Upcoming Geos-Alumni Event: We will hold an alumni reception during the AAPG Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas. The Trinity reception will be held on Monday, May 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m. The venue has not yet been confirmed, so be on the look-out for a reminder announcement later this spring. The reception information will also be posted on the Geosciences website: https://new.trinity.edu/academics/departments/geosciences

Happy New Year to all!

Departmental changes:

In May of 2017, Herndon Professor of Geosciences Thomas Gardner retired from Trinity University. Tom arrived to Trinity in 1995, after being Professor at Penn State University. He taught courses in environmental geology, earth surface processes, hydrology, and a field-based course in Quaternary geology. He co-led many of the Majors’ Field Trips, including legendary trips to Big Bend. Tom’s research in geomorphology and neotectonics has taken him around the world, including field sites in Central America, California, New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania (see Tom’s note on page 16 for an update).

Diane Smith was named the Herndon Professor in the fall of 2017. This transition opened a line at the rank of assistant professor, allowing us to hire Dr. Brady Ziegler. Brady started his work at Trinity in August 2018. He
teaches Earth’s Environmental Systems, Hydrogeology and Environmental Geochemistry and his research focuses on groundwater quality and biogeochemical processes in groundwater systems. Brady provides more about his background on page 27.

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Kurt Knesel joined us as Visiting Assistant Professor. Kurt completed his Ph.D. at UCLA in petrology and geochemistry and has worked in a diverse range of field settings. He has been teaching a variety of courses for the department in order to fill the “gaps” when other faculty are on leave. See Kurt’s note on page 18 for more information.

Dr. Thomas Adams, Curator of Paleontology and Geology at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, joined us in fall 2018 as a part-time faculty member to teach a course in Vertebrate Paleontology. Dr. Adams also co-taught the China course with Prof. Dan Lehrmann in summer of 2017.

New Mineral Display

Thanks to the generosity of geo-alum Scott West (’78), we now have a collection of superb mineral specimens on display in our hallway. Check it out next time you are on campus!
Rock Garden

The faculty, with strong support from our technician, Richard Silver, has worked to develop a new website (gotu.us/rockgarden) and physical signage for the Geosciences Rock garden, located between the Chapel and Marrs McLean Hall. The Garden was dedicated in honor of the late Geology Professor Don McGannon in 2015, with generous donations from alumni that allowed the department to build the Garden and to host frequent student "clean-up" days over the past several years. We hope to further develop the website, so that visitors (both in person and virtual) can learn more about rocks in the garden. Next time you're on campus, stop by and tour the Geosciences Rock Garden!

Visiting Lecturers:

The department hosted the following visiting lecturers. In addition to their presentation, each visitor spent time with our majors over lunch and/or at a reception, which provides a great opportunity for our students to visit with them in an informal environment.

- November 7, 2017: Dr. Kevin Smart (Southwest Research Institute), Applications of numerical geomechanical modeling to problems in structural geology
- March 5, 2018: Dr. Shan De Silva (Oregon State University), Super-eruption forensics: Understanding Earth’s most hazardous natural events
- September 26, 2018: Dr. Marina Suarez (University of Texas–San Antonio), Temperature, CO₂, and precipitation changes across a Cretaceous carbon isotope excursion, from a terrestrial viewpoint
- October 3, 2018: Bruce Cutright and Greg Frebourg (Thermal Energy Partners, LLC), Current developments in the geothermal power sector

Student Activities

The student Geology Club is an active group! They have taken trips to the Witte Museum, including a special tour with the Curator of Paleontology, Dr. Thomas Adams. Richard Silver took the group caving at Robber Barron Cave a couple of times. The Club also participated in the campus Health Initiative Fair by presenting a display on water quality and health.

Alumni Recognition

Dr. Marina Suarez (’03) was selected as one of five Trinity Young Alumni Awardees named “The Tower Five” honored during Alumni Weekend 2018 as game-changers in their fields. (See https://new.trinity.edu/news/bright-futures for more information.)
**Dr. Scott Tinker** ('82) received the **2018 AGI Medal** in Memory of Ian Campbell for superlative service to the geosciences. (See [https://www.geosociety.org/awards/18speeches/IanCampbell.htm](https://www.geosociety.org/awards/18speeches/IanCampbell.htm) for more information.)

**Other remarks**

Geosciences alumni are among the most generous donors to Trinity University and we are deeply grateful for your continued support of the department. We use your contributions to support a range of learning opportunities for geosciences students, such as field trips, research, and conference travel. For example, last May we took 15 students to the GSA Cordilleran Section meeting in Flagstaff as an "add-on" to the week-long Majors' Field trip we ran in Arizona. This May we'll be taking 16 students to the Guadalupe, Franklin, and Sacramento Mountains and the Tularosa Basin of west Texas and New Mexico. In addition to these fantastic opportunities and experiences for our students, your gifts allow us to recognize student achievements with substantive financial awards, and to maintain and update our collections, equipment, and software. We sincerely thank you!

Please visit us next time you're in San Antonio, and be sure to keep your contact information current. We look forward to hearing about what is new in your lives, so please stay in touch and let us know!

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**Ben Surpless hiking with research students in Utah, summer 2018**

**Left to right: Students Katherine Jones ('20), Asmara Lehrmann ('19), Caroline McKeighan ('19), and Adrien Lhemann ('18) getting ready to kayak the Llano River in Dan Lehrmann’s Basin Analysis class**
STUDENT NEWS

Graduates

May 2017
Joshua Hernandez
Isaac Johnson
Caroline Kelleher
Mark Kulas
Hannah Mathy
Yvette Muniz
Mollie Patzke
Brendan Powers
Samuel Simoneau
Graham Stockhausen
Sarah Thorne
Sean Watson
Lindsey Yazbek
Marcus Giannini

December 2017
Thomas Tremain

May 2018
Daniel Bomer
Luke Burdiss
Denton Lambert
Lisa Ma
Zachary Oretsky
Claire Rettenmaier
Miro Ronac Giannone
Bethany Rysak
Odalys Salinas
Isaac Villalobos

December 2018
Alexandria Byrd
Adrien Lhemann
Miles Wehner

Current Majors and Minors:

Alyssa Alvarado
Harrison Bellow
Thomas Best
Blake Elliott
Morgan Block
Chloe Campo
Amani Canada
Matthew Claybrook
Charles Davis
Karla Ferrero

Estella Marie Frausto
Marco Guirola
Maxine Hanley
Mica Jarocki
Katherine Jones
John Koellmann
Hannah-Elyse Konyecsni
Zoe Lacey
Asmara Lehrmann
Myron Lummus

Caleb Madole
Alvaro Marquez
Caroline McKeighan
Eryka Mendoza
Paige Parrish
Sajoy Pottian
Adria Schroeder
Curtis Segarra
Sarah Thompson
Anthony Vera
Members of Delta Xi Chapter, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, National Earth Sciences Honor Society

2017 Members:
Alyssa Alvarado
Elliot Blake
Luke Burdiss
Isaac Johnson
Danielle King
Denton Lamberg
Asmara Lehrmann
Caroline Kelleher
Lisa Ma
Hannah Mathy
Yvette Muniz
Zachary Oretzky
Mollie Patzke
Brendan Powers
Miro Gionnone
Bethany Rysak
Samuel Simoneau
Joseph Staggs
Emily Taylor
Sarah Thorne
Lindsey Yazbek
Sean Watson

2018 Members:
Alyssa Alvarado
Elliot Blake
Luke Burdiss
Denton Lambert
Asmara Lehrmann
Adrien Lhemann
Lisa Ma
Zachary Oretsky
Miro Giannone
Bethany Rysak

Student Awards and Honors

Departmental Awards:

Outstanding Senior Student and Tinker Family Geosciences Award:
2017: Sarah Thorne
2018: Bethany Rysak

Ed Roy Outstanding Research in Geosciences Award
2017: Caroline Kelleher
Mollie Patzke
Lindsey Yazbek
2018: Asmara Lehrmann
Robert Lowell Freed Scholarship:
2017: Bethany Rysak
2018: Marco Guirola

Sigma Gamma Epsilon W.A. Tarr Award:
2017: Mollie Patzke
2018: Bethany Rysak

Edwin Eckert Scholarships in Geology:
2017: Miro Ronac Giannone
       Zachary Oretsky
       Curtis Segarra
2018: Morgan Block
       Malisse Lummus
       Adria Schroeder

Trinity University Awards
Mach Family Research Fellowship
2017: Lindsey Yazbek
2018: Curtis Segarra

Hixon Environmental Studies Research Fellowship:
2018: Asmara Lehrmann

University Scholars (Top 15 students in each class based on GPA)
2017: Katherine Jones; Curtis Segarra
2018: Katherine Jones; Curtis Segarra

Members of Phi Beta Kappa
Class of 2017: Sarah Thorne; Sean Watson
Class of 2018: Adrien Lhemann; Lisa Ma
Class of 2019: Curtis Segarra

External Awards
Southwest Gem and Mineral Society Scholarships:
2017: Adrien Lhemann
       Lisa Ma
2018: Katherine Jones
       Curtis Segarra

South Texas Geological Society Chair’s Award
2017: Yvette Muniz
2018: Zachary Oretsky
South Texas Geological Society Harold D. Herndon Geological Scholarship

2017:  Asmara Lehrmann
2018:  Lisa Ma

CUR Undergraduate Research Award:

2016:  Sarah Thorne
2018:  Bethany Rysak

“Best Presentation” Awards, GSA meetings:

Hadley Swartz (’16): Best Oral Presentation, 2015 South-Central GSA section meeting, Baton Rouge, LA
Lindsey Yazbek (’17) and Sarah Thorne (’17): They tied for Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation, 2017 South-Central GSA section meeting, San Antonio, TX
Asmara Lehrmann (’19): Honorable mention for Best Undergraduate Poster, 2017 South-Central GSA section meeting, San Antonio, TX
Bethany Rysak (’18): Best Undergraduate Poster, 2018 Rocky Mountain-Cordilleran section meeting, Flagstaff, AZ
Katherine Jones (’20): Best Poster, Sigma Gamma Epsilon undergraduate poster session, Fall 2018 GSA annual meeting, Indianapolis, IN
Asmara Lehrmann (’19): Best Poster, GSA Sedimentary Geology Division and SEPM Poster Competition, Fall 2018 GSA annual meeting, Indianapolis, IN

Undergraduate Research:

Many of our students conduct research, working closely with a faculty member. Listed below are items completed by our students since our last newsletter: senior theses, published abstracts of presentations made by our students at professional conferences, and publications in peer-reviewed journals that include student authors.

2017 Theses:
Mollie Patzke, Characterizing the Hazard Creek complex of the Western Idaho Shear Zone: Analysis of a middle Cretaceous Idaho Arc. (Advisor: Kathy Surpless)

2018 Theses:
Bethany Rysak, Olivine Chemistry of Indian Heaven Lavas, Southern Washington Cascades. (Advisor: Diane Smith)
Publications of Meeting Abstracts involving current students and/or recent graduates [Student authors are denoted by boldface]


Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals involving students: [Student authors are denoted by boldface]

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Les Bleamaster (CSI Facilities Manager)

Hello GEOS classmates, former students, former professors and current colleagues (not mutually exclusive), and alumni I have never met,

2018 marked my tenth year of full-time employment at Trinity (5 years as Visiting Assistant Professor and 5 as CSI Facilities Manager). It was also my twenty-year reunion for which I served on the alumni reunion committee, carried the 20-year reunion banner at both commencement and convocation, and helped the class of 1998 win the alumni weekend class donor participation award at just over 25% (many of you heard the call and kicked in, even if you were class of 1996 or 1997).
I have so many good memories that include Trinity. I can remember attending the concert series in Laurie as an elementary schooler, and swimming in the outdoor pool as an age group swimmer (then later as a varsity athlete). As you may recall, Jana (Biology ’98) and I were married in 1996 (skipping out on Tom’s Geomorph class to get an early start on the honeymoon) and Caden, our first born, was then a constant figure in the department for the next two years. He is now at rising Senior, studying accounting, at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Sean and Bode are doing well too!

Since returning, I have had the opportunity to teach many different classes and now as facilities manager I get to interact with all of the science departments. Lately, I have been working with Wilson Terrell (Eng. Sci.) on creating a “Makerspace” in the machine shop area. Through capital requests, CSI departmental contributions, and collaborations with Art, Theater, Entrepreneurship, and ITS we have acquired several CNC machines (4ft x 8ft Shop Bot, plasma cutter, water jet, Xcarve, Zing and Glowforge lasers, as well as several 3D printers). Kevin Nickels (Eng. Sci.) and Ryan Hodge (CSI technician) are offering the first “Making at Trinity” course in the spring with hopes of expanding the offering to include a course specifically for faculty and staff.

However, the most exciting recent development has been working with Diane Smith and Maria Paganelli (Professor in Economics) creating and running the Iceland Course. We have offered the course twice (2014 and 2018) exposing 31 Trinity students to the wonders of Icelandic geology, culture, history, politics and economy (fishing, banking, and energy industries), natural resources, and beauty. The experience leaves students transformed and provides valuable perspectives. The full list of activities is too long for this note, but a few highlights include: Tea with the Icelandic President, having dinner with comedian-author-former Reykjavik Mayor Jon Gnarr, getting sprayed by the largest waterfall in Europe (Dettifoss), walking on a glacier, boating with icebergs, riding Icelandic horses, visiting financial institutions, and enjoying thermal baths, lots of coffee, Brennivin, fermented shark (yuck), museums, and so
much more! We hope to be on a sustainable every-other-year schedule and dare I say it…. Alumni Field Trip? Just putting it out there.

**Walt Coppinger (Emeritus)**

Greetings to everybody! We are pleased to say that all is well in Montana — though a bit chilly and windy at the moment. Winter is close at hand. The sun goes down at 4:30, nights are long… We had no “Indian Summer” this fall to moderate the change of seasons for us.

Roberta and I are both doing well, aside from the normal amount of annual wear and tear and slowing down that comes with getting on in years. We are still getting around well, staying healthy and active, getting outdoors as much as we can, doing some geologic poking around on occasion, and enjoying our friends and the small community in which we live. Our children and grandchildren are thriving in their rather widespread locations; Orlando (Denise), Seattle (Dan), and Dripping Springs, TX (Justine). The five grandchildren (5 seems to be a stable number) are growing up too fast, now ranging from 16 down to 8 years old. We don’t get to see them too often, but they all enjoy travelling here (preferably in summer) to visit.

Early last year, Roberta volunteered to be a Precinct Captain in the Democratic Party efforts for the 2018 mid-term election campaigns, local and national. I became her assistant and Chauffer by default. Being a Democrat in Montana is lonely,… sort of like being a tiny blue island in a turbulent red ocean. And, a precinct here is half of a county. That kept us occupied from March through November. We met a lot of interesting people, put over 800 miles on our vehicle (mostly on country back roads) and were never more than 25 miles from Whitehall the whole time. All of our Democratic candidates at the state and local level got trounced. Jon Tester was narrowly re-elected as our Senator. It was a practical lesson in rural politics in a divided electorate. Frustrating in some ways, but it was oddly rewarding in the end.

This year marks a decade of retirement for us. Time has permitted me more objectivity in my remembrances of Trinity and the Department. Let me share a few… In 1974, Trinity was known as “The University in the Sun.” There was little student diversity, Thursday afternoon was “golf day” for faculty/administration/staff and was very quiet, and Friday afternoon was “happy hour” at the Pearl brewery. Don McGannon was Chair and dictator of the Department. It was a 4 man department then. Diane Smith would change that tradition in time. Ed Roy and Bob Freed smoked cigars in cubbyhole offices. MMSB was getting old and outdated. BUT, the department (also including Ed Schleh) turned out a significant number of outstanding geologists who went on to
successful and noted careers in academics, industry, and private businesses of all sorts. It was an exciting environment for me to step into. That environment evolved very rapidly during my tenure at Trinity. At times it was head spinning, yet we continued to attract talented and dedicated students. Always challenging, always interesting people, and always exciting! We have so many great memories. Also, my memory is not always so good these days… just sayin’.

Wishing you all the very best. We hope that 2019 brings you peace and success, and where applicable, prosperity in your endeavors. --Walt and Roberta Coppinger

Bob Freed (Emeritus)

A Big Hello to all—especially those from the 20th Century! This coming May 2019 marks twenty years since I retired from Trinity. And last year I decided it was time to step down from my Our Lady of the Lake University adjunct position teaching earth science to teachers. That decision ends 42 years of college teaching for me: 31 years at Trinity and 11 years at Our Lady of the Lake.

Miki and I are having no problem keeping busy. Older daughter Erin finished her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at University of California, Davis. Currently she is teaching at Sacramento State University. As I noted in the last newsletter, both of my parents were teachers, Miki and I were both teachers, and now Erin is finding that she enjoys teaching. Younger daughter Karen is living with us and still enjoying Taekwondo.

I am now an octogenarian and very mindful of time’s arrow. But I also look back in time to note that I was very fortunate to choose teaching geology for my career. I have never regretted that decision; it has given me so much satisfaction and joy through the years. Once again I thank you all for sharing an important part of your lives with me during my years at Trinity. I treasure the memories of those years.

Tom Gardner (Emeritus)

A Big Hello to everybody out there! Oh boy, retired life is fun. It’s been a year and a half now. The best part is not getting up in the dark in the morning to go to the university. What a luxury to be able to “sleep in”. Also, I never thought that collecting Social Security checks could be so much fun. I need all of you to keep making those contributions! Susan retired at the end of December, 2017 and we haven’t killed each other yet, so things are pretty good on that front too.

Several projects have been keeping me quite busy since retirement. They include finishing some research in Tasmania; finally digging into my ancestry
(definitely lots of skeletons in that closet); and planning our summers away from San Antonio.

My colleague, John Webb, from Latrobe University in Melbourne, Australia and I have been studying neotectonic activity on the northwest corner of Tasmania. It was part of the research I did on my last academic leave. Late Quaternary faulting of 125 ka marine terraces caused significant liquefaction of the saturated sands on the marine terrace. That liquefaction caused formation of large sand boils along the faults. Some sand boils reach 3m in elevation. Sand was erupted onto the terrace surface during liquefaction, exposing the sand to sunlight. John and I can use Optically Stimulated Luminescence (remember that lecture in Earth Surface Processes?) to date the time of exposure and thus, the time of faulting. Last year we trench several of the boils with a backhoe, collected sand samples and just last month got back the age results. The faulting is ~48 ka and Australia is supposed to be a “stable” continent. We have used LIDAR imagery to map out at least 5 fault strands and have analyzed 100’s of water well borehole records to determine the amount of offset. So now it’s time to write up the results and submit the work for publication. This could be my last research paper!

This past summer (2018), Susan and I spent 3+ months in the Pacific Northwest. I can’t think of a better place to go to get out of those brutally hot San Antonio summers – besides, we both have family up there. We left on June 8 and took a week to get to Bend, Oregon, stopping along the way in Taos, New Mexico, and Capitol Reef National Park, Utah. In Bend, we rented an Air B&B for a month and did a lot of hiking, biking, and swimming at a fantastic outdoor, heated, 50 meter city pool. From there we visited friends and family in Idaho and Washington, spending several days on Lake Pend Oreille in northern Idaho, Penticton BC Canada, and Omak WA visiting Susan’s brother. From there it was on to Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound to watch orcas. Here’s a picture of us waiting for the ferry to Orcas.
Island. Mount Baker, a Cascade volcano, is in the background. After Orcas Island
we spent a week in Olympic National Park. We repeated part of the famous hike
that Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas took in 1958 to stop development
of US highway 101 in that part of the park. Our final stop was a month at an Air
B&B in West Seattle. We beat the pool in Bend with a 50 meter, heated, salt water
pool on the beach: Colman Pool in Lincoln Park (Google it). We took two weeks
to get back to San Antonio, arriving here on September 17. What a trip! The house
was a mess! Our feral cat, Heccktour, was nearly dead, but he’s fat and happy
now.

My last big retirement project this past year has been digging into my family
genealogy. I’ve always wanted to do that, but could never find the time (I was
always grading papers and exams, haha). I can certainly tell you one thing; it’s
time consuming, easy to get distracted along some tangent, sometimes frustrating,
but mostly great fun. Here’s one interesting ancestral line I discovered recently. I
ran across a 3rd cousin via Ancestry.com. She’s done incredible research on my
father’s side of the family, on the Blair line (that’s where my youngest son gets his
first name). Turns out I’m descended from Robert the Bruce and the Stewart
Kings of Scotland. Can you believe it? I’ve double checked her sources and it
looks correct. So I definitely needed to watch the recent Netflix movie, The Outlaw
King, which is a biography of Robert the Bruce and I will be at the theater on
opening night for Mary Queen of Scots, on December 21st.

Well, that’s more than enough about me. The family is in good health. Nate
just had his 10 year “service award” from Panera Bread. Blair continues at 2U in
Brooklyn. He’s now Senior Director of Web Strategies, whatever that means.
Susan does volunteer work for the San Antonio Youth Literacy Program and a
local hospice organization. The Gardner family, together with a few close friends,
are going to Big Bend National Park in January to celebrate my 70th Birthday.
Geeze, I’ll be a septuagenarian! I think we will hike the South Rim Trail. Do any
of you remember that hike from Majors’ Field Trip? We did it several times.

Best wishes, Tom and Susan

Kurt Knesel

In the oh-so-eloquent words of the international man of mystery (aka Austin
Powers), please allow myself to introduce ... myself. I joined the department in the
Fall of 2017, following the departure of Megan Plenge, who accepted a position at
the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Megan was a great help in my
transition to Trinity, and I’m sure the department was sad to see her go. In
addition to taking on some of Megan’s teaching duties in Earth’s Environmental
Systems and Oceanography, I’m also helping to give Diane a much overdue break
from Volcanology, Dynamic Earth, and Earth Materials. I come to Trinity via Australia, where I taught at the University of Queensland in Brisbane for over a decade. Before that I was a visiting fellow in the Cooperative Institute for Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Following in the footsteps of my thesis advisor at UCLA, the brilliant Jon Davidson, I see myself as somewhat of an opportunist when it comes to research. With this mindset, I have been fortunate to travel to some amazing field sites in Australia, Brazil, Chile, Iran, and Vanuatu, as well as the western U.S., to study a range of magmatic, tectonic, and geodynamic processes central to the evolution of the lithosphere and convecting mantle. However, I find myself increasingly drawn to understanding how volcanoes work. My students and I pay special attention to the rates and underlying mechanisms for the organization and transport of magma from source to emplacement. We tackle this multi-scale problem through analysis of micro-textural, geochemical, and geochronological data for samples brought to the surface by volcanoes, set within an interpretive framework developed through laboratory simulation of the behavior of partially molten rock.

Whilst still quite new to Trinity, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in and out of the classroom. Diane was kind enough to invite me to participate in some of her exciting research on Cascades basalts, as part of Bethany Rysak’s senior thesis project. It was a joy working with Bethany, and she did an outstanding job, as is evident by her award for “Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation” at the GSA Rocky Mountain/Cordilleran joint section meeting in Flagstaff. The highlight of the year for me was the majors’ field trip to Arizona, led by Kathy, Ben & Glenn; what an awesome trip! I’m looking forward to getting out in the field again with students this summer when we visit West Texas and New Mexico. I’ll also be taking a small group of students to the spectacular Long Valley caldera, in east-central California, as part of a Keck project to investigate factors governing eruptive style of rhyolitic volcanoes.

On the home front, my wife (Gabriela) and I are in the mist of rejuvenating a previously neglected, Spanish-style house not far from Trinity. Gabriela, who is also a geologist, works for Lhoist North America, a lime and specialty minerals mining and production company with global headquarters in Belgium. Although we now know more than we probably care to know about home renovations, we are enjoying much of what San Antonio has to offer. And our son, Kyle, who just turned five, is loving his introduction to learning at the newly created Will Smith San Antonio Zoo School—what a magnificent way to start a lifelong journey of exploration and learning through nature. The Knesel family wishes you all a healthy and joyful 2019.
Glenn Kroeger

It has been a fast and busy two years since the last departmental newsletter. Despite my promise, then, of no recidivism, I am again chairing the University Curriculum Council. This year, Trinity will graduate the first full cohort of students in the new Pathways curriculum, and the UCC is hard at work tweaking the requirements to ensure that we can deliver the new curriculum to future classes that will progressively increase in size over the next few years.

Since I am no longer department chair, my teaching load has changed. For the last two years I have taught in the new First Year Experience program. Along with faculty from Engineering, Physics and Psychology, I am teaching in the “What you know that just ain’t so” topic. To understand this topic, think conspiracy theories, climate-change, vaccinations, Gwyneth Paltrow and GOOP, along with a heavy dose of social psychology. It’s fun, but always important to remember that the real goals of the course are to enhance the critical reading, thinking and writing skills of our first-year students. I continue to teach Oceanography, now an introductory course, along with GIS & Remote Sensing and Geophysics.

I have continued to develop and distribute my visualization and analysis program, SeismicCanvas. I have been adding new features to support the faculty and students using my software in seismology and signal processing modules of the EDDIE (Environmental Data-Driven Inquiry & Exploration) project. EDDIE has just received another round of funding from the NSF, so this summer I will begin creating some new modules focusing on earthquake seismology and use of IRIS timeseries data. Closer to home, I worked with two Trinity students to conduct mapping and geophysical surveys of a small set of sinkholes that have developed near campus in Olmos Basin. We completed a set of electrical resistivity profiles, and this winter I have a student doing a geophysics independent study where we will conduct some electromagnetic and GPR surveys in hopes of determining if the sinkholes are controlled by major fractures/faults in the underlying Austin Chalk.

Karen continues teaching special education at Reagan High School. Jennifer is now in her senior year at Rice University majoring in Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences with an Environmental Concentration. This, I assure you, is not the result of any pressure, suggestions or hints on my part. She delivered her first AGU presentation last month in Washington DC, and completed a study abroad program in Denmark and Iceland last spring. She has served for two years as the student director of peer academic advising at Rice, and is currently in the throes of applying to graduate programs and fellowships.
Dan Lehrmann

Hello all. It has been a productive last two years! I continue teaching Paleontology, Basin Analysis, History and Evolution of Life, and Geology Resources and Environments of China. We led our “Field Geology in China” course in the summer of 2017 co-taught with Josie Liu Communications professor (Trinity), Thomas Adams, vertebrate paleontologist (Witte Museum) and Yu Youyi, invertebrate paleontologist (Guizhou University). We taught the course with 12 Trinity students teamed up with 12 Guizhou University students. If you are interested in more details and spectacular photos on the course just google “Field Geology in China”—there are some fantastic documentaries and videos online.

Over the last two years I have wrapped up an oil industry consortium project on the Cambrian microbial carbonates of the Llano River area of Mason County Texas and a Shell Aramco and American Chemical Society Funded project on the controls of seawater chemistry on Permian-Triassic carbonate platforms in south China. Between the bigger funded projects, I’ve also worked with students on smaller local projects on the sedimentology and geochemistry of dinosaur track sites in the Glen Rose Formation, a project on sinkholes in the Olmos basin, and one on groundwater tracer studies in karst carbonates.

Last summer I took a Trinity student, Jack Koellmann, to north China for a field and lab study of the Ordovician carbonates of the Ordos Basin funded as a “Key Foreign Expert Project” by the Chinese government. Also, our research group has been successful in getting a large 4-university, 3-year project funded by Saudi Aramco and King Fahad University to study the impact of oceanic anoxic events on carbonate platform evolution in the Cretaceous strata of central Italy and the Permian-Triassic strata of Saudi Arabia. Last summer I took Trinity student Katherine Jones for a month of field work in Italy, and this winter break I’ll be taking Harry Bellow for field work in Saudi Arabia.

We continue to crank out publications on the research with several new journal publications on application of CT scans for lithology and porosity in the Cambrian strata of the Llano, global environmental stresses, ocean chemistry and
biotic perturbations from the end-Permian mass extinction, and stratigraphic controls on rock deformation and fracturing. Lately I’ve been working up the revisions for a manuscript titled “Controls on sedimentation and cyclicity of the Boquillas and Equivalent Eagle Ford Formation from detailed outcrop studies of western and central Texas.” The study was conducted with Trinity alums Zach Sickmann and Kirk Gulliver working at Southwest Research Institute. I’m really excited about getting this research and papers on our Cambrian work in Texas published as it shows our research group expanding into a variety of new areas including local Texas geology.

In November Mei and I traveled to Lawrence, Kansas and I gave a geology colloquium presentation at the University of Kansas. I was honored to have a collaboration zone named after me in their new Earth Energy and Environment Center and to receive the KU Geology Haworth Distinguished Alumni Award. The visit was also special for Mei and I as we scheduled it to coincide with our 25th wedding anniversary. It was great to return to visit old friends at the place that Mei and I first met.

Our daughters Dinda and Asmara are doing very well as junior and senior students at Trinity University. Mei and I are empty nesters! One of the benefits is that Mei is now able to accompany me on field excursions. Last summer she participated in the field work in north China and Italy. We are looking forward to more geology adventures!

Wishing you a healthy, happy and productive New Year!

Richard Silver (CSI Laboratories and Field Technician)

Hello all, I have recently completed my third year at Trinity University, working as Lab and Field Technician for the Center for the Sciences and Innovation (CSI) – Geosciences Department. Trinity continues to be a very friendly work environment with many opportunities to Discover, Grow, and Become.

As Geosciences Technician, I have recently been privileged with the task of developing two new sand models to be utilized as lab demonstrations for the Hydrology course starting in Spring 2019. The first is an aquarium scale advection/dispersion model for calculating Darcy velocities of water flow through sand, in addition to demonstrating the dispersion of a salt tracer. For the second model, PVC pipe was used to create sand columns for calculating the porosity and specific retention of different types of sediment.

Currently I am assisting in the development of signage and an associated webpage for the 30+ amazing rocks located within the Geosciences Rock Garden. The signage indicates the name, classification, age of the rock, and the web
address; the webpage is currently under construction and will provide additional information for the rocks within the garden.

Additional responsibilities in recent semesters have included the following: we have recently completed the first step of a renovation project for one of the Geosciences classrooms/lab areas; this transformation has opened up the room and has created a more productive workable space for the professors and the students. Over the summer of 2018, after returning from Majors’ Field Trip to the Grand Canyon, I participated in the outfitting of a recently acquired cargo trailer. The trailer has been equipped with various shelving, indoor/outdoor carpet, and exterior alpha graphics representing the Trinity University Geosciences Department. In the fall of 2018, Professor Brady Ziegler and I took a group of students to the 5th annual Texas Hydro-Geo Workshop located at Cave without a Name near Boerne, TX; at the workshop I presented a module indicating various techniques for identifying rocks in the field, in addition to a mineral identification contest. As member of the Bexar Grotto, Chapter of the National Speleological Society, I recently lead a group of students from the Geology Club through Robber Baron Cave located here in San Antonio; the students enjoyed the trip and were excited to learn of the caves geology and history.

Lastly, I have just completed my third year as staff member of the Trinity University United Way Committee; this year’s Campaign was entitled – “Living United: Lifting Our Community.” As a way of serving the San Antonio community, our United Way - Days of Caring/Service was held at the Catholic Charities Guadalupe Community Center. Approximately 30 of us assisted in preparing the Center for their Halloween event - "Little Pumpkin Palooza". As a Day of Caring/Service, we hung decorations, organized children's costumes, and organized/distributed pumpkins throughout the facility.

Diane Smith

Greetings to all and Happy 2019! The last few years were rather busy for me with regards to service commitments. Last March, I completed my two-year term as Chair of the Faculty Senate (preceded by two years as Vice-Chair). Last November, I finished a three-year term as Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee of the American Geosciences Institute. If you are not already familiar with AGI, I encourage you to do so. Besides bringing you GeoREF and sponsoring Earth Science Week, other AGI initiatives include programs in K-16 education and outreach, critical issues and public policy, workforce issues, and career development.

I continue teaching Volcanology, Dynamic Earth, and Earth Materials. As Les Bleamaster mentioned above, I was one of the instructors for the Iceland
course taught in May 2018. Iceland is such a special and unique place, not only in terms of the geology, but also its culture and history.

On the research front, I’ve re-engaged with examining basaltic lava flows from Mount St. Helens and the adjacent Indian Heaven lava field in southern Washington. I’ve collected EDS analyses and back-scattered images of olivines occurring in these rocks using Trinity’s SEM, which we’ve combined with whole-rock geochemistry to evaluate their petrogenesis. The St. Helens data were recently published in the article *The role of magma mixing, identification of mafic magma inputs, and structure of the underlying magmatic system at Mount St. Helens* (Leeman and Smith, 2018) in American Mineralogist. During the 2017-18 academic year, I supervised a senior thesis written by Bethany Rysak (’18) on olivine chemistry of basalts from Indian Heaven. I plan to expand the research on the Indian Heaven lavas via high-precision microprobe and LA-ICP-MS analyses of trace elements in olivine crystals.

The girls are doing well. Carrie (28 yrs.) continues working for Indeed.com as a software engineer. The company often sends her on recruitment trips to interview computer science majors at places like Rice and MIT. Her company sent her to Tokyo in 2017 for a three-month stint, training one of their tech teams. Joanna (23 yrs.) graduated from Rice in 2017 and is now in her second year of the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at UCLA. She doesn’t like living on a grad student budget, but loves her work and living in Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, my family is facing a new challenge. Last October, Chip was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease (aka ALS). He still gardens (which he loves – you should see our gorgeous backyard!), makes me laugh, and has an amazingly strong attitude given his situation. We approach one day at a time, and try to make the most of every single one of them.

I hope 2019 proves to be a happy and productive for all of you and your loved ones! Stay in touch – it is so wonderful to see our former students and learn about their lives. I hope to see many of you at the May AAPG reception! Best wishes – Diane

**Ben Surpless**

Greetings! The longer I’ve worked at Trinity, the more I appreciate the excellent students we continue to engage in the geosciences, the dynamic and fruitful interactions between members of the faculty and staff, and the generosity of our alums in supporting all that we do.
In the spring of 2017, I served as Chair of the South-Central GSA Section meeting here in San Antonio, where we had a near-record turnout, great field trips (thanks to Field Trip Chair, Dan Lehrmann!), and excellent support from faculty and staff in the department of Geosciences. Our undergrads won awards for best Oral Presentation (a two-way tie between Sarah Thorne, ‘17 and Lindsey Yazbek, ‘17) and best Poster Presentation (Asmara Lehrmann, ‘19). Trinity was well-represented!

On the research front, I’ve shifted my focus from fold-related fracture networks in the wilds of west Texas to analyzing subsidiary structures (joints, shear fractures, deformation bands, and minor faults) associated with a major normal fault transfer zone in southcentral Utah, just outside of Zion National Park. I performed reconnaissance research there in 2016 with Hannah Mathy (‘17) and Simon Simoneau (‘17), and in the fall of 2017 I was awarded a Keck Geology Consortium Research grant to support work in the same area in the summer of 2018. Because of the spectacular, but inaccessible, cliff faces common in my new field area, I’ve integrated unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) with classic fieldwork, capturing images that we use to build 3D computer models of those cliffs. In the summer, Caroline McKeighan (‘19) and Curtis Segarra (‘19) worked alongside students from the College of Wooster and Mt. Holyoke College to perform classic geologic fieldwork, and we’ve used UAV image data to help analyze deformation.

Students and I have continued to present our research at regional and national meetings, and I’m about to submit a manuscript with co-author Sarah Wiggington (‘14), the last major paper about our research in west Texas, and another manuscript with Sarah Thorne (‘17), involving computer-based analysis of fault segmentation. This summer, I plan to submit an NSF proposal to support continued research with students in south-central Utah.
I continue to enjoy teaching the First Year Experience, Structural Geology, Earth’s Environmental Systems, and Global Climate Change. It’s always fun being there to see students engage in learning, whether in the lab, in the field, or in the classroom.

Kathy, the girls, and I have enjoyed vacations to Hawaii in 2017, Glacier National Park in 2018, and to northern Wisconsin to visit my parents, which we do every summer. Our girls love experiencing the great outdoors, no matter the locale. Both girls are already looking forward to our next summer adventure!

I hope that we’ll see many of you at meetings across the country or here at Trinity. If you’re in San Antonio, don’t hesitate to visit us – we’d love to see you! I hope all is well!

Kathy Surpless

Becoming Department Chair has been the biggest change for me since last I wrote news for our department newsletter. Knowing that Chair duties were waiting after my Spring 2017 research leave, I wisely did not begin any new projects, but worked throughout that spring to bring relative closure to some others (although the research threads never really end – I’m already picking up some them again as I write this). Not least of those projects is research in the Ochoco basin, where no fewer than ten Geosciences undergrads have worked with me since 2008 – that Ochoco basin paper is now published in a GSA Special Volume in honor of Bill Dickinson.

Chair duties slowed down my research a fair bit during that exciting first year as Chair, as we completed a search for an Assistant Professor of hydrogeology, a position now held by Dr. Brady Ziegler, revised our departmental assessment plan (thank you to all those that complete those Survey Monkey requests for information and assessment feedback!), and continued to develop more opportunities for students to prepare for life after Trinity through workshops and speakers. Another highlight of my first full year as Chair was co-leading our Majors’ Field trip to Arizona – the entire Surpless family went on that trip, along with 15 geosciences students, Glenn Kroeger, Kurt Knesel, and Richard Silver.

Having found my footing as Chair, more or less, I have been able to pay more attention to research recently. I started a local project using detrital mineral ages from the Hickory sandstone to survey crystallization ages within the Llano uplift, and I am working in California again on two semi-related projects: one surveying Sierran arc magmatism through forearc detrital zircon geochemistry, and the other focused on better understanding the timing and tectonics of the earliest development of the Great Valley forearc basin. I’m hoping for a good field season in California next year (i.e., wildfire-free). On the teaching front, I taught Sed-Strat
again last spring, this time with a revamped foreland basin field trip – identifying some new stops became necessary when private land changed hands and was no longer accessible. I continue to teach Earth History every fall, and I look forward to teaching Dynamic Earth again this coming spring.

Our family life seems to revolve around tennis – a strange development, given that neither Ben nor I ever played tennis. But both of the girls do, and Kayla’s tournaments now take her all over the state. It’s been great fun to watch them improve, and, of course, hard to believe they’re halfway through 7th and 4th grades already. Best wishes to you all!

Brady Ziegler

Greetings! Most reading this will not know who I am, so allow me to introduce myself. I started at Trinity in August of 2018 as an assistant professor, and it has been a whirlwind ever since! I finished my Ph.D. at Virginia Tech in May 2018, and shortly after, packed up, hit the road, and arrived in San Antonio in mid-July to a warm welcome, literally. I’m originally from Minnesota, so the 100+ degree weather took some getting used to.

I received my B.S. in Environmental Science with a concentration in Chemistry from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and moved immediately to Blacksburg, Virginia to begin my Ph.D. in Geosciences at Virginia Tech. My research interests broadly encompass groundwater quality and biogeochemical processes occurring in groundwater systems. My current research focuses on an oil spill site in northern Minnesota where I’m studying how typically immobile natural contaminants in aquifer sediments can be dissolved into groundwater due to biogeochemical reactions triggered by the degradation of oil. At the fall 2018 GSA meeting in Indianapolis I presented results from a new model, which predicts that naturally occurring arsenic will have a greater overall impact on groundwater quality than the hydrocarbons from the oil spill. Crazy! Recently I’ve started assisting one of Geosciences’ majors, Malisse Lummus, on a
project which aims to quantify the adsorption of fluorescent dyes by granular activated carbon in coordination with the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

This fall, I taught one of the introductory courses for non-majors, Earth’s Environmental Systems. I’m very excited to develop a new upper-level Hydrogeology course for the 2019 spring semester, which will focus heavily on aquifer properties that govern groundwater flow, and then delve into some chemical hydrogeology topics including the natural evolution of groundwater chemistry and the fate and transport of groundwater contaminants. Next fall, I’m also excited to introduce a new course focusing on Environmental Geochemistry.

I’m slowly getting to learn the city and explore all the opportunities San Antonio has to offer. If you ever find yourself back on campus, please stop in and introduce yourself!

ALUMNI NEWS

1965

Roger Allen volunteers with VET TRIIP, an organization that provides alternative medical services to veterans for pain management and stress. He lives in San Antonio and tries to visit his grandchildren as often as possible. Roger works for Quantum Light Therapeutics, providing biofeedback services and nutritional supplements to our clients. “It’s a long way from my geological roots. Health has become real important in my world. Learning how to live and maintain health has become a full time job.”

1966

Jack Downing is enjoying retirement. He spends 6 months in the mountains of Colorado from May to November, but also spent Christmas there this year. “Pray for snow!”

1973

Michael Pattarozzi retired after 35 years with the Englewood, Colorado Fire Department. He just published his first children’s book.

1974

Jean (Freeland) Shoup has been married to husband Mike Shoup for 43 years. They are parents of three incredible young adults and grandparents to three equally incredible children – a 5-year-old grandson and 4-month-old fraternal twins. We are owners of the Antique Rose Emporium outside Brenham, Texas, and are involved in a number of nonprofit organizations in the area. Each year we get together with close friends from our Trinity Lancer years in various parts of the country.
Byrd Larberg is now a grandfather with his grandson, August Grey Larberg who was born in September.

Kinney Simon is retired, but has been active in ministry in an assisted living facility and the Hays County Jail. Five grandkids, RV camping, skiing, hiking and other activities keep him busy.

Harry “Bud” Holzman is still working as a Geologist for Thunder Exploration. He was the subject of an Alumni Spotlight titled Cool under Pressure, published on April 6, 2018 (https://new.trinity.edu/news/cool-under-pressure).

1975

Clyde Yancey is Vice President of Exploration for the Uranium Energy Corporation in Corpus Christi, Texas and still has no plans for retirement! He has been working on uranium projects in the Athabasca Basin, Canada, western US, South Texas and Paraguay. He’s also developing the world’s largest titanium oxide deposit in eastern Paraguay. He spends summers in Maine and winters in Florida -- All is good!

Chuck Montgomery is still RVing and enjoying retirement after working 38 years for Schlumberger.

Eddie Collins retired from the Bureau of Economic Geology (Austin, Texas) last August.

1977

This fall, John Snedden began his 8th year as Research Scientist at the University of Texas at Austin2011. He is working on a book about Gulf of Mexico geology to be published in 2019. He hopes to see everyone at AAPG San Antonio next year!

Jeannine (Ray) Caldwell is a freelance musician in the Dallas area.

1978

Spencer Siemens retired from ExxonMobil last February; he and his wife moved from Houston to Colorado Springs.

1980

David Noller is currently retired and running a resort and hotel in northern Thailand with his wife and five-year-old son.

Lawrence Hewitt continues to practice medicine in Houston as an anesthesiologist and pain management specialist. In addition, I am now part of a research group studying the benefits/consequences of long term opioid therapy for nonmalignant pain.
1982

Steven Balsley has now been in Vienna with the International Atomic Energy Agency for 15 years. He has a son at Middlebury College and a daughter at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Everyone is healthy and happy. He anticipates retiring at 65, after which???

Jack (Jay) Klein has now been in Vienna with the International Atomic Energy Agency for 15 years. He has a son at Middlebury College and a daughter at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Everyone is healthy and happy. He anticipates retiring at 65, after which???

1983

David Shiels is happy to report that his wife, Carol, and he are doing well. Shiels Engineering is still thriving/surviving. I still teach environmental, health and safety (EHS) part time for the Texas A&M Engineering Extension (TEEX). I’m excited about a new course that TEEX has asked me to teach starting next month. I’ll be teaching geology and hydrogeology to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). I hope to bring that Ed Roy enthusiasm into the classroom. Our kids are doing well too. Andrew is an engineer with a software company in San Antonio and Sara is a high school counselor in the Waco ISD. We still live on our ranch and raise cattle and a few sheep. Our health is excellent. I’m back to competing in triathlons. I first learned about them while at Trinity and remember borrowing Bob Stewart’s bike to do my first race in Austin at Lake Travis in 1983. I hope to get down to Trinity soon to visit.

Jeff Wilt’s two rescue dogs keep Beth (O’Leary) and him busy at home. I find keeping the work/life balance a real test as we keep up with the development and construction pace in Texas. Water supply infrastructure continues to increase as a focal point of our firm.

1984

Stephanie Sivalls Latimer lives in Odessa, Texas and is Vice President of Administration at Sivalls, Inc. She has been married to John Latimer for 30 years and they have one daughter, Reagan (24 years) with a B.S. and M.S. from Texas A&M. Reagan now works and lives in San Antonio for Gallagher Benefit Services, so Stephanie is often here. She is currently President-Elect for the Ellen Noel Art Museum Board, Treasurer of the United Way of Odessa Board, Director of the Permian Basin International Oil Show Board. She is also a member of the Pilot Club of Odessa, charter member of Wine Society of Texas-Permian Basin chapter, and past President of Sandstorm Aggie Mom’s club. Last October she headed to
Bordeaux, France for a much needed vacation in the wine country! “Even though I mainly do HR, insurance, and legal work now, I still enjoy the beautiful land created by God and remember all of my not so fond times at a few outcrops trying to solve a geologic puzzle! Good wishes to all of my former classmates and current students at Trinity.”

**Randy Walters** and his wife, Brenda, are living the dream in Fort Collins, Colorado. We so appreciate where we live (in co-housing), where we teach (at the same school), and being married to each other. The kids are all out of the house and so the empty nest is pretty darn good also. Retirement, in a few years, will be particularly sweet!

**1985**

From **David Harvey**” Hi fellow rockhounds! Still here in Corpus Christi and yes I still surf and practice martial arts. Got one daughter in college and another in middle school. Having a blast down here dodging hurricanes! Hopefully none of you have to identify minerals using a polarizing microscope. Take care!”

**Gene Ames** just started Compadre Resources, LLC, for which he serves as Chief Technology Officer and Partner. David Clay (TU GEOS alum, class of 2010) works with Gene.

**Alisa (Desco) Sikorski** is Director of Change Management at Builders FirstSource in Dallas. She is proud wife to Jack and two sons (a freshman and a senior) attending the University of Missouri. Both sons are pursuing degrees in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

**1986**

**Eric Radjef** and his wife, Tara, are still happily living in what’s left of South Austin, after 12 years with Brigham, then Statoil, and now Equinor (all the same company). Their two sons, Hugo (9) and Hayes (7), are in AISD's bilingual education program at our neighborhood school, and I am having a hard time keeping up with them, in every way imaginable. Hugo has beaten me at Stratego nine consecutive times. And Hayes smiles politely when he crushes me playing Quirkle.

**1987**

**Robert Young** has been married to Pamela (Scott) Young since 1991. They are now empty nesters with one kid at Southwestern University in Georgetown and the other at Trinity.

**Kelly (Ring) Bender** is still loving her job working daily mission operations of the THEMIS camera system aboard Mars Odyssey - the oldest active
spacecraft in orbit at Mars. Kids are grown and I'm a grandma now of two little ones. I feel too young for the term "grandma", but totally love my grandkids. Both of my kids are photographers, and one has even figured out how to make it a business. Only my husband isn't any type of photographer! His environmental consulting business is in its 18th year, and still going strong. His hobby is mineral collecting - as his MS was in mineralogy. My hobby is dance and I've been teaching bellydance and bollywood dance for 8 years now. Our kids grew up hiking and camping, and now we are doing the same with the grandkids. Once a geologist - always a geologist!

1994

After six years working as an attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Keri Powell started up her own environmental law practice in early 2017 in Decatur, Georgia. She’s currently representing groups like the Sierra Club and Environmental Defense Fund in litigation and advocacy to protect public health and the environment. Her husband, Dan, is a casino game developer and runs his own studio in Decatur. They stay busy with their family of three kids, two dogs, and two cats!

1995

From Nik Sokol: “I'm looking forward to getting back in touch with Trinity geosciences! After leaving San Antonio, I moved to the western suburbs of Philadelphia to live with my grandparents. I started a small punk rock record label and took some additional coursework to supplement my geology minor from Trinity. While completing those courses, I somehow convinced Bryn Mawr College to admit me into their graduate program. I studied metamorphic petrology with the inspiring Maria Luisa "Weecha" Crawford. Our research focused on accretionary tectonics in SE Alaska and coastal NW British Columbia, which made for some truly stunning field work. After graduating from Bryn Mawr, I was fortunate to get a job logging soil and rock core for a small geotechnical firm in NYC. We were part of the team that won the design of the Second Avenue Subway and that’s when I became pretty obsessed with tunneling. I spent the next 12 years working on tunnel projects in NYC, which included the opportunity to lead the geological characterization, initial ground support and excavation sequence design for the No.7 Line Extension 34th St. Station cavern, the twin station caverns for East Side Access and the 72nd St Station cavern for the Second Avenue Subway (two out of three are now operating, which is very gratifying). While in NYC, I completed a masters of engineering in geotechnics from the Rolla School of Mines and became a Professional Geologist in Pennsylvania and California. In 2012 we moved to Sydney,
where I was the Resident Engineer for the Sydney Opera House Vehicle Access and Pedestrian Safety project, a large excavation into and under the SOH. It was a dream job and really felt like the perfect synthesis of my love for the arts and innovative engineering. Since then, I've been working primarily on global tunnel projects, which has included assignments in Seoul, Edmonton, Qatar and my current job as design manager for the Silicon Valley Clean Water Gravity Pipeline. We'll see what's next. Please keep in touch!"

Mark Wald-Hopkins has been working in nuclear nonproliferation/international threat reduction at Los Alamos National Laboratory since 2005. Life is good in the high desert! His wife Patricia and Mark are raising three great kids in this rural, techie wonderland. “Lots of time spent on soccer fields, in the local hills, and on my bike (whenever I can). Wishing the best for all of my former classmates and professors. I will always cherish the time I spent at Trinity and the great people I met there.”

Jill (Cook) Rockwell and her husband Chris (’94 Trinity graduate) celebrated 23 years of marriage last December. She’s busy raising six children; two are twins, juniors in high school, who visited Trinity last fall as prospective students.

1996

Meggan Partain is currently serving as a member of the Trinity University Alumni Board.

After a 10-year, second tour working in Congress, Ana Unruh Cohen left Senator Ed Markey’s office in July 2017 to join the Natural Resources Defense Council as Director of Government Affairs. “It’s a fun challenge to work in a new way to do something to make the world a little better place. I can’t give you a Capitol tour any more but please feel free to get in touch if you are coming to DC! I was also honored to give the May 2017 commencement address at which I spoke about my journey from science student at Trinity to doing policy and politics in Washington. “

1997

From Layla (Stiles) Unger: “We're going on 3 years now in Alaska and loving every minute of it! Well, maybe not the dark minutes from November through February ;-). Come visit us in this geo wonderland! “

After graduating from Trinity, Nathan Franklin worked at Southwest Research Institute for five years before moving to Freiburg, Germany to do a Master’s degree in Computer Science. Now, after ten years of living and working in Germany, Nathan and his wife have moved back to Texas to be closer to
family and to be able to enjoy Tex-Mex everyday! Nathan is working as a software developer at a research department at UT-Austin.

1999

Despite still working as a geomorphologist with the San Francisco Estruary Institute in California, Sarah (Newland) Pearce’s family now lives in the Denver area. In between fieldwork days, she am still playing soccer, and now watching both kids play too!

2003

Celina Suarez was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

2004

From Annie (Covault) Treverton: “I am proud to share that I am a third author on a Geological Society paper that came out this year! Check it out for all of your detailed fault zone architecture and clay smear needs: Brown, Alton A., Davies, R.K., and Treverton, A.C., 2018, Fault core process and clay content derived from XRF analysis: Salina Creek Fault, Utah. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, v. 459, p. 79-100. In other news, after working for Chevron in Houston as a geologist for 10 years, I changed paths in 2016 and got certified in Muscle Activation Techniques (MAT). MAT is a neuromuscular- and biomechanics-based form of bodywork that helps muscles and joints recover from injury and chronic pain. My husband, Raoul, is also MAT-certified, and we have really enjoyed helping a lot of people get back to enjoying their lives more as we grow our business, Activated Muscles, LLC. Fellow Trinity Geoscience majors Meredith Faber and Paul Landis were very kind to let me practice MAT on them when I was first in training...thanks no doubt in part to their geologist's sense of adventure!”

2008

Emily Beverly was recently hired for a tenure-track position by the University of Houston as a sedimentary geologist.

2010

Katherine Williams works as a Med Tech Electron Microscopy Associate at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. She is engaged with plans to marry in early 2019.

Miriam (Sitz) Grebey works in New York City as Senior news and web editor for Architectural Record Magazine. She was married in February 2018.
Also see the Alumni Spotlight on Miriam published on August 31, 2018, at: https://new.trinity.edu/news/getting-know-miriam-sitz-grebey-10.

2011

**Rebecca Dorsey** married Jim Wintering in May of 2017 in Washington, DC. She is a Foreign Affairs Officer for the U.S. Department of State.

2012

**From Brett Mays:** “After being flooded out by Hurricane Harvey in Houston back in August 2017 (should have studied the flood maps before renting that house!), my fiance and I gathered up what we had left and transferred with our respective companies up to Pittsburgh in February 2018. So far we are loving the weather and change of scenery, but we expect to be transferring back down to Houston early 2019, just miss Texas too much! Otherwise, I'm getting married in December 2018 and am very much looking forward to married life.”

**Brant Konetchy** moved to Berlin, Germany in mid-October to be closer to his wife's family and because they both wanted a change. He will be able to transfer with his company and continue working in the field of hydrogeology for the near future.

2014

**Adrian Wackett** completed his Master's in soil science and ecology at the University of Minnesota in December 2018. Starting in January 2019, he plans to spend over half a year biking across New Zealand and southeast Asia with his girlfriend before returning to the US and applying to Earth Science Ph. D programs.

2015

**Leanne Stepchinski** is working on her Ph.D. in the Ecohydrology Research Group at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

2017

After interning at the American Geosciences Institute in D.C. last year, **Caroline Kelleher** moved to Philadelphia to start her M.S. of Environmental Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. She is taking classes part-time while working full-time at the UPenn Hospital as a lab tech at the BioBank, and will finish her Master's in a couple years.

**From Graham Stockhausen:** “I am grateful to everyone in the geosciences department who helped me succeed academically. My work in the Permian Basin often has me traveling through San Antonio, which allows me to
revisit Trinity University often. I look forward to the next time I can sit in on a geosciences class and eat at Blanco Cafe with my local friends in town!”

**Hannah Mathy** is a Graphic Designer in the Seattle area and has been loving the hiking and camping up there.

**Lisa Ma** is a graduate student at Penn State University, working on a project in the critical zone observatory to construct a 3-D velocity model using tomography and active source seismic waves.

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Compiled by Diane Smith (dsmith@trinity.edu)