

Alumni News

just disasters waiting to happen. Two interesting hurricane facts are that Alex this year on August 1 was the sixth latest first hurricane for a season and that Andrew on August 22 was the latest of all first hurricanes for a season. Does the delay add power to the hurricanes that follow?

Jeff Donnelly has added a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) unit as a key tool for profiling the sediment structure within lakes and bogs. Long gone are the days in the lab, when students would spend a day probing a basin with metal rods to measure the changing depth of the basin and the presence of any sand layers marking previous low stands of the water. This equipment opens many new opportunities to add to the lake-level database that Bryan Shuman (PhD '01) upgraded and built in his thesis research. Jeff and Bryan (now at Minnesota in Geography) are collaborating on this research, and Paige Newby will be working on some of the lake sediments collected as part of this research. For some of her research, she will be doing pollen work on cores from which students under Professor Yongsong Huang are completing geochemical analyses of the sediments.

Tom continues as the Geo-Bio Concentration advisor with a large group of advisees. He is also teaching The Fossil Record, for which Paige Newby is helping as a TA. Tom taught the Mathematical Models in Geology course this past spring with the help of Bill Hutson, who has been working with the Earth History group again this year.

Selected Publications:

- Donnelly, J. P., J. Butler, S. Roll, Micah Wengren, and T. Webb III. 2004. A backbarrier overwash record of intense storms from Brigantine, New Jersey: *Marine Geology* 210:107-121.
- Shuman, B. N., P. Newby, Y. Huang, and T. Webb, III, 2004. Evidence for the close climatic control of New England vegetation history. *Ecology* 85:1297-1310.
- Webb, T., III, B.N. Shuman, J.W. Williams. 2003. Climatically-forced vegetation dynamics in North America during the late-Quaternary. In A. Gillespie, S.C. Porter, and B.F. Atwater, (eds.). *The Quaternary Period in the United States*. Elsevier, New York, p. 459-478.
- Williams, J. W., B.N. Shuman, T. Webb III 2001. Dissimilarity analyses of late-Quaternary vegetation and climate in eastern North America. *Ecology* 82: 3346-3362.
- Williams, J.W., B.N. Shuman, T. Webb III, P.J. Bartlein, P.L. Leduc. 2004. Late Quaternary vegetation dynamics in North America: scaling from taxa to biomes. *Ecological Monographs* 74:309-334.



The faculty line-up prior to the 2004 department commencement ceremony.

A

Irene Antonenko, PhD '99: My husband, John Prinos, and I are expecting the birth of our second son in mid-November, 2004. I am currently teaching at the University of Toronto and plan to continue right up to my due date.

Michael Aurelia, MSc '72: I retired from the Town of Greenwich CT Inland Wetland & Watercourses Agency on May 31, 2002 where I served as its Director for almost 30 years. Recently I have been consulting on wetland and watercourse problems in CT. I mainly work for municipalities or citizen groups and non-profit conservation organizations. I also find myself in the grant writing business for the same folks. I presented a paper on "Using GIS as a tool to identify vernal pool habitats in southwestern CT" at the 25th Annual meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists which was held in Seattle this July. Got to see some great geology as well while spending a week on the Olympic peninsula after the meeting. After more than 30 years as a regulatory bureaucrat, I finally have an opportunity to do some wetland science again.

B

Carl Baum, MSc '83: I am an MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Yale School of Medicine, and an editor of a new textbook from McGraw-Hill, "Pediatric Toxicology: Diagnosis and Management of the Poisoned Child".

Michael Blanpied, PhD '89: Last summer I relocated from the USGS earthquake research office in Menlo Park, CA, where I'd been since leaving Brown in 1989, to USGS headquarters in Reston, VA (a bit west of the beltway). In my new role as Associate "Coordinator for the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program, I help oversee the funding and overall science direction for the program, and have a lead role in coordinating USGS research in earthquake source physics. California was very nice, but I'm liking being back in the familiar surroundings of the east coast, and my wife (Catherine Linberg) and 3rd-grade son (Greg) are enjoying Reston, which is a pleasant, family-friendly community. I'd be happy to hear from any Brown friends living in the area, mblanpied@usgs.gov.

Margaret Boettcher, ScB '98: I am currently finishing my PhD in the MIT/Woods Hole Joint Program, where I've been studying earthquake processes, primarily on oceanic transform faults, for the last five and a half years. I've really enjoyed my time in Woods Hole, so while I'm looking forward to the next step in my career, I'll certainly miss living here.

Daniel Brabander, PhD '97: Well after sojourning for five years as a post doc in an Environmental Engineering Department and two as Director of the Environmental Studies Program at UMass-Boston, I have found my way back to a geosciences department at Wellesley College. For pictures and research updates check out: <http://www.wellesley.edu/Geology/facultyprofiles/djb.htm>.

(continued on page 38)

Alumni News...

C

Nicholas Carras, MSc '87: I am married and living on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Finally finished medical training and I practice Anesthesiology and Pediatric Anesthesiology in Manhasset, NY. Geology right now unfortunately limited to helping my wife with her Earth Science classes. SCUBA diving and flying to maintain my sanity.....

Elizabeth Chambers, ScB '87: After two eventful years in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I transferred to Moscow, Russia, this past summer. Currently I am the Financial Management Officer at the Mission in Russia for the U.S. Agency for International Development. I am enjoying the work as well as getting around with my Russian and running through Red Square. I recently completed my tenth marathon.

Jiajie Chen, PhD '94: After finishing my PhD dissertation and leaving Brown in later 1993, I have joined Amoco Production Company, Andrews Group International, Inc. (a Core Laboratory, Inc. company), and most recently, Marathon Oil Company (Houston, TX) as a senior geologist in its Technology group. My current job involves geological modeling of oil and gas reservoirs worldwide, using information from geological, seismic, well logs, cores, and production, based on integrated geoscience and engineering approaches. The goal is to define available reserve in an objective way, and to understand the behaviors of the reservoirs for maximizing oil and gas recovery. Sixteen years ago when I was ad-

mitted to Brown as a PhD candidate, I had a strong desire to conduct in-depth research in the future. Life took a different track: I have denoted myself over the last ten+ years in the energy industries. Fortunately, scientific pursuing does not completely conflict with practical needs in the industries. In my career with the oil industries, I have opportunities to work on many large oil and gas fields in different parts of the world. I have found that the general geoscience concepts and knowledge I learned from Brown are equally useful to the energy fields. I am excited on all the opportunities and challenges in my daily responsibilities. My wife Bing is a financial analyst with Unocal Corporation, another independent oil company located in the town we live, named Sugar Land, about 25 miles SW of downtown Houston. Our first child, Connie, who accompanied us for our unforgettable time at Brown for nearly a couple of years, is now a 10th grader. To my surprise, she is not a good musician as I expected but is a good debater. Our second daughter, Janet, was born in October, 1999. Being a father of two lovely girls, I find my life so enjoyable and, of course, very busy and challenging too. Best regards to all at the Department of Geological Sciences and my fellow alumni.

Patrick Clark, AB '82: All is well at home, and work. My sons are both 6'2" (so far). Anyone wishing to write, reach me at pclark8@cox.net. Life is really going well.

James Conca, AB '79: I have started a new job this week (9/30/04), Director of the New Mexico State University CEMRC (Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center), a radio-chemistry and environmental chemistry facility here in

Carlsbad, NM near the WIPP site. I'm excited as to the possibilities for both rad and non-rad environmental work, whole-body counting, homeland security work, training, etc., that we can do, especially collaborations that can compliment other's capabilities (we even have Pu here now!). At 26% overhead we're quite a bargain, too.

Ken Conca, ScB '82: I am an associate professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland, where I teach courses in international relations and environmental policy. My most recent books are *Governing Water: Transnational Contentious Politics and Global Institution Building* (forthcoming with MIT Press, 2005) and *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Johannesburg* (Westview Press, 3rd edition, 2004). My wife, Tina Cheng (Brown MD 1986) and I live in Ellicott City, Maryland with our children Alison (11) and Andrew (8). I can be reached at kconca@gvpt.umd.edu.

Liz Cottrell, ScB '97: I had a great time this summer out west with Prof. Mac Rutherford, and grad students Mike Nicholis, Molly McCanta, and Tina Calvin checking out volcanics in Northern NM and Southern CO after attending the Oxygen in Terrestrial Planets Conference in Santa Fe (*see page 9 for photo*). This summer I was awarded my PhD from Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory / Columbia University. Currently, I am a Columbia Science Fellow and Lamont Postdoctoral Research Scientist in New York. The fellowship funds both teaching and research; I teach science to first year undergraduates as part of Columbia's mandatory Core Curriculum – the opposite end of the spectrum from the

"Liberal Education" at Brown. As part of the course I teach neuroscience, biodiversity, abrupt climate change, and stellar evolution – a renaissance science education (for them and for me!). So far I'm having a great time. (www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~liz) and eac@alumni.brown.edu.

D

Lauris Davies, ScB '85: In September 2003, we welcomed Louise Rose Dellarco to our family. She joined big brothers Jonas (7) and Henry (4) in ensuring that her Mom and Dad continue our mad sprint through our days. I returned to the US EPS after a 6 month maternity leave to work part-time as the Associate Director of Compliance and Enforcement for the Pacific Northwest Region. Working at EPS continues to be a rewarding and challenging endeavor – tough issues to manage, but great scientists and policy makers to work with. After 15 years in Seattle, I can almost call myself a west coaster, but we still return regularly to New England to visit family and friends.

Sarah Dietrich, ScB '82: I am still working as in-house counsel for Columbia Gulf Transmission Company (a gas pipeline) and am becoming quite familiar with pipeline engineering. I also do work for the company's electric side and in that role I'm becoming familiar with the operation of hydroelectric facilities (aka dams). Learning those things makes lawyering fun. The kids are growing (now 9, 7 and 6) and keep us busy 5 days out of 7 with soccer, guitar and piano lessons – not to mention homework and the rest of life. I'm hoping to learn how to play piano along with my oldest son. I tried to keep up with the 7 year old on learning guitar, but he far

outpaced me. Houston is still a great place to live and visit, and I welcome a call from anyone who might be visiting down here. My e-mail is sarahdietrich@sbcglobal.net; phone: 713-726-0372

E

William J. Ehmman, MSc '83: I have started a new job as Director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, on the campus of Northland College in Ashland, WI, where we are building a premier program in environmental liberal arts – be glad to share info with Brown alums looking at colleges.

Bob Ettinger, ScB '01: As I write this, I just finished helping 2 classes of 6th graders analyze their lab data to look at digestive enzymes in the mouth. It's not quite as exciting as watching erosion and deposition in a model stream bed like we did last year in 7th grade, but it's still fun. I'm teaching science and math to 6th graders at a public school in Dorchester, MA (in Boston). It's lots of fun, and certainly way more challenging than I could ever hope. In November, we start working with a weather curriculum, but right now I miss working with rocks. If there are any geo alums in the area, I'd be excited to meet up! Drop me an email at Robert_Ettinger@yahoo.com.

F

Chris Fay, AB '84: I never would have guessed while studying geology 20 years ago, I'd end up living and working so close to Camp Bruno. But after a fairly exhaustive search for the right combination of things like water access, a strategic spot for my consulting firm, and so forth, we moved from Greenwich, CT to Bristol, RI

late in 2002. Greenwich Strategy (now 8 years old), is now based in Providence. My wife, Beth, and our two kids (John, 3, and Claire, 1) and I are very happy with our new hometown and state. Being near Brown has many advantages, not least of which is a tremendous pool of prospective employees. In fact, about a year ago, we hired and therefore contributed to the corruption of a perfectly able Brown geology grad (Matt Mahoney, AB 2003), who traded in his rock hammer for an HP12C.

Tomas Feininger, PhD '64: Through 13 multi-month field seasons, spread over 28 years (1971-1999), I have completed mapping the basement terrain of southwestern Ecuador, an area of 2400 km² (= 90% of the area of the State of Rhode Island) that lies between the high Andes and the Pacific shore. Mostly I did the work alone (though always accompanied by a machetero to cut trails and fend off snakes), and all on foot. The region is varied geographically (desert to rain forest; sea level to 2800 m) and geologically (three distinct terrains: one low-P facies series, one very low-P facies series, one high-P facies series with eclogite). Based on my fieldwork, written observations at 4,365 outcrops, some 3,000 rock samples, 970 petrographic descriptions of thin sections, as well as innumerable modal analyses, whole-rock and microprobe mineral analyses, I'm writing it all up. I spent the past winter drafting by hand the geology of the thirty 1:25,000-scale topo sheets that cover the area. I have no idea who will publish this monster. When it's done, and I complete mapping the Lac Piché Anorthosite this (2004) summer here in Québec, it will be time to hang up the hammer. I'll be 70. Enough's enough.

Peter Freehafer, AB '86: Having been an employee of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation since 1989, I recently accepted a position as the Division of Water's Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator. The Bay's main tributary, the Susquehanna River, originates in Cooperstown, NY (my hometown) and drains about 6,200 square miles in NY. **Professor Warren Prell's** ears must have rang the day I mentioned "salinity profile in hundred-acre cove" during an interview for the position. Actually, my past work "conserving" NYC's Catskill Mountain water supply reservoirs may have helped me more.

G

Debra Gore, AB '88: After many years of medical training, I'm finally working as a Family Practice Physician in Spokane, WA. I did my residency here and we decided to stay. I love my job and life here. It's a bit of a stretch from my days in the Geochem building. My husband, an ER doc, and our twin boys, age 5+, seem to be thriving here as well. Luckily our work allows us to get out and explore quite a bit. From here we venture west to the coast and east to the mountains and rivers of Idaho and Montana. We live out of town in the country and have neat basalt outcrops on the property which make great rock climbing routes for 5 year olds. I have taken up beekeeping and have just finished with my first harvest – 4 gallons of delicious honey!! I see John Van Newkirk frequently as he and his family live in the Seattle area. Our last adventure was a bike ride along Lake Washington with the kids on a gorgeous Seattle day! Come visit if you are even in the area!

Tracy Gregg, ScB '90: I'm happy to report that I received tenure at the University at Buffalo (aka SUNY-Buffalo) in the spring, and am now an associate professor in the geology department. My hubby, Tim Gregg ('89, chemistry), is a research assistant professor in the chemistry department at UB. Our son, Robert, is 6 years old and knows all about the volcanoes on Mars; Edith, our 3-year-old, is just learning that Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos. They're both able to correctly identify limestone and sandstone in the field, so I have high hopes for their geologic futures!

David Grinspoon, AB/ScB '82: I have won the 2004 PEN Center USA Literary Award in Research Nonfiction for my book *Lonely Planets: The Natural Philosophy of Alien Life*. I am also now the Book Review Editor for the journal *Astrobiology*, and encourage fellow alums to review books for the journal. The scope is wide ranging and could include, for example, relevant science fiction or science books ranging from geology to astrophysics to microbiology, and ranging in level from popular to technical, as long as there is some relevance to the broad field of astrobiology. I can be contacted at david@boulder.swri.edu.

H

Don Herron, ScB '71: This past summer my wife and I managed to survive the weddings of our two oldest daughters (the ceremonies, one in Arizona and the other in Pennsylvania, took place within one month of each other). The older of the two, Kristine, graduated from Brown in 1997 with a degree in computer science – she did manage to take one geology course during her four years in Providence.

Alumni News...

K

Karen Katrinak, ScB '84: I am working at the University of North Dakota's Earth System Science Institute in Grand Forks. My husband and I have two sons, Aidan (age 6) and Liam (age 1). I stay in touch with Brown by serving as BAC Chair for North Dakota. I can be reached at katrinak@umac.org.

Jennifer Kay, AB '99: I am still living in Seattle and working on my PhD studying cirrus clouds. This October I was in Oliktok Point, Alaska on the North Slope launching radiosondes (weather balloons) for a mixed phase cloud experiment. I am keeping warm and staying away from polar bears – don't worry J. This summer, *Gerrit Bulman* ('00) and *Josh Schwartz* ('00) stopped through Seattle after doing field work in the North Cascades. We had a wonderful reunion of geologists including Seattle residents *Ali Saperstein* (*Tarbox*) ('99) and *Rob Elleman* ('97). Hello to everyone, especially *Jim Head*, *Jan Tullis* and *Mac Rutherford*.

Ted Keizer, AB '94: In the last year, I have kept up with my theme of pushing mountain climbing and ultramarathon records by setting a new record on The Long Trail of Vermont in 4 days, 13 hours and 28 minutes. It traverses the spine of the Green Mountains from Canada to Massachusetts for 273 miles, cresting over 35 peaks for approximately 135,000 vertical feet of change. The Long Trail is the oldest long distance hiking trail in America dating back to 1910. I have also moved

to Portland, Oregon, and can be reached at Teddy@Alumni.Brown.edu or www.TheDogTeam.com.

Kristin Ketelhut, AB '03: I am applying to law school for next year in intellectual property and currently working as a patent prosecution paralegal. I am also still seeing Krister, for almost five years now.

John Kwok, AB '83: I've had a wild and crazy time here in New York City, which started of course with 9/11/01. I was laid off from a city government agency due to downsizing in the summer of 2003 and have been busy looking ever since. In my spare time I have been involved with several alumni organizations. For almost three years I was on the board of directors of the Brown University Club in New York, serving as its book club co-coordinator and field trip coordinator, organizing book club discussions and tours of museums and art galleries attended by scores of fellow Brunonians and others. However, last spring, I was forced to challenge the ethics of another, more charismatic, board member – who is still on the board – believing that his ethics resembled those of Martha Stewart's. The board disagreed, and voted me off. Ironically, at the same time as this transpired, I was providing event planning assistance to the Dartmouth Club of New York; in recognition for my help I've been bestowed with an honorary membership by its executive director. I have also been working on behalf of my high school alumni association as a member of its 2004 Centennial Planning Committee since 9/00. On June 6th we held a Centennial Reunion which featured more than a thousand alumni and faculty (I regret that one of our most distinguished alumni, *Bruno Gilletti*, wasn't present! Another distinguished

alumnus is this year's Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine; the fourth alumnus of my high school who's been awarded with a Nobel Prize.). Somehow I am also at work on what I hope will be the final draft of a near future science fiction novel; if it's a success, I'll be able to donate finally to the Benedum Fund. Last, but not least, I was pleased to see Geological Sciences' well-deserved recognition in planetary sciences mentioned often in connection with the Mars Rover mission. Look forward to hearing from others via email at spirifer10@excite.com.

L

Emily Stewart Lakdawalla, MSc '00: I guess my biggest news from last year is that I was at JPL for the first two months of the Mars Exploration Rover mission, including the landings of Spirit and Opportunity. I was there running The Planetary Society's Red Rover Goes to Mars Student Astronaut program, which was funded by the LEGO Company, and was a part of the mission. I ran an international contest last year to select high school age kids—we ended up with 16 from 12 different countries—who came to Pasadena in pairs to work on the science team. So I was up there nearly every day with all of these great kids, looking over the scientists' shoulders and watching the missions unfold. The most exciting moments were not the landings but a couple of hours afterward, when the first images came down. Opportunity's were especially exciting, because what she saw was so different from what any other rover had seen. The kids wrote journal entries every day about their experiences (they can be read at <http://planetary.org/rrgtm/journals>). The whole experience was

thrilling, but living on Mars time was a killer. Actually, I heard from others on the science team that as long as there was nothing holding you to Earth time (i.e. family) it wasn't that hard to adjust well to Mars time. But to try to stay on both schedules was unbelievably exhausting. Ask *John Grant* ('90) or *Cathy Weitz* ('98)—I ran into them frequently in their different capacities on the mission. Apart from that, and much more boring (but looming just as large in our lives), my husband Darius and I bought our first house, in West Hills. We are both learning new skills we'd never expected to; Darius is becoming a plumber; I a contractor; and both of us loggers. He's still working at the RAND Corporation, and I'm still at The Planetary Society. Since the Red Rover Goes to Mars project ended I've been spending most of my time writing for our website, covering mostly Mars and Saturn. I'm particularly proud of my Cassini-Huygens website at <http://planetary.org/saturn>.

Jian Lin, PhD '89: I was recently appointed as the Faculty Chair of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) Summer Student Fellow Program. I will oversee undergraduate research programs at WHOI, chair the selection of WHOI summer student fellows and minority fellows, and develop new collaborative programs in undergraduate research between WHOI and other universities including Brown University. I am pleased to report that progress is being made to strength collaboration between WHOI and Brown, including an effort to create opportunities for some Brown undergraduates to do research projects at WHOI in Cape Cod. WHOI is the largest independent oceanographic research and higher education institution in the world with research programs

on all aspects of ocean sciences, including applied ocean physics and engineering, biology, geology and geophysics, marine chemistry and geochemistry, physical oceanography, and marine policy. It also hosts four thematic research institutes on deep ocean exploration, ocean life, coastal ocean, and ocean and climate change.

Jacques Lord, ScB '79: The Lord family is coping with southern California craziness. I am working as a Senior Project Manager for Kleinfelder after being the environmental department manager for 4 years. My wife and four girls are working hard at band and soccer activities, and hopefully homework. I still enjoy performing magic (www.gigmasters.com/magic/jacqueslord/) in a professional capacity and hiking in our desert parks with the children rooting around old prospects for mineral specimens. I am especially pleased with my efforts to create a "speakers bureau" for the San Diego City EEO office. I am helping the City identify, train, and place working professionals into city K-6 classrooms to talk about science and engineering with enthusiasm and infectious energy. The goal is to provide inspiration for inner city youth to go into math and science.

M
Celia Merzbacher, ScB '78: I am celebrating 15 years as a materials scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC. My research interests are focused on advanced and novel materials, such as glasses for specialty fiber optics and sensors, and nano-structured materials. For the past 18 months, I have been on loan from the Navy to the White House where I work in the Office Science and Technol-

ogy Policy overseeing issues related to nanotechnology, intellectual property and technology transfer, and assistive technologies—all areas that receive strong bipartisan support!

Gregory Mountain, AB '72: As of July 1, 2003 I'm a tenured professor in the Geosciences Department at Rutgers. Over the previous 20 years at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory I'd gradually assumed the 'absent-minded' part of this new role; now if I can just get used to someone calling me 'Professor' I'm all set. I'm trying to keep my hand in research and have retained an adjunct research position at Lamont, but I'm finding that doing a good job at this teaching thing takes a lot more time than it seemed from the other side. I'm enjoying it, and an unexpected perk is that I'm probably learning at least as much as the students. So if any of you have motivated geology majors looking for a grad school in marine geology/geophysics, please tell them to give Rutgers a look.

N
Debbie Travis Nuberger, ScB '85: I am practicing law again after taking off several years while having babies. My kids are 9, 5 and almost 2 (Ray, Roger and Maggie) so I have started part time work as a contract litigation lawyer (that means my clients are other lawyers). I still enjoy geology vicariously as my husband, Dan Neuberger, runs his own business NUE Oil & Gas, L.L.C. I jokingly made business cards for myself that show me as "General Counsel" and boss of my husband – sounds good but I actually do no work for the company. Dan didn't even confiscate ALL of the cards. I would love to hear from old friends – we moved across the street: 3822

Denver Ave., Corpus Christi, TX 78411. (361) 855-6814

O
Jeff Oslick, PhD '98: The big news is that I got married on March 20, 2004! My wife, Stephanie, a marine biologist, works as an environmental planner/consultant. We live in Fullerton, CA. I'm working for both Tetra Tech FW in Santa Ana, and a small company called Project Navigator. Much of my work involves the remediation and redevelopment of former oil fields in Southern California. I am also still an active pilot, and a volunteer at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. You can reach me at oslickj@sbcglobal.net.

P
Molly Phipps, ScB '99: I am finishing up a Masters in Oceanography at Oregon State University and starting a new PhD program in Science Education here at OSU. My PhD will focus on "Free-choice learning", basically science that is learned outside the school setting (museums, national parks, public outreach, outdoor schools, etc.). I'm the first student in my program so I get to help shape the program. This year I am working with the SMILE (Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences) Program (there's one in OR and one in RI) designing and running an oceanography challenge for high school students participating in a state-wide after-school programs. I'm settling into life in Oregon, but I miss Providence and of course Louie's. I can be reached at molly_phipps@alumni.brown.edu.

R
Laurie Raymond, ScB '78: Greetings! My latest career is in nursing and it's great. This after an 8 year stint as a

research assistant at Woods Hole Oceanographic and another working with troubled boys. After over 20 years here, I remain immersed in the natural beauty of the Cape and hike, swim, sail, bike whenever I can.

Gary Robbins, MSc '72: I am now working at the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering, University of Connecticut. I am continuing and expanding my teaching and research efforts in ground water contamination and water resources.

Peter Rona, '56: Our IMAX film, Volcanoes of the Deep Sea, illuminates hydrothermal vents in the deep Atlantic and Pacific as never before using cutting edge lighting and filming technology. The film is coming to IMAX theaters in Providence, as well as to theaters around the country and the world. The thread that ties the film together is the search to solve the mystery of Paleodictyon, one of the oldest living fossils on Earth, and the subject of ongoing research (my article in the September, 2004 issue of Natural History magazine). Research and teaching progress this year includes enhancing our acoustic images of black smoker plumes to elucidate flow and dispersion processes; identification of extensive mass gravitational movements on the northeastern U.S. continental margin related to fluid pressure contributed by degassing of gas hydrates; and the design and implementation of a new large lecture introductory course in oceanography and a graduate course in ocean ridge processes at Rutgers University. The acoustic imaging and slope instability results are the subject of our presentations at the American Geophysical Fall Annual Meeting in San Francisco this December.

Alumni News...

S

Connie Sancetta, MSc '73: I hope to participate in a Paleolithic dig in Sicily next summer. A professor at Messina University is excavating a cave site from 150,000 BP and has invited me to join the group as a volunteer. This comes about through my research in genealogy, which led me to a Sicilian cousin who participates in the digs.

Liz Starin, AB '02: I have moved to New York, and I'm working in the editorial department of HarperCollins Children's Books.

Mitch Stark, MSc '82: I am still working at the Geysers Geothermal Field in Calpine, recently promoted to Resource Manager. Toured Brown (and other East Coast campuses) during the summer of 2003 with my son Josh, visited with Don Forsyth and others, and took in a PawSox game.

Christopher Starr, ScB '93: Even though I am an Ophthalmologist in New York City I have found that my background in Geology has helped me do ... absolutely nothing! Just kidding ... yes I am an eye surgeon but I look back fondly on my days in the geo department.

T

Debbie Thomas, ScB '96: I joined the faculty in the Oceanography Department at Texas A&M last January and am absolutely thrilled (although somewhat dismayed that "howdy" so readily became a part of my daily vocabulary...). It is particularly wonderful to be

here in College Station with all my IODP friends. My significant other, Brent Miller, joined the Department of Geology & Geophysics, and we are about to begin construction of a radiogenic isotope facility. My new email is dthomas@ocean.tamu.edu. I look forward to seeing everyone at AGU this year!

Robert Thunell, ScB '73: I recently completed my 25th year in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of South Carolina and at the beginning of this academic year was appointed Director of our Marine Science Program. This past May I returned to Brown for the first time in quite a few years to attend my wife's (Maureen McConaghy) 30th reunion. The oldest of our three sons, Matthew, is currently a sophomore at Yale.

V

Carolyn Van der Bogert, PhD '04: I'm a research scientist for the Gemological Institute of America, Gem Trade Lab in NYC. I am doing research on identifying treatments in pearls and diamonds. I also help determine the origin of color (natural or treated) for fancy-colored diamonds that come through the lab for reports. It can make a BIG difference in the value of the diamond. It's a little bit different to work on 5th Avenue than on Lincoln Field!

Bowdoin Van Riper, AB '85: I'm still teaching Science, Technology, and Society at Southern Polytechnic State University, just north of Atlanta. My book *Imagining Flight: Aviation and Popular Culture* was published late last year, and *Rockets and Missiles: The Life Story of a Technology* will be out in November 2004.

W

Charlie Walton, ScB '95: *Kate McCleary* ('95) and I were married in Little Compton, Rhode Island on October 16th, 2004. We are currently living in New York and travel to Rhode Island frequently to visit Kate's parents.

Peter Wang, ScB '83: I'm still soldiering on here at Schlumberger Information Solutions in Houston (formerly GeoQuest), hoping that \$50/bbl oil will make our employment a little bit more secure. We took our seven year old daughter Audrey on her first fossil hunt, she picked up lots of Eocene gastropods and had great fun on the muddy banks of the Brazos River. I can be reached at pwang@houston.oilfield.slb.com.

Robert S. Webb, PhD '90: *John Humphrey* ('87) and I run into each other dropping off our daughters, Molly Webb (3rd Grade) and Rebecca Humphrey (4th Grade) for early morning meetings of the Foothill Elementary Student Government.

Charley Weiland, ScB '87: This has been an action packed year. I moved from academic technology to earthquake research, as I am now the SAFOD Data Manager. SAFOD is the Earthscope project in which we are drilling into the San Andreas fault near Parkfield. On the home front, we completed a major addition to the house, so we have a guest room, if you happen to be in town. Helen is enjoying kindergarten, Lillian turned 1, and Francie went back to work.

John Williams, PhD '00: I have just moved to Madison, Wisconsin, to start a position as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin. This is where my

advisor, **Tom Webb**, got his PhD, so in some odd way it's like coming home. I am teaching Paleoclimatology this fall and am unashamedly rifling through my old class notes for material. Sarah and I celebrated the birth of a girl, Alma Wise Williams on New Year's Eve 2003. I can be reached at jjw@geography.wisc.edu or www.geography.wisc.edu/faculty/williams/welcome.html.

Michael Wysession, ScB '84: I am an Associate Professor at Washington University in St. Louis. My research involves using seismology to examine the structure of Earth's mantle. I continue my connection with Brown through collaboration with Professor Karen Fischer, and greatly enjoyed recent visits to the department, including the opportunity to give a department seminar.

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Sandra Yuter, ScB '83: I have been promoted to Research Associate Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

CALL FOR PHOTO SUBMISSIONS!

Would you like one of your high quality photographs to be considered for next year's Alumni Magazine "tear-out" calendar? If so, please send your submission(s) to Ruth_Crane@brown.edu. Requirements: color image, high resolution electronic jpeg or TIFF file, horizontal orientation. All entries must be submitted by October 1, 2005. The department staff will select the winning entry.