. She will be working to take over as project manager of the Coso Geothermal Field in California within the fence line of the Naval Weapons Station China Lake.

Kelly and David have been married for 3 years September 6th and are enjoying desert life.

Timothy A. Trautman (1973)

In 2016, I retired after working 40 years in the Petroleum Industry, spending 35 years with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in The Woodlands, Texas. My last assignment was Exploration Manager for the Central Gulf of Mexico area. Since retiring, I have visited several of our National Parks, including The Grand Canyon, Lake Powell’s Slot Canyons, Bryce, Zion, Arches, and Canyonlands. In August 2017 my wife and I took a cruise to Iceland, where I was intrigued by volcanic terrain and the onshore exposure of the mid-Atlantic rift – not to mention the abundance of breathtaking waterfalls. Unfortunately, only two weeks after coming back home to Humble, Texas, our house was flooded by Tropical Storm Harvey on August 29. We have been in recovery mode since that time along with preparing for our youngest daughter’s wedding at Horseshoe Bay, TX on October 7. I recently have been in touch with SRU retired Geology Professor, Dr. Charles Shultz. I hope to visit Chuck as well as “The Rock” on one of my trips back to the northeast.

Kourtney (Barto) Penatzer (2003)

Kourtney (Barto) Penatzer (’03), her husband Brian, and puppy Kodiak have moved to Bristol, VT to start a new adventure. Kourtney’s husband started a new job as an Engineer for UTC Aerospace and Kourtney is hoping to get a teaching position at a local high school. Kourtney went back to get her post baccalaureate in Chemistry Education in 2013. She’s been teaching for the past 4 years at Catholic high schools in Pennsylvania.
**Ben Baker (2010)**

Since the last newsletter, I left my job working for Dieffenbauch & Hritz, LLC in Morgantown, WV and have moved my family to Morristown, TN. I am working as the GIS Coordinator for Hamblen County, TN and am daily working with parcel data for the Assessor's office, addressing for the 911/Planning Departments, and working to create datasets and web mapping applications to aid various County Departments. I am still getting my feet wet but enjoy what I do and the more relaxed pace of life compared to my previous job in private consulting.

**Andy Franze (2013)**

After graduating in 2013 from SRU with a B.S. in Environmental Geoscience, Environmental Science Track, I was awarded a teaching assistantship at Wright State University and earned a M.S. in Earth and Environmental Science, focus in Environmental Geochemistry. My thesis involved developing an innovative groundwater remediation technology using nanoscale zero-valent iron to treat chlorinated solvents. I graduated from Wright State in 2015 and gave an oral presentation of my research at the American Chemistry Society National Conference during spring 2016.

I got married shortly before graduating and moving back to the Pittsburgh area. I currently work as a geologist for Key Environmental Inc. (Key) in Carnegie, PA. Key is an outstanding environmental consulting firm that is at the forefront of the environmental industry. I have had the opportunity to work on many projects as well as many aspects of projects. I have been involved in phase I and phase II site investigations, remedial alternative screening, feasibility studies, remedial action, and site closure. My work typically involves writing various reports, although I occasionally do field work. Field work that I have done includes site inspections, installation of monitoring wells, and implementation of remedial action.

I enjoy running, biking, kayaking, and spending time outdoors. My wife and I recently took a trip to Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks in California. I'm planning a trip to the Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks in spring 2018. I'm also planning on giving an oral presentation on an in situ chemical oxidation groundwater remediation case study, completed by Key, at the 2018 Battelle Chlorinated Remediation Conference in Palm Springs California. My wife and I recently bought a house north of Pittsburgh with two acres and we enjoy hobby farming. We currently have chickens, quail, beehives, a vegetable garden, and fruit trees. We hope to add dairy goats and an aquaponics system in the near future, stay tuned.