Acadia Geology Alumni/ae Newsletter

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Department of Geology, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, B4P 2R6

VIEW FROM ACADIA

The past year or so will go down in the record books for many things from a planetary point of view. The most hurricanes in the North Atlantic basin (and all the subsidiary records associated with them), the Ontario heat wave, the Sumatran tsunami (how many of you even remembered that word from your first year classes before the events of last winter?), the price of oil and gas, the rate of activity and hirings in Calgary, the diamond production from the NWT, the Montreal Action Plan, and the list goes on. I doubt there has ever been a year in which the events and activities on our planet have been so newsworthy. Whether for good or ill, geologists have had opportunities like never before to be at the forefront of the public's understanding of the planet.

Here at Acadia we are equally aware of such happenings. Through the year we have participated in public forums on the tsunami, the flooding of New Orleans, and the cost of natural disasters – always to large and appreciative audiences. Rob Raeside teamed up with Bruce Matthews, Dean of Arts and expert in the religions and cultures of Sri Lanka and Myanmar (Burma) to present a 50 minute overview of the plate tectonic setting of earthquakes and tsunamis, and the likely political and sociological ramifications of the event. In spite of booking the largest classroom in the Beveridge Arts Centre, they had to shut the doors 10 minutes before the start as the room was filled to the extent that some people were sitting under the screen. They did a re-run a week later, to another filled classroom. Clearly, that event like no other caught people's attention, possibly because of the unexpected and unknown nature of the tsunami, as well as a result of the massive suffering it caused.

Hurricane Katrina happened at the start of the fall term, and we employed the services of Dr. Elisabeth Kosters, a Wolfville resident who worked in the Louisiana State Survey and studied delta Sedimentology at Louisiana State University in an earlier life, to explain the geological and political ramifications behind that disaster. Once again, a sizeable number of the local community came along to find out why. When such major disasters happen, people need to find a way to understand them.

We may have had success at communicating the processes of the Earth to the town and university. However, one of the other big stories of the year has not yet had a big effect on the university. The hiring boom in Calgary has penetrated to the east coast, with visits from groups like the CSPG to encourage students to look to the oil and gas industry for a career, and visits from recruiters to the industry. While the major companies are not coming in hordes to interview at Acadia (at least not yet!), smaller companies are certainly calling and dropping in. One consultant dropped by on a swing through the Maritimes, with the aim of finding 60 graduating or newly graduated geologists for projects his company had under way. Considering the total number of undergraduates completing degrees in all the earth sciences (Geology, Geophysics, Environmental Earth Science, Physical Geography, etc.) in Canada is only about 750 a year, it is not difficult to see a looming crisis in the supply of new graduates. We still await the promised boom in student enrolments when word gets out again to students entering university that Geology is once again employable (perhaps the graduates of the early 80's or late 60's remember the last couple of times this happened?)

Business in the energy industry is booming, but so is exploration in the minerals industries and employment opportunities the environmental sector are also plenty. It appears there has never been a better time to graduate as a geologist and some of our recent graduates have been in the enviable position of being able to pick their jobs from a list! You will see their experiences scattered throughout this newsletter. Let it be known that Acadia has space for budding geoscientists and a program to suit! If you know of a prospective student, please visit http://www.extremegroup.com/acadia/email_send/index.html to recommend them.

HAPPENINGS

This past year has seen substantial changes at Acadia. The arrivals of a new President, a new Vice-President (Academic) and a new Dean of Science over the past couple of years have brought a new sense of leadership in the university, and several new initiatives. Many of these ventures are now beginning to have their impact – revisions to the forward-looking university plan, ways of dealing with budgets, interactions with the local community, and opportunities for student engagement. It has been an exciting year!

In the Geology department, the most obvious change has been the retirement of Barry Cameron, and the arrival of Peir Pufahl. More about Barry and Peir on page 6. One less obvious change has been the introduction of a new program in Environmental Geoscience. This career path is one of the areas included in professional registration in the province, and we have been able to join forces with the Environmental Science program at Acadia to provide a degree option that lies somewhere between Environmental Science and Geology, and matches the requirements of professional registration. The first few students have enrolled in this program which offers a new perspective, particularly in some of the upper level courses in geophysics and geochemistry.

While the new program will have a major impact on those who take it, probably more noticeable to the visitor in the department is the major clean-up that we did this year. After many years of wishing for it, funds suddenly became available from the Dean's office to expand our main teaching classroom. This meant the consolidation of our equipment stores into a room only half the size, so a purging exercise was needed in the early summer. Interesting what one finds after 20+ years of putting things away! On the basement floor too, a major gutting was done in the "Paleo lab", after Barry Cameron finished his micro-paleontology course, and to make way for Peir Pufahl's paleontology course in the winter term. Few in living memory had seen the floor of that room before!

This year also saw the visit of several scholars to discuss their research. January was particularly busy, with Stephen King (MSc '02) returning to tell us of his exploration work in Mongolia; Mark Deptuck, from Shell International in Texas, describing with astonishing graphics the submarine lobes off the east coast of Corsica; and Nicole Januszczak who worked at the University of Toronto on the Proterozoic Ice Age problems regaling us with tales of ocean and ice exploration. In March, Elisabeth Kosters, who was teaching global tectonics and stratigraphy this year, arranged for the visit of David Mosher (BSc '84) to tell us of his work investigating mass failures on the Scotian Shelf, and for Marcos Zentilli, professor at Dalhousie, to describe his work examining tectonics in the Arctic. We were also pleased to welcome Denis Lavoie, from GSC-Quebec, to describe the recent hydrocarbon exploration in the Quebec Appalachians, New Brunswick and western Newfoundland.

We launched the fall term speaker series with a timely look at the geological, historical, political and cultural ingredients in the Hurricane Katrina disaster (Elisabeth Kosters), and continued with other visitors who described the diamond fields of Canada (Bruce Kjarsgaard, GSC, sponsored by GAC), petroleum exploration and opportunities for graduates (John Hogg, Burlington Resources, & Mike Enachescu, Memorial University, sponsored by CSPG and CSEG), and exploration and economics of copper (Mike Doggett, sponsored by the Society of Economic Geologists). Acadia may not be on the main highway, but it certainly is not overlooked by eminent scientists who are able to bring up to the minute research into the class room.

In February, a large group of faculty and students attended the 31st Atlantic Geoscience Society conference on current research in the Maritime Provinces, held for the first time in Saint John, NB. Among the 20 participants from Acadia, 10 posters and papers were delivered – the largest component from any university in the area. The hosting society provides prizes to the top orally delivered paper and poster, and the Graham Williams award for the best poster was won by Acadia graduate student, Tansy O'Connor-Parsons, for her poster entitled "Downhole trace and major element chemostratigraphic patterns relating to igneous fractionation processes in the Golden Mile Dolerite, Western Australia". This work arises from her MSc thesis research, supervised by Dr. Cliff Stanley and supported by a research grant from Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines. At the closing banquet, the Atlantic Geoscience Society invited Acadia to host the next conference in February 2006. If you can make it back for the 2-4 February 2006, we'd love to see you!

Another conference that consumed the spare time of several of us this spring was the national conference, cosponsored by the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada, the CSPG and the Canadian Society of Soil Scientists. Although the conference was held in May at Dalhousie University, Sandra Barr was coordinator of field trips (as well as president of the Geological Association), Rob Raeside was vice-chair of the conference organizing committee, and Ian Spooner was in

charge of many of the local arrangements. The scale of this conference (1000 delegates, 12 simultaneous sessions, endless committee meetings, banquets, and celebrations) is such that it forever marks this year as one of those landmark years in our careers. We could say a great time was had by all, but at the expense of a lot of sweat and sleep! To top it all off, Cameron Bartsch and his co-author and thesis supervisor Sandra Barr were happy to learn that their poster on "Bedrock geology and tectonic implications of the southern New River terrane, southern New Brunswick" won the Jerome Remick Bronze Award from the Geological Association of Canada.

A contingent of undergraduate students, Nancy van Wagoner and Sandra Barr attended the Atlantic Universities Geology Conference hosted by Memorial University in late October (see report elsewhere in the newsletter). The year ended with the usual ramping up of activity in November for the open houses and displays at the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia departments of natural resources, a flurry of submissions of papers and lab exams, a Christmas party at Rob and Wendy Raeside's house, and the final clanging of the bell with exams in December.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Sandra Barr enjoyed a busy sabbatical leave during the first 6 months of 2005, during which time she tried to catch up on research and publications. However, on-going supervision of graduate and honours students, plus her duties as Field Trip Committee chair for Halifax 2005, and as president of the Geological Association of Canada mainly kept her busy. She survived what seemed ahead of time an awesome task – preparing and delivering her GAC "presidential address" at Halifax 2005 and writing it up for "Geoscience Canada" – but it turned out not to be so bad! Her topic "Global Geoscience – Canada's Link with the World" gave her lots of scope for personal and professional reminiscing. Early June provided another opportunity for reminiscing when she was inducted into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame. In what sometimes seems like a previous life, Sandra was a Canadian record holder in the high jump, and competed in the Pan-American Games in Brazil. She was also a star basketball player in high school and during her undergraduate years at UNB, and her Hall of Fame induction was for both basketball and track and field. Getting back to the present life, highlights of Sandra's summer 2005 field work included time in southern New Brunswick doing "metallogeny" with graduate student José Texidor-Carlsson, mapping Cambrian rocks around Saint John, and a memorable boat trip to The Wolves Islands with Heather Wolczanski. Four MSc students supervised by Sandra successfully defended their theses during the year - the maximum number to finish in any one year of her career! Thanks to all of those hard-working students!

Barry Cameron retired from teaching this year. The process was gradual, as he finished once in the spring, but returned to offer the micropaleontology class again in the fall. More details about his retirement on pages 6-7.

Alan Macdonald also retired from teaching this year. He offered metamorphic geology one last time in the winter term, before "hanging up his boots" (as he has been threatening for several years). He is also kept busy at home with the gardens, orchards, horses and goats.

David McMullin continues to teach several courses (or parts thereof) – Earth History for Sandra Barr while she was on sabbatical leave, Field Methods and the newly revamped Earth Science and Society course with Ian Spooner. In July he headed back to Ireland with his kids (Connor and Una) for a long-anticipated visit with family. It had been nearly 5 years since Connor and Una had seen their assorted aunts, uncles and cousins. A nice time was had by all. In August David attended a SENCER Institute in San José, California, with 5 other faculty members from Acadia (including Linda Lusby in Environmental Science and our new Dean of Science, George Iwama). This Institute focuses on "engaged" learning and the various ways in which teaching at the university level is changing. David came back with many ideas of how to improve his teaching strategies, some simple, and some not-so-simple. A few have even been adopted by others (Ian and Sandra in particular). During the next year David hopes to incorporate more of these techniques in other classes (including Sedimentation and Stratigraphy). On other fronts David continues to be the Production Manager for ***Atlantic Geology***, which is being transferred to electronic format in the coming year or so. That undoubtedly will be a challenging task, but one he's looking forward to.

Peir Pufahl joined our ranks as rookie professor this year. As a carbonate sedimentologist, it is no surprise he will be teaching paleontology and oceanography, but he has also taken on structural geology, and seems to have made himself well liked by the third year class. More details about Peir on page 6.

Rob Raeside was awarded the Berry Medal by the Mineralogical Association of Canada at the meeting of the association in Halifax in May, in recognition of his services as series editor for the highly successful MAC Short Course Series. He has been editing the annual short course volumes for 6 years, this year completing two books on "Mercury: sources, measurements, cycles and effects" and "Exploration for platinum-group element deposits".

Jeanette Roelofsen joined our ranks this year, replacing Cliff Stanley who is on leave. Jeanette brings a background in mineralogy and extensive teaching experience in Canada and USA, and has been a welcome addition to the department. She taught mineralogy and economic geology in the fall term, and will offer metamorphic geology and geochemistry in the winter.

Ian Spooner had a particularly busy year, teaching overload so that he could gain leave time in winter 2006, organizing what seemed like hundreds of details at the Halifax 2005 conference in May, building an addition on to his home, and coaxing graduate students to write theses.

Cliff Stanley is currently on leave, doing his utmost to avoid us (why else would he go to such an antipodal location as Perth, Western Australia?) From the few accounts we have received, he is gainfully employed there – several papers are being written, he was heavily involved in running an IGES (International Geochemical Exploration Symposium), regularly drops in on his graduate students at University of Western Australia, and is entertaining hordes of family members who have chosen this year for their trip to Australia.

Nancy Van Wagoner relocated her office to the Geology department this year. In the summer she participated in a Distance Learning conference in Quito, Ecuador, continued on to southern Argentina to seek new and interesting volcanic rocks, and stopped in Guadalajara, Mexico, where her daughter is studying at ballet school.

Don Osburn is always busy with some project – in the fall he and his wife Anna were co-organisers of the Deep Roots music festival, which brought a host of talent, widely varied in scope, to the area for a weekend of music and dance. In his day job he keeps churning out thin sections by the half dozen (the jig takes 6 at a time!) and is looking forward to the installation of two new saws and a new thin sectioning machine in the new year.

Janet Harnum, our secretary-technician, has been on maternity leave this year, but will be back in the office at the beginning of January. We are all looking forward to seeing her photos of Mackenzie and Sullivan.

Helen Texidor-Carlsson joined us as secretary-technician while Janet was on maternity leave. She quickly developed her skills in all the university information software (student records, budgets, etc.) and, not satisfied there, undertook to become a Microsoft Master, taking courses in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. We are all sorry she left before Cliff returned, as we hoping for an Excel show-down in the department! She moved to the Division of Continuing and Distance Education in November.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

The department continues to have a strong graduate program, and at one point this year we reached a record number of 10 students in program. Coming from schools as diverse as University of Toronto, Moscow State University, and Carleton College, Minnesota, they always bring an interesting background and a range of experience into the department.

Finishing and exiting this year were **Cameron Bartsch, Robin Black**, **Russel Hiebert**, and **Lori Cook** all of whom worked at least in part with Sandra Barr. The first three investigated the geology of southern New Brunswick, Cameron in the New River terrane, Robin in the basement rocks of Grand Manan Island, and Russel (who was co-supervised by Cliff Stanley) the Mechanic Settlement Gabbro and its potential platinum-group element mineralization. **Lori Cook** determined the source of the East Point (PEI) magnetic anomaly, supervised by Sandra Barr and Sonya Dehler (Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic). In addition, **Cheryl Reid** investigated the contact and regional metamorphism around the Barrington Passage Pluton in southwestern Nova Scotia under the supervision of Rob Raeside.

Continuing students this year included **Tansy O'Connor-Parsons**, who is working with Cliff Stanley on the lithogeochemistry of the Golden Mile gold mine, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Tansy took off a month after Cliff to Perth, where she is now finishing her thesis within striking distance of her supervisor. We anticipate she will defend her thesis by videoconference as her supervisor and one examiner will be in Australia, but the rest of the examining committee in Wolfville. With a 12 hour time difference, someone is going to have to get up early that day! **Amanda Blackmore** (with Ian Spooner) is nearing the end of a joint Acadia-CoGS MSc program investigating the hydrogeology of the Annapolis Valley, focusing on aquifer

vulnerability. **Brent Lennox** (also working with Ian Spooner) is also writing up his findings on Late Holocene climate change in the Maritimes and **José Texidor-Carlsson** (working with Sandra Barr and Cliff Stanley) is conducting a metallogenic appraisal of the Caledonia Highlands, southern New Brunswick.

New to Acadia this year are **Gleb Bukharin**, a graduate of the petroleum geology program of Moscow State University, Russia, who arrived in Canada in June, just in time to be whisked off to St. Andrews, New Brunswick, by Nancy Van Wagoner to map the strata of Passamaquoddy Bay, and **Gabriel Nelson** who joined us from Carleton College in the US. Gabe is working with Peir Pufahl on iron formations, fortuitously near his home in northern Wisconsin.

HONOURS STUDENTS

BSc Honours theses this year are listed below in alphabetical order by student name:

David Lowe: Stratigraphy, depositional setting and volcanism of the Letete Formation, southwestern New Brunswick; Supervisor: Nancy Van Wagoner

Ryan Toole: Petrographic and chemical variations through the Goldenville and Halifax formations, Bear River, High Head, and Broad River sections, southwestern Nova Scotia; Supervisor: Sandra Barr

Heather Wolczanski: The Wolves Islands - a missing link in southern New Brunswick geology; Supervisor: Sandra Barr

FLETCHER GEOLOGY CLUB

The Fletcher club is alive and well. The 2005-2006 executive took office at the year-end banquet in March. Dustan Menard (president), Teri Lawrence (VP), José Texidor-Carlsson (social events) and Heather Wolczanski (faculty rep.) were all around intermittently in the summer and were hard at work planning activities for club members for the fall.

Students and faculty turned out for a "welcome" BBQ during the first week of classes to enjoy the lovely September weather and regale each other with tales from the 2005 field season. AUGC was in Newfoundland this fall and fundraising was on everyone's minds in the months leading up to it. The Fletcher Club put forth a valiant effort to host a BBQ and raffle outside of Wal-Mart in New Minas but the weather conspired against us as the skies opened and drenched the town. Nevertheless, tickets were sold and money was raised and on October 27th ten geology majors from Acadia boarded a plane for Newfoundland. Everyone had a blast on the Rock. Dave Lowe gave an oral presentation entitled "Stratigraphy, depositional setting, and volcanism of the Letete Formation, southwestern New Brunswick" and Ryan Toole presented a poster on "Petrographic and chemical variations through the Goldenville and Halifax formations, Bear River, High Head, and Broad River sections, southwestern Nova Scotia". Although no trophies traveled home with the Acadia crew this year, our brave presenters did a great job and look forward to presenting at the AGS meeting in February.

Hiking in the Gaspereau River valley, a poker tournament and an ongoing virtual hockey league have kept geology students busy and entertained this fall.

The annual Christmas party was held once again at Dr. Raeside's home. The hot gift this year was a bricklayer's hammer, which as anyone who has ever done field work with Dr. Barr will know also does a superb job at liberating rock samples.

Exams have come and gone and new events are in the works for the winter semester.

From left to right: Teri Lawrence, Heather Wolczanski, José Texidor-Carlsson and Dustan Menard, planning activities for the club in the Fletcher Club room in August. Executive members who were gainfully employed elsewhere and are missing from the photo are treasurer Cassie Gaudet and secretary Janice DeMont.

NEW FACULTY MEMBER: PEIR PUFAHL

Peir Pufahl joined the department in July. He came to us from Queen's University, where he worked as a post-doctoral fellow with Noel James on the sedimentology, stratigraphy and geochemistry of Miocene and Pliocene carbonates in South Australia. Prior to that his PhD studies at UBC took him to Jordan to examine the sedimentology, stratigraphy and oceanography of phosphorite deposits, as well as participate on the Ocean Drilling Program Leg 175, exploring the sedimentology and paleoceanography associated with the Benguela Current. His Masters work at Lakehead University focused on the investigation of Paleoproterozoic iron formations in the Lake Superior region. All in all, we consider Peir to be perfect match for the department, complementing Ian Spooner's expertise in clastic sediments, and carrying on the tradition of oceanography established by Barry Cameron. He has already begun delving into the local units, hoping to research environmental change and limestone accumulation by studying the sedimentology and chemistry of Paleozoic carbonates in Nova Scotia. He will also undertake studies of Precambrian oceanography and Earth evolution by investigating the sedimentology and chemistry of Proterozoic iron formation in the Labrador Trough, the Iron Ranges of Wisconsin and Michigan, and perhaps even the MacKenzie Mountains. In fact, his first graduate student, Gabe Nelson, arrived here only a few weeks after he did, and is currently preparing a research proposal to work in the iron formations of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Peir moved to Nova Scotia with his wife Christa, and 4 year old son Callum. Peir and Christa have been married 11 years, having met and got to know each other spending countless hours in the igneous petrology lab at Lakehead University. Christa is a clastic sedimentologist with a M.Sc. degree from Lakehead University. She also has extensive experience from working in the XRD lab at Queen's, and was no sooner unpacked when she was approached by Sandra Barr to tackle the decades of backlog in sorting through field notebooks and rock collections and digitizing the findings of Sandra's, Rob's, and many students' Cape Breton Highlands work.

The Pufahls have adjusted well to Wolfville and enjoy the surrounding area and Acadia University immensely. Christa is ecstatic that Peir finally has a permanent position. As well as working part-time as a research assistant she has time once again to quilt. Callum has made many new friends at the Wolfville Child Care Centre and loves to collect fossils at the beach. Peir writes that he is thrilled to be a member of such a great geology department and looks forward to becoming part of the east coast geoscience scene. We all look forward to his contributions to the department and our knowledge of local and far-away geology!

BARRY CAMERON RETIRES FROM A CAREER IN PALEONTOLOGY

June 2005 brought the date when Barry Cameron started to hang up his paintbrushes and calipers. Those of you who know him will realize that Barry always executes his activities with great care, and he has been working on retirement preparation for quite some time, downsizing his library, sorting slabs, and wrapping up courses. This is no mean feat – Barry probably has the largest collection of papers of any of us (and the largest photocopying bill!), a testimony to many years of careful attendance to matters paleontological.

Barry started teaching at Acadia in 1981, when he moved here from Boston University to assume the role

of department head. George Stevens had been the department head for over a decade, and stepped down as student enrolment was rapidly rising, enabling a new position to be opened. Initially Barry taught courses in petroleum geology and basin analysis, but upon the retirement of Reg Moore in 1992 assumed responsibility for the paleontology course. Many graduates will remember their labs in petroleum geology, paleontology or micropaleontology with the wealth of teaching aids that surrounded them in the basement lab. Some more claustrophobic types may recall their experiences in that room with a shudder, as Barry had it tightly packed with specimens, including that notorious 20 feet long L-shaped amphibian track-way collected from Blue Beach as the tide gradually carved it up. Some of you were probably implicated in the collection of it!

In 1984 Barry developed a new general elective course in oceanography, with 15 students the first year. The course was a “hit”! Two years later enrolment topped 100, and by 1990 over 300 students. In 1987 he introduced a companion course in coastal oceanography, which regularly had nearly 200 students in it. We calculate that at times over one third of all students at Acadia took an oceanography course somewhere in their career!

We were very pleased to arrange a small function to celebrate his career at Acadia, and thank those of you who responded with memories and advice for him:

Ghislaine Legaré: Knowledge being power, how far would the human race have progressed, without devoted and passionate men and women who share their passion with young (and old) people? What I admired in Dr Cameron, was specifically this passion for these "paleocritters" not easy to bring back to life, so many beings, that are so remote.

Alan Deal: The one thing I will never forget about Barry is the size of his coffee mug. I believe it was actually a ceramic beer stein, the kind you see hoisted at Octoberfest. It must have held at least one litre! He would brew it up every morning. The other thing was his addiction to date squares. Is I recall he had a tray of them in his office every morning. If I absolutely had to see him first thing in the morning I knew I could stake out the bakery department in the IGA around opening time.

Peter Dalton: A professor that truly has a passion for the earth's history and the life that has called it home from one eon to the next. Over the years that I had the privilege of being educated by Dr. Cameron I built a great respect for him as a unique teacher and above all a good person with an excellent sense of humour. I consider myself lucky to have been educated by Barry Cameron and wish him all the best in his retirement. So only one question remains.... His office! Maybe it would be easier to just make it a museum.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jason MacKenzie

Each year we ask a graduate to write an article on his/her past and current activities since leaving Acadia. This year we invited Jason MacKenzie, who studied at Acadia from 1991-96.

I didn’t see that coming!

My time at Acadia and in the geology department included some of the greatest times of my life. I have fond memories of countless hours in Optical Mineralogy with Dr. Raeside searching for a low birefringence grain in a dunite with which I could determine the 2V so I could indeed say, with the utmost confidence, that this rock is almost entirely composed of olivine (+/-) an aluminous phase and should be classified as such. I also remember making pizzas for Dr. Barr with hot peppers on half and, of course, have her to thank for my fondness for granites (even though I have never done research on them as the kinetics are way too slow).

It is hard to believe that it has been almost 10 years since I left Acadia with a BSc. in geology and a

chip on my shoulder to succeed in graduate school at the University of Victoria. When I came to UVic, it was very much a case of unknown commodities. The department was new and had only two "geologists", I was my supervisor's first graduate student and very green as a researcher. However, the fit could not have been better. The experience showed me the value that graduate students from other schools bring into departments. I also received much attention from my advisor as we shared an office, which I feel allowed me to flourish in my research and education at UVIC.

My MSc. work focused on kimberlite-hosted mantle xenoliths from the Slave Craton. It was novel research at the time because diamond exploration companies had just started to release drill core for university research (and there were no diamond mines yet). Lithoprobe funded the research, which was an integrated program that brought together researchers from all areas of geosciences to investigate the Slave-Northern Cordillera lithospheric evolution (SNORCLE) spanning billions of years of lithosphere evolution. What I found so great about this program was the level of integration. I ended up comparing my geochemical data to magneto-telluric, seismic, and heat flow data. Even the kimberlite eruption date was bracketed using pollen spores!

I graduated from UVic in 1998 with an MSc in Earth and Ocean Sciences. I went to work in diamond exploration in the Arctic as an assistant geologist for 2 years then worked in Finland where I headed up a geophysical and drilling crew. Only in Finland does one get BMW's as field vehicles. I will remember all my experiences in exploration and field camps with great fondness but I simply wanted more out of a career than I was getting.

In 2001, I started working for Redlen Technologies. Two of us were hired initially, charged with the task of growing large area (>50 mm diameter), single crystal $Cd_xZn_{1-x}Te$ using a travelling heater method. Now, I had never heard of anything like this before but I did certainly understand the CdTe-ZnTe phase diagram and why other companies could not grow crystals with a constant Zn content. Of course not, look at the slope in T-X space and separation between liquidus and solidus! I saw three CEO's and many employees come and go but I remain with the company and we are still conducting research with the intention of taking it to production. I learned so much at Redlen (and continue to learn) but three things really stuck out: 1) venture-capital financed, private research is conducted in a world of secrecy and patent laws where information is not shared, 2) geoscience is the material science of the Earth, and 3) private sector research is much better funded than traditional university based research and Canada should invest more in basic research.

Conducting research for Redlen ultimately led me back to UVic to pursue a PhD in experimental petrology. Having amassed a wealth of experience doing experiments, I thought I should use it to my advantage and embark on my own research. I also wanted to work in a cooperative environment, where information was shared to advance the science as a whole. Towards this end, I have been conducting research involving understanding and quantifying volatile element mobility in an effort to use these measurements to address volcanic contributions to global metal cycles. I have also started looking at redox-sensitive partitioning of transition metals between zircon and silicate liquids. If indeed I can identify and calibrate such a relationship, it could potentially address the redox state of the mantle spanning almost all of Earth history as zircons are ubiquitous, contain age data, and are the only record we have of the early Hadean Earth.

I see a real push in Geosciences towards a more integrated education and approach at all levels. Few traditional "Geology" departments remain in Canada and many have changed their name and emphasis to reflect a broader spectrum incorporating more aspects of geosciences from Earth to Space and everything in between. Personally, I welcome this shift in paradigm and am trying to tailor my research to accommodate it. For example, addressing the redox state of the mantle throughout Earth history could provide important constraints for the rise of atmospheric oxygen, global climate, the emergence of continents, and, perhaps, early life on Earth.

With great pride, I must confess that I have not done any of this alone. I have been blessed with a terrific support cast. At every stage, I have had strong influences in my life and many people who have shepherded and believed in me. To them, I give my heartfelt thank you. To conclude, there is a passage from *Emerson* on the door of our lab that reads, "Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail". I wish everyone the best as they forge their own trail.
Jas

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CAPE BRETON FIELD SCHOOL – WHERE ONLY THE TOUGH SURVIVE AND BOOTS GO TO DIE

What follows is a story of men and women overcoming great adversity in the face of mother-nature, bagpipers, soft legs, and the want of sleep. These are the actual accounts of real individuals in real situations.

I had only arrived in Canada from the U.S. less than a week before, and there I was in Cape Breton Island standing between a Gaelic speaking Scot (Dr. Rob Raeside) and a Spanish/Swedish/English ex-engineer (José Texidor-Carlsson). This I'm afraid is not the opening line of a bar joke, but the opening line of my account of adventures at field school. Don't get me wrong field school was more fun than half price spaghetti night at Joe's, but many of the scars (mostly physical) are just now healing.

Each day we would go out into the wilds of Cape Breton Island in small groups and pairs to ponder, hammer, and spite the wonderful rocks within our designated field areas. It was perhaps after the 5th, or 6th day that Jose and I happened to notice each others legs. Jose had large circular blotches of dried blood along the shins and I had long gashes down the shins, calves, and ankles. The state of our legs was a badge of our determination and fortitude. It showed how fearlessly we would dash through the underbrush with no concern for the periodic falls due to an obscured log or cliff. Each subsequent night the bare legs would be shown to the group as evidence of the great achievements and mishaps of the day.

I had been told by my advisor a couple months prior that field school would be a great way to introduce me to the department as a new graduate student. Little did I know that my introduction to the group would include baring my pasty white beaten and bruised legs.

Gabe Nelson

I hail from the metropolis of Middleton found nestled in the heart of the Annapolis Valley. This I would have assumed would prepare me for what lay ahead of the brave souls who dared to embark on the Acadia Senior Field School. Little did I know that I would be paired up with the unknown El Americano (aka Gabe Nelson).

Our first big challenge came a few days into the journey as we tried to scale a waterfall which to my eyes looked impassable. Captain America thought this would be a good time to tell me that he was an avid climber and that he and I were going over the top. Struggling as I went I managed to make it to the top with my last breath of life before being swept away by the roaring river. It was a mere 5 minutes after this obstacle that I decided to locate ourselves on the map by means of GPS while Mountain Nelson went to check out the geology of the brook meters below our position. As Gabe descended into the unknown through the thick brush it seemed that only seconds had swept by before I heard the huffing, puffing, and branches breaking coming from behind me. I jumped to my feet replaying horror stories of rabid moose in my head as I clenched the Normark holstered on my belt. Luckily for me the moose turned out to be Gabe "The Woodsman" Nelson coming 180˚ from the direction that he had descended and my heart sunk back into my chest.

Near the end of our journey a few days later we found ourselves on the wrong path which added an hour to our trip. Needless to say we were running up the mountain that day. However it was not until all of the science had been completed that we had to make our way down the last waterfall of the day. Piece of cake as I saw Nelson make it to the bottom of the towering landscape with ease. It must have been because I was carrying the map at the time that I lost my footing and came crashing down on to the hard rocks in the pool below with a laughing Nelson grabbing for his camera, hoping to get the perfect shot to put on the geology website before I was back on solid ground. After checking to see that I was intact we continued out of the jungle and back to civilization where we met with our friend Alexander Keith which made all of the troubles and worries subside.

Ryan Toole

Ryan Toole fording the magnificent North River.

Having an interesting background and faced the dangers of dragons and goblins in field school in northern England, followed by a field school in Antigonish under the watchful eyes of Dr. Raeside and Dr. McMullin, I decided I was ready to face senior field school at Acadia. After all, how bad could it be? Surely no worse than summer in New Brunswick collecting a myriad of insect bites and interesting tree-stump-induced bruises? My partner for the adventure was Ben Stormont from Maine. I knew he was ready for the trip when he turned up with a flask full of coffee, plenty of cigarettes and chewing tobacco; my stimulant intake was limited to black tea, but I thought that would suffice…

The first day on the field was like a walk in the park, with regular stream crossing and stream hiking, seemingly along the deepest portion where the current would not take you. Quite frankly, we thought our experienced field leader for the day would know better. Not surprisingly, the quality and quantity of information to be taken that day left its mark, somewhere other than hieroglyphs on my notebook and some vague memories.

As the days passed, I realized that my stimulant intake was not adequate, and I made the switch to black coffee in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings, with black tea intervals. The quality of sleep must have been pretty good, for my moderate caffeine intake still allowed me to sleep a few hours every night. I did not even hear the ghost piper reputed to annoy people by playing the bagpipes in the early hours.

Field school certainly has left a lasting impression on me. Besides the widespread scarring on my shins, the hills were magnificent and adequate for climbing on rainy days, the rivers were alive and perfumed my room every night with their memories, the rocks were records of the past and unwilling to part with cherished fragments, and the evenings were spent in contemplation of the memories of that day, often until the early hours of the morning. Of course, we also left our impression on the hills, as blood, sweat and tears, and words that shall never be repeated again.

It was extremely rewarding to see that all the hard work and willingness to excel in Cape Breton bore fruit, for upon return to Wolfville I was ready to make my map again and write most of my report again so that I could elevate my work to near perfection. I certainly learned a lot from that experience.

José Texidor-Carlsson

Dr. Raeside's point of view:

It has been 20 years now since Sandra Barr and I realized the suitability of the southeastern Highlands of Cape Breton Island for a senior field school. And what fun it has turned out to be! Never a year goes by when we don't get yet another interpretation of the geology of that area. I wonder if we will ever get it right? However we also have innumerable memories of students who came to recognize the skills they had been growing for the past three years would indeed serve them well in "the real world". I can't record what those Aha! moments were in case future students start to google the answers, but I am sure the many students (over 100 of you now) who have "survived" the experience remember them too.

Speaking of survival, the comments above may sound like the effort to complete this school is truly superhuman. However, I expect you will recognize the literary exaggeration employed to scare or dare the next year's students into doing the course! Next year's class: remember Dr. Barr and I will be there too, so it can't be all that bad (even if the waterfalls seem to get higher every year)!

One of the biggest frustrations of this field school (and very obvious from the comments here by Gabe, Ryan and José) is its intensity. Every year, in our course evaluations of the school, we get the comment to take an extra day to do it. However, an extra day means another $60 per person, and already we see some students who are simply unable to do the field school because of the expense. The department and the Development Office have set up a webpage at http://ace.acadiau.ca/science/geol/giving/fieldschool/fieldschool.htm where you can find out more about the experience, and of the opportunities you as alumni or alumnae have to assist future generations of students to realize their potential.

THE DISCOVERY FUND

In November, the Faculty of Science at Acadia University launched two new initiatives designed to support academics and encourage collaboration; the Discovery Fund and the Friends of the Faculty of Science. The Discovery Fund is the means to support teaching, learning and research within the Faculty of Science and its companion, the Friends of the Faculty of Science, is the organization to advance new opportunities. The goal of both: to benefit students, staff and faculty in the development and growth of academic initiatives through direct support.

If you would like to learn more about this venture, please visit http://science.acadiau.ca/discoveryfund/

GROWIN' UP – ACADIA GEOLOGY GRADS ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN CALGARY

Always drink upstream from the herd!
Acadia Grads learning the ways of the west

Well, I've been writing this annual update for so many years now that I can hardly remember what I wrote the first time. And just once I'd like to say, see last year, but everyone here (myself included) keeps on changing jobs, adding to their families and so on, that I fear I'll be writing this letter up until I retire or return to Acadia to teach the young whippersnappers a little lesson on old school oil and gas exploration! That said – what's happening out here anyway?

Family first! **James (BSc '98) and Monica Newsome** welcomed their first child, Olivia, into the world. James took 2 months off to tour her around Ontario and Nova Scotia before being forced back to work. James is still with EnCana and has recently moved to their northeast BC foothills group. **Jamie (BSc '98) and Meghan Babineau** brought Aiden into the world this spring and, unfortunately, Jamie has already taught him to say "Go Leafs Go!" The poor kid never stood a chance. Jamie continues to work for Talisman Energy.

Kris Carruthers (BSc '99) is working international wellsite for ECL where he primarily works in and around Trinidad and Cuba. Between jobs, he has been traveling extensively, with his most recent adventure seeing him visit Rome. Also doing wellsite is **Aléna Wilson (BSc '00)** and she is now working the Edson/Hinton Area (near Jasper), which is great as she can get back home more often. As with most wellsite geo's, she has the traveling bug and will be off to Australia at Christmas.

Brian Campbell (BSc '99) finally left PennWest, which converted to a royalty trust, and now hangs his hat at Exalta Energy, where he continues to work as a geologist. **Myke Mitchell (BSc '97)** is still with Polaris Explorer, which continues to expand. He spent sometime this year in Utah and Michigan and may end up in Mexico or Africa next year. Stay tuned!

I left Dominion Exploration in January of this year to work at Enermarket Solutions and was very excited to be able to convince **Jason James (BSc '98)** to hang up his GIS reins and leave Allstream in June to join me. Jay is now working as a geologist in our technical evaluations department. We recently merged with Canaccord Capital Inc. and will officially be called Canaccord Enermarket in the new year.

Well, there is a plethora of other geology and non-geology grads that have made their way out here, like **Donald Wood (BSc '99)** (Acclaim) and **Ian DeWolfe (BSc '00)** (Apache), but I'd be here for the next two weeks getting everyone up to date! All in all, Calgary has treated us all very well and we look forward to seeing you out here anytime!

"Don't Squat With Your Spurs On!"
Stu Venables, '99

And the view from south of the border

Unbeknownst to many, a small group of Acadia geologists has been toiling diligently in the barren deserts of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. This year marks the final disbanding of our southwest chapter, and, for lack of an original phrase, what a long strange trip it's been.

I first moved down to Texas in 2002 to work as a mudlogger. When I took the job I didn't know what mudlogging was (I didn't take petroleum geology) and much to my surprise, it meant working on oil rigs. I was equipped with a hardhat, directions and absolutely no training whatsoever. Welcome to Texas. Yee-haw.

The work is probably comparable to well site geology work elsewhere, minus the winter. The job, in a nutshell, was to catch samples, analyze samples, monitor gas, monitor drill rates, record drilling parameters, and put it all together on a nice pretty log. At first, the geology aspect of the job was often overshadowed by the maintenance and repair of very old equipment, but as time progressed (and I carried spare equipment with me) I became more involved with company geologists and more comfortable with local formations. The hours were long, the work was challenging, and I was a bit of a novelty ("I ain't never seen no lady logger before"), but the weather was fantastic.

The oil field began to boom and I started recruiting other Acadia geologists. **Brenda Gardiner**, **Ryan Smith**, **Robert Pearson** and **Bob Nickel** all joined me in the desert. Within a short time, our work reputation was firmly established; we were good

workers, and easy-going enough to ensure that we would always be working with the craziest people our company had to offer (and believe me, that's pretty crazy). Towards the end of our stay, our boss would frequently be offered contracts contingent on the assurance of getting Canadian mudloggers.

Aside from the work, the culture took a bit of getting used to. I had no idea that being unwed at 23 would make me both a 'catch' and an 'old maid' at the same time. Much to the amusement of the locals, none of us purchased any guns, but both Rob and I are better shots than a number of people that owned them (disturbing). As for politics and religion, it's best just not to talk about them.

With 350 days of sunshine a year, only two seasons (summer and windy) and a short drive to some amazing skiing, we all took advantage of the weather. Bob made more than adequate use of his golf membership, Brenda had no need for a tanning bed, and Ryan and Rob enjoyed year round mountain biking. The weather was not without extremes and I managed to get hit by lightning and caught in a flash flood (and then I got health insurance).

Alas, we have all moved on. Brenda Gardiner got married and became Brenda Kelley. She bought a very nice house in Midland, Texas and is working with Epoch as a well site geologist in Colorado. Rob, Ryan and Bob have all found their way back to Calgary to work as well site geologists. As for me, I'm off to work in Colorado until I start a masters degree in the fall.

If there is anyone from Acadia looking for a job, the road has been paved, and you will have no trouble finding work in Texas or New Mexico. Just remember to get health insurance.

Elizabeth Grace BSc '2000
em_grace@yahoo.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you have an item of interest, or any news of your activities (or those of your classmates), please let us know. We will try to incorporate as much as possible into future newsletters. Did you write an annual newsletter at Christmas? Send a copy to Dr. Raeside at the Department of Geology (e-mail rob.raeside@acadiau.ca.)

Barry Banks (BScH '04) graduated from CoGS in marine geomatics. He is working for C&C in Lafayette, Louisiana as a navigator and was heading for a project in Africa.

Lynn Calder (BSc '81) works for Shell in the Waterton area doing community relations and public consultation. Although she hasn't worked with rocks in a very long time, she has put her Musicadians experience to good use and written a musical called *Eve* – the Creation story with a twist - which premieres in Calgary in May 2006. For more information, see www.Broadminds.ca

Kevin Cameron (technician '90-'97) was encountered at the GAC-MAC meeting in Halifax. After a stint in Brandon University, he moved west to Simon Fraser University, where he is now a lecturer in Geology, and still piping! E-mail: kjc@sfu.ca

Roland d'Eon (BSc '96) dropped by while back in Nova Scotia in August. He now calls Hong Kong home, working as a teacher in English and French. Each year he goes to interesting places for vacation travels – this year to Sihanoukville, Cambodia, and the east coast of Borneo. Next he will be visiting Pubnico – and since he hasn't seen snow in 6 years, that should make an interesting Christmas jaunt!

Eibhlin Doyle (MSc '79) and **Gerry Stanley (MSc '80)** dropped by the department in May. Both work for the Geological Survey of Ireland in Dublin. Gerry was the lead organizer on behalf of Ireland of the North Atlantic Minerals Symposium held in conjunction with Halifax 2005. Later in the year we heard that Eibhlin was promoted to Head of the Marine Geology and Geophysics Section of the Irish Geological Survey.

Stuart Deveau (BScH '88) lives outside Yarmouth at Carleton. He is vice president of The Claim Group, a professional land management and geological consulting firm (see www.theclaimgroup.com). Business is going well, client base and company personnel are steadily increasing. Kids are growing like weeds, Josh is just finishing Grade 4 and Gwen will start school in September. Email: stuart.deveau@theclaimgroup.com

Brian Eddy (BScH '87) reported that he will be submitting his PhD thesis around the end of 2005, with a defence expected by mid-winter. In planning his transition back into consulting on a more full-time basis, he has begun to put his consulting practice on a progressive footing, including registering a new company name and launching a web-presence at www.igeo.ca. You can reach Brian at brian@igeo.ca.

Mark Ferry (BSc '02) completed his MSc degree at Memorial University on "Sedimentology Fabrics of the White Rose Reservoir, Offshore Eastern Newfoundland: An Evaluation of Sedimentary Patterns and the Influence of Grain Size and Facies Type on Permeability" and subsequently was working at Petro-Canada in St. John's looking at the basal part of the Terra Nova reservoir – interesting but not easy as there is no rock to examine, just chips and wireline data. He then headed to Calgary where he is now at work for Petrel Robertson, a geological consulting firm. He writes "I wish I would remember all that you guys tried to put into my head" – current students take note! Email: mark_ferry2001@yahoo.com

Victor French (MSc '85) wrote from his home in Birch Hills, North River, Newfoundland that he continues his "life-long passion of wandering the hills and vales of this wonderful province searching for the elusive Motherload. Rock knocking and hiking brought him to such well known places as Shabogamo, Gabbro Lake, Sandy Cove, Cache River, and Isa Lake.". He reports that he began his geological career in 1961 (well before, it must be noted, his former supervisor, Sandra Barr) and is "still going strong".

Jo-Anne Goodwin-Bell (BScH '95) announced with great pleasure that at 4:30 pm on Wednesday June 29th she completed her PhD thesis! At 1:30 she delivered a public lecture to a full room and was happy to say eyes didn't glaze over until I put my T-X_{CO2} diagrams on the screen! I did everybody a favour and only talked for 37 minutes instead of the usual 45. When her external told her to relax, enjoy it and have fun, she did! In the fall she taught geochemistry and petrology of igneous and metamorphic rocks at Carleton University and got to work publishing the results of her thesis research on carbonate rocks in the Grenville. E-mail: jagbell@connect.carleton.ca

Joe Guerin (BSc '04) spent a cool summer and cold fall up in the Melville Peninsula (Nunavut), northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba working on regional diamond exploration projects and then returned home to Peterborough to work a short technician contract in the mineralogy at Lakefield Research. Since then he moved to Calgary, where he now works with Talisman Energy, investigating the Lower Mannville Group in NW Alberta, and NE B.C. for natural gas. He reports that **John King (BSc '03)** is working one floor down and also in northern Alberta. E-mail: JGUERIN@talisman-energy.com.

David Hapgood (BSc '05) is studying in education and education technology at Memorial University, and preparing to start his internship in Goose Bay in January. He has enjoyed the St. John's scene – learning guitar, and geocaching, as well as studying. After finishing he and Meghan hope to find jobs in Nunavut and pay of their student debts! E-mail: david.hapgood@gmail.com.

Chris Helmer (BSc '97) works for Waterloo Hydrogeologic in Waterloo, Ontario, as a software deployment and documentation coordinator. WHI was purchased this spring by Schlumberger, and the transition from a 45 person company into a 50,000+ person corporation has been "interesting" to say the least, but the career opportunities with Schlumberger seem very promising. He has also been traveling quite a bit recently: Korea for Christmas ("nice place to visit, but I am too tall and my shoulders are too wide to live there"), New Orleans for Mardi Gras ("everything they say about that is true, and they're only telling you half the story"), B.C. and Alberta for a ski and snowboard holiday and Calgary for the Stampede! He spent 4 fantastic days with Myke Mitchell, Jason James, and Aléna Wilson, who are all alive and doing very well in their respective industries. Email: chrishelmer@ hotmail.com

Jason James (BScH '98) now works at Enermarket in Calgary (with Stu Venables).

Maylia Kempt (BScH '96) and Jeff Parker announced the birth of their daughter Ella Kempt Parker on 26 July 2005. According to the postmark on the postcard, they are still in Manchester, New Hampshire, and can be reached at mayandjeff@comcast.net.

Jason MacKenzie (BSc '96) married Melissa from Sooke, Vancouver Island, in June, having met while dragon boating 2 years ago. The wedding was outside in the Cowichan fold and thrust belt and his whole family showed up ("a rather hectic experience"), dressed in kilts. See page 7 for more details about Jason's adventures or http://web.uvic.ca/~jasonmac for his take on things.

Patrick McGinn (BSc '90) and family returned from Australia in 2002 and completed a 2 year post-doc in the Biology department at Mount Allison. In January, he moved to a post-doctoral position at Princeton University. Having gone from Geology through a PhD in Biology, he's now back in a Geoscience department again, working on the biological properties of the marine carbon cycle and hunting that elusive faculty position!

Lots more details at http://geoweb.princeton.edu/people/mcginn (although he obviously needs a new sweater!)

Kirsten McLaughlin (MSc '03) and son Kirk dropped by to visit before fall term started. Kirsten was then completing her maternity leave and returning to work at Ocean Nutrition in Dartmouth as a quality assurance and regulatory affairs officer.

Myke Mitchell (BSc'97) is still working with seismic exploration companies and GIS, mapping and designing 2D/3D seismic programs for oil companies in Calgary.

Erin Oickle (BScH '04) graduated from CoGS in marine geomatics and is now living in Dartmouth, and working at Canadian Seabed Research investigating ice scours using side scan sonar, and helping with the preparation for surveys in the Beaufort Sea (and thanks to Global Tectonics quizzes, she says she knew where that is!) She was going as the ice scour analyst onboard the CCGS Nahidik. Email: erin_oickle@hotmail.com.

Heather Paul (BScH '02) wrote from just south of the Arctic Circle on the Ocean Drilling Program, accompanied by Karen Johnston and Paul Ténière, but was looking forward to docking in Dublin, yet another port of call after two months in Portugal. E-mail: tastethesecret@hotmail.co

Trevor Perkins (BScH '95) was encountered at the GAC-MAC meeting in Halifax. He works for Cameco Corporation, in Saskatoon, engaged in the search for uranium deposits. E-mail: trevor_perkins@cameco.com

Alison Steele (BSc '87) and daughter Caley dropped by in August for a home visit. She works for an environmental services firm in Houston.

Terry Swinamer (BScH '84) dropped by the department on a NS tour in August. He now works in a substance abuse program in the correctional services in Kingston – he appreciates the promotion, which gives him more regular hours and no more "restraint" necessary (we assume for his clients, not him).

Darin Wasylik (BScH '04) sent us some pictures from Eritrea (East Africa) in April. The licence he was working involved a VHMS ore body (see www.nevsun.com). He writes that it was a very interesting place to visit, the city felt like a European villa and the people were all very friendly. Temperatures reached up to 46°, but they did have air conditioned rooms at camp. Email: dwasylik@hotmail.com.

Lincoln Weller (BSc '05) has been working on gravity surveys for Excel Geophysics out of High River, Alberta, and living in Calgary. His jobs have taken him to Montana, southern Alberta and BC, and northern BC, and he was expecting to head to the Great Bear Lake area of NWT. He wrote "I am constantly reminded of the poster that was in one of the corners on the Geology floor with a picture of mountains with the caption "This is my cubicle." I have experienced this so many times already and love it!" In October he and Carol Hubbard were married and had a touch of homesickness, watching as the Axemen won a football game and pictures of Wolfville and the campus were flashed up. E-mail: 047368w@acadiau.ca.

Nadine Wood (BSc '05) headed west in June to work in the Alberta badlands with Phil Currie (University of Alberta), then went on to Missoula, Montana to volunteer in invertebrate paleontology. Since then she has been working at the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John as a Geoscience Research Heritage Assistant in Geology and Palaeontology, studying the scientific and heritage significance of geological and paleontological sites in the Saint John area and eventually developing a plan for site protection and geotourism. Most recently she has been identifying Carboniferous tetrapod footprints from New Brunswick, identifying trilobites, and preparing property searches and fossil lists for important paleo sites in New Brunswick. E-mail: 045502w@acadiau.ca

Raymond Yip Choy (BS '82) keeps in touch with an annual Christmas letter from his home in Peterborough, Ontario. Raymond and his wife Suzanne have a busy life with their three sons Sean (21), Seanon (19), and Marc (15). They can be reached at 862 Cumberland Avenue, Peterborough, ON K9H 7B2,

We could not help but notice that the August 2005 issue of the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences contained articles by THREE Acadia graduates - **Tassos Grammatikoloulos** (**MSc '92**) who wrote about the genesis of the Olden wollastonite skarn in Ontario, **Kaesey Gladwin** (**BSc '00**), who wrote about the geology and juxtaposition history of the Yukon-Tanana, Slide Mountain, and Cassiar terranes in the Yukon, and **Sean Timpa** (**BSc '00**) who wrote about accretion-related metamorphism of the Metchosin igneous complex in BC. Congratulations!!