

# Geo-Tidings

## BARB EISWERTH '85 WINS AWARDS FOR HER NON-PROFIT WORK WITH REFUGEES

Not all IUP Geoscience alumni find themselves working as an earth scientists after graduation. Those who change careers are just as likely to be success stories as our traditional graduates, however, and we are equally delighted to get updates about their accomplishments.

Barb Eiswerth '85 writes to say, "I have moved on to other things never forgetting my earthly history. After making a mark in technology transfer in mineral exploration in South America I moved to Africa - Malawi - a great unexpected move." After finishing her PhD dissertation, "An evaluation of a soil erosion model using geomatics technologies in South-East Africa", Barb founded a non-profit organization: the Iskash\*taa Refugee Harvesting Network, which has been recognized locally, nationally and even internationally for the work they do assisting refugees in Arizona.



According to their website, Iskash\*taa began when young refugee students were recruited to participate in the Tucson Youth Fruit Mapping and Gleaning Project to identify, harvest, and redistribute locally grown fruits/vegetables which were going to waste in backyards and local farms. This work allowed refugees from areas such as Somalia to use their knowledge and skills from Africa to help their families and their own community while learning skills to help them adapt to their new lives in America.

Barb recently traveled to Washington DC to accept an award for Iskash\*taa's entry in a video story contest, "Portraits of Compassion" sponsored by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The award-winning video, which depicts Somali refugees harvesting fruits and vegetables from backyard trees and gardens, was shown to over 1000 attendees at a White House conference. In 2007, Barb was also one of three national winners of the first award ever given out by the National Cooperative Grocers Association to those whose work exemplifies the cooperative spirit.



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## Phil Lacy '74

I still teach earth science at East Liverpool High School in East Liverpool, Ohio and I teach a weather class at Youngstown State University. I also still live in Beaver, PA. Professionally, I am involved in several American Meteorological Society's educational programs, mainly DataStreme Ocean and DataStreme Atmosphere. These are FREE graduate courses offered on-line for teachers. If you do an internet search, you can probably find a program near you (or contact me). I currently offer the course to teachers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia but there are others across the country who do the same. My wife works for a finance company in Pittsburgh and my daughter is a junior at Slippery Rock. My son graduated from the Rock this past spring with a communications degree. My favorite memory of our geoscience department is being part of Paul Prince's meteorology and oceanography classes.

## Bob Horrell '75

I live in Scott Depot WV, near Charleston. I just completed my 30th year with Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation, where I am Manager of Gas Measurement. Cabot is a good company to work for. Pass that along to your students who may wish to work in the oil & gas business.

## Pat Imbrogno '78

I was asked by a venture capitalist to start a new oil and gas company called Wind City Oil and Gas LLC. He started in the Wind Generating business and saw the light so to speak and is investing in the fossil fuel arena now. Thus the name Wind City, no connection to Chicago. We also have a solar company in the ranks based in California.

## Dale Skoff '78

I worked in oil and gas industry for my first 7 years; I've been in Environmental Consulting for the past 22 years. I'm now working for Tetra Tech NUS in Pittsburgh specializing in Brownfields assessment and redevelopment projects. I'm still married to Annette who I met at IUP and helped me with drafting on some of my structure projects! Our son Justin graduated from Notre Dame and is now working in Chicago in finance. Our daughter Alyssa a sophomore at Penn State. I fly fish with Tark and Mark Yanoski when I

can, and also stay in touch with Eric Yocum ("Ike"), Paul Wellman ("Jelly Man") and Steve Woodward ("Ward"). Take care and enjoy the anniversary celebration. Please tell Dr. Clark, Mr. Park and all my former classmates I said "Hi" and God bless.

## Paul Weaverling '79

I currently work (since 2003) as a Program Manager for a small firm in Denver, CO that specializes in liability assumptions of environmentally impaired properties - a variation of Brownfield Redevelopment. Our deals range from the \$10 - 150 million range and include the first privatization of environmental liabilities at an Air Force Base and former Army propellant manufacturing facility. I get to manage the day-to-day implementation of remediation efforts by our partnering engineering remediation firms, interacting with federal and state regulatory entities, technical planning, etc. Before that, I was with an environmental engineering firm for 9 years managing and implementing active remediation projects for a variety of sites and clients. I originally came to Denver in early 1983 from the Univ. of Missouri to work for Mobil Oil and spent 9 fun-filled years doing exploration and production geology. After 9 years they made me an offer to move to SW Kansas and I politely refused that offer, which takes you back up through the preceding sentences.

My wife Colleen and I just celebrated our 22nd anniversary. No kids (I am kid enough) has allowed us to travel to numerous places around the world - I am missing only one continent and that one might be a very cold day before I get to it! Colleen is a big tennis nut so some adventures have been wrapped around the pursuit of seeing the Grand Slam tournaments. Through the years since I left IUP, I have run marathons both relatively flat (Boston) and steep (Pikes Peak). Using that running to get in shape, I have been fortunate to 'make round trips' on a lot of mountains such as all of Colorado's 54 14,000-ft peaks at least twice, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood, Cerro Aconcagua (Argentina), Cerro Cotopaxi (Ecuador), Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), and Island Peak in Nepal. The last was notable in that looking up from the top of Island Peak stood the top of Lhotse, the 4th highest in the world, a mere 8,000 ft higher! The Nepal trip this past May allowed me to fulfill a long-time dream to see Mt. Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and Cho Oyo!

**Tim Nuss '88**

I am still employed with the State of NJ, Department of Environmental Protection. I am an Environmental Specialist II. I have been here for 16 years now. I currently work in the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigations. I took this job a few years ago, after several years with the Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks, in which I oversaw cleanups from leaking tanks. Now, I track down responsible parties and "encourage" them to get the work done, or face the possibilities of penalties. I am married to my wife of 11 years, Doreen. We live in Westampton, NJ, which is near Cherry Hill, NJ, and not far from Philadelphia Pa. We have 1 beautiful seven-year old daughter, Shauna. She is your typical seven-year old, loves school, her friends, and sports. I coach her indoor soccer team in the winter, and will be taking my first stab at coaching her softball team this spring. (We'll see how that goes!). I am also an avid golfer, and have gotten my handicap to near single digits. Doreen and I purchased a piece of property in North Carolina on the Outer Banks (Hatteras Island) in 2002. In 2003 we decided to build a beach house. We rent it out for most of the summer, but keep weeks available for us. Overall we manage about 4 weeks per year down there, where I love to surf fish, and play with my daughter on the beach or in our pool. Its a great place to relax, and forget the hustle and bustle of living on the east coast near NY and Philly. Pass on, that it is available for rent! Any IUP alumni will get a discount from us.

**Jocelyn (Swentosky) Niedziela '01**

I am currently working as a family therapist in town at Family Counseling Center. I received my first masters from IUP in Adult and Community Education in 2002. I am finishing my second masters this December in School Counseling from Duquesne. I am also busy doing my internship for my masters in the Indiana Area School District. I married another former member of the department in 2005 - Andrew Niedziela. He is currently the Associate Technical Director of Fisher Auditorium (IUP). At this point we do not have any children. Even though I only graduated with a minor in geology, Andrew and I spend a good bit of time still keeping in touch with geology in the way of having a hobby in gemology. I still love to teach others about geology when I get the chance and also try to stay up to date on issues concerning environmental geology. Someday when I am done with school for my career I would like to complete my degree in geology, for my own personal benefit.

**Angela (Novotny) Pompa '97**

We've been busy with the usual work at DEP and Gateway and now that we have a toddler, we're on the run. Literally! We still have 2 dogs and 3 cats and live in Greensburg. I'll be teaching a Physical Geology lab at Saint Vincent College this semester. I'm really excited about getting into teaching! Dan is the Science Department Chair at Gateway and has lots going on there. We squeeze in bike rides, hikes, kayaking, and camping trips when we can, but Danny's just not quite ready for his own paddles. Maybe in another year or two!

**Mark Zellman '99**

I'm now living in Denver. I moved here just over one year ago. William Lettis & Assoc opened an office in Golden, and I jumped at the chance to help staff this office. Work has been slow for the past few months, but things are starting to pick up around here. We've got a lot of fault trenches open at the moment, and we're taking part in a huge landslide mapping project in Hong Kong. I hope all is well back there in Indiana!

**Ryan Donnelly '07**

I am the 9th grade earth science teacher at the New Hope Academy Charter School in York, PA (about 30 mins. from my hometown). It is a fairly new, urban school...4 years old. They offered me the position two days after my first interview, so everything happened fairly quickly. But I knew right away that it is a great situation for me. The administration and staff are very helpful towards new teachers and have strong outlooks for the students.

**Jeff Dereume '08**

Grad school is going well. The town of Fort Collins has proven to be fun and beautiful. It has been a neat feeling attending a large University. IUP seems to have prepared me well for my course load, and everything has gone very smooth so far. I am also teaching 4 geology 121 lab sections. I have had a lot of fun with this so far. It may prove to be a lot of added work down the road. I will only be teaching for one semester and then I will be on a research assistantship for the remaining semesters. My thesis project has already been laid out for me, and I will be looking at Reservoir Connectivity, Compartmentalization and Diagenesis in the Almond Ridge interval in Wyoming. Work on this will start next week when I meet with a large oil company in Denver to discuss the budget proposal. Things are off to a good/fast start!

## GEO ALUMNI WEB SITE

Our new IUP website has a dedicated page for alumni, which will be updated often with news and announcements of interest. You can also sign up for our alumni list-serv, which allows alums to exchange updates and plan small gatherings with each other. Future additions include photo galleries documenting each decade of the department. Your pictures and memories are always welcome – feel free to send them along with your news at any time.

**Website:**

[www.iup.edu/geoscience](http://www.iup.edu/geoscience)  
(click on alumni)

**Email:**

[geoscience-info@iup.edu](mailto:geoscience-info@iup.edu)

Several former faculty and staff of the department were unfortunately unable to join us at the 40th Anniversary celebration but they have sent their greetings.

**Paula Martini**, our department secretary in the 80's and early 90's, writes to say, "Thank you for the invitation, but unfortunately I won't be able to make it. I'm going out of town that weekend to celebrate my birthday. Please give my regards to all. Tell them I think of them often. I'm enjoying teaching 8th grade reading in Johnstown. It can be challenging, but all in all, it is worth it. Five more years and I'll be able to retire and spend more time with my six grandchildren. They are the love of my life. Again, thank you for thinking of me. If it weren't for my position at IUP, I wouldn't be teaching. So thank all the faculty for their patience and understanding. Please tell all the past students, I said hello and wish them well."

**Walt and Dottie Granata** also sent their regrets that they were unable to travel up to join us. Walt sent along his best wishes for the reunion and hopes all his former students are doing well. **Darlene Richardson** sends an 'aloha' from Hawaii, where she is enjoying retirement and says she would be happy to see of her former students who may be planning a trip to the islands.



## Current Geoscience Students Continue a Great Tradition!

Our current batch of majors are an active and out-going bunch who are keeping the spirit of Walsh Hall alive with their research projects and club activities. They have conducted successful gem and mineral sales to fund their meetings and travels, and have designed calendars featuring geologic photos from current and former students.

The students have designed yearly t-shirts, sponsored trips to conferences and field sites, and have also successfully networked with several IUP alumni to create internships both in oil and gas and the environmental field. They are also sponsoring a 'Bad Science Movie Night' in the new science dorm, to stimulate critical thinking and discussion about the way Hollywood depicts science and working scientists.

**Thanks to everyone whose generous donations to the Geoscience Fund have supported IUP student research and learning over the years!**

