

GEORGIA GEOLOGY

Editor: Tim Chowns, West Georgia

OVERBURDEN

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am told that one task of each GGS president is to climb onto a soapbox and deliver a personal message to Georgia geologists. After some thought, I would like to ask you all to consider the current status of geological mapping and basic field investigations in our state.

Although it doesn't seem possible, the 1976, 1:500,000 scale, Geologic Map of Georgia is now 25 years old (and much out of date). At best, the map was a hasty effort. Statewide field mapping, compilation, drafting, editing, scribing, proofing, printing, and delivery were of necessity all completed in just 3 short years. All of us who have done serious geological work in Georgia since 1976 have found an abundance of areas where changes need to be made to reflect newly recognized units, outcrops, correlations, structural features, etc. Surely, before the current supply of these 1976 maps is exhausted a new version (perhaps at larger scale) should be compiled and printed,

rather than just issuing another same-old reprint.

At least as important, there should be a continuing level of new larger scale geological mapping and field investigations in progress throughout Georgia. Those of us who work here should make the opportunity from time to time to record our findings on large scale published maps, so the information will not be lost when each of our immediate local projects are completed.

In response to state requests, the U.S.G.S. has, for several decades, stationed geologists from the Geologic Division within the local Water Resources Division, to do regional-scale, geologic mapping of the Piedmont and Blue Ridge, and to examine younger structural features of the upper Coastal Plain. Although an abundance of hard work has been done, it appears that there is little chance that much of it will be published and publicly available anytime soon.

Further, all 1,016 of the 7.5 minute topographic maps covering our state were completed in 1976, but the purple-line interim update program, to add new culture changes, has sadly lagged lately. There are many quadrangles, in what were once more rural areas, which do not yet show any interstate highways or any sign of rapidly expanding suburbia.

Accurate geologic maps, at both regional and detailed local scales, are critical to many of the ways we decide to work with, and regulate use of, the earth and our environment. Even the U.S. Congress has recognized the need for a strong level of nationwide geological mapping,

and advanced some funding throughout the states for its encouragement.

Surely all of us in Georgia's earth science community recognize the critical need for sound ground water, geologic hazard, mineral exploration, land reclamation, environmental regulation, foundation engineering, etc. judgments to be made on the basis of the most exact local geological information possible. We cannot continue to rely forever on past studies to guide important future decision-making.

Now, on the 25th anniversary of the 1976 Geologic Map of Georgia, would be a very good time for all of us in the Georgia Geological Society to work together to encourage state-wide coordinated basic geological mapping and field investigation programs. Please consider this and let us know what you think.

Sam M. Pickering, Jr.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in account February 29th 2000 \$5222.48

Income		
Dues	730.00	
Fieldtrip registration	4860.00	
Fieldtrip Lunches	425.00	
Donations	1000.00	
Old Guidebooks	942.55	
Interest	26.61	
Petty cash	100.00	
Total	8084.16	

Expense		
Fieldtrip Expenses	6128.86	
Newsletter Printing	152.35	
Postage	132.00	
Science Fair Prizes	150.00	
Miscellaneous	49.15	
Total	6612.36	

Balance in account February 28th. 2001 \$ 6694.28

PLAYING IN THE CLAY PITS

Thanks are due to Sam Pickering and Jessica Elsea Kogel who organized last year's annual field trip on the "Geology of the commercial kaolin mining district of central and eastern Georgia". Longtime members may recall the last trip to the clay pits near Macon (1975), when an afternoon shower turned roads slick and stranded half the group in the pits. This time around we were located in Sandersville, but once again heavy rains on Friday threatened to disrupt the trip. However, after some skillful shuffling of the itinerary things proceeded without a hitch. The final count indicated 130 participants. We were particularly fortunate to have Evgenya Shelobolina, a postdoc from Amherst, on the trip to explain the role of microorganisms in the development of kaolins. Evgenya has studied similar deposits and associated bacteria in Russia and the Ukraine. Her work and insight on the long-term interaction of microbes during diagenesis provided a brand new perspective on these deposits. Other leaders included Jun Yuan, Tim Chowns and David Avant. Ed Riley, Chip Malcom and Mack Duncan also helped with logistics. Part of the cost of the trip was defrayed by generous donations from Industrial Mineral Services, Inc., Thiele Kaolin Company, Georgia Industrial Minerals, Inc. and Imerys Pigments and Additives Group. Congratulations to all on a first-rate field trip. For those who missed the trip but want to know more, guidebooks are still available for \$10.00 from the treasurer.

You may be a geologist if you:

Name your kid Rocky, Mica, Amber or Coral.

Insist that the most important cause of global warming is radioactivity.

Describe the symmetry of Crystal Gayle as monoclinic.

Fantasize about assassinating the head of the DOT for the grassing of roadside embankments.

*FIELD TRIP 2001**Tunneling under Atlanta**October 5-7, 2001*

This year's annual field trip is being organized by Randy Kath and will focus on the new tunnels being constructed for combined storm water and sewage transport and storage in Cobb and Fulton counties. Originally this trip was planned for 2000 but was postponed because of a delay in construction. Work on the access shafts to the Chattahoochee Interceptor has now commenced and tunnel drilling will be in progress by the fall. A second tunnel, the Nancy Creek Interceptor, is in the planning stage. The trip will provide an ideal opportunity to learn about the engineering of tunnels in metamorphic terranes. It will also allow us to appreciate the nature of the water and waste-disposal problems facing Cobb County and City of Atlanta as it grows into the new century. Geological mapping and drilling along the tunnel alignment has also provided new information on the Brevard Zone that should be of interest to members.

Anyone who is interested in contributing to the field trip or guidebook should call Randy Kath. Contributions can include articles on the tunnel project or related engineering problems, field trip stops in the general vicinity of the trip or any other aspect of urban geology along the Chattahoochee corridor.

Watch out for final details and registration forms in the fall newsletter or contact Randy at (rkath@westga.edu, 770 836 6480).

Student howlers

The Plagioclase twins were the first Siamese twins successfully separated by surgery.

Francis Drake sailed across the Atlantic, climbed the Appalachians and was the first to view the Pacific Ocean.

EXPOSURES

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Greetings from Emory. This has been an upbeat year for us and we like the direction our new Department of Environmental Studies is taking. We started enrolling majors in September and have about 50 right now. We will have two new faculty members in the Fall, one in quantitative methods and the other in environmental policy. The really good news is that we broke ground last month for our new science building, which should be completed in two years. It will be the first "Green" building on campus. Once we have our new labs, we hope to search for a hydrologist.

Tony Martin is in the last throws of galley proofs for his new book on dinosaurs. Looks pretty neat and, if you know Tony, there are a few surprises in the book. Bill Size is on sabbatical leave this semester and will be going to Norway in March to look at trondhjemites, but more likely will see only snow.

Bill Size

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The Department of Geology and Geography at Georgia Southern University has much to be proud of this year. For starters, we conferred our first Bachelor of Science degrees in Geography in 2000, becoming the fourth institution in the University System to award geography degrees. Additionally, we completed instrumentation of the University Well Field, a system of water wells consisting of 3 well clusters, each containing a deep and a shallow well. Data loggers continuously record water level and water temperature in the wells. The monitoring well network is used for instruction in Environmental Geology and in upper-division hydrogeology courses. Furthermore, the Department developed a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) program for Georgia Southern University. Dr. Dallas D. Rhodes chaired an ad hoc Committee on GIS appointed

by College of Science and Technology Dean Jimmy Solomon to investigate the issue and make recommendations. The committee's report proposed a three-phase process for creating a University-wide GIS program. The first two phases of the program already have been accomplished. A dedicated Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information Systems (SAGIS) laboratory was built with more than \$150,000 from the University.

Last year, Dr. Daniel B. Good conducted negotiations that literally placed Statesboro and Georgia Southern on the [weather] map. Dr. Good's effort led to an agreement by which the University became the site of a National Weather Service station to enhance meteorological data collection for the area.

We look forward to another full and productive year. You can keep up with what's happening by visiting our Web site at <http://www2.gasou.edu/geog/G%26G.html> and checking the Bulletin Board. In the mean time, here is some faculty news:

Dr. Richard Hulbert, Associate Professor of Geology, resigned his position last summer to accept a research/curatorial position at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, Florida. His time will be fully devoted to fieldwork, research, and collection management.

Dr. Susan K. Langley joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Geography in Fall 2000. Dr. Langley, a native of Oklahoma, completed her Ph.D. in botany at North Carolina State University during summer 2000. At Georgia Southern, she teaches courses in GIS, cartography, biogeography, and ecology. Dr. Langley plans to continue her research on the effect of fire on long-leaf pine ecology.

As chair of a department full of active professors and students, Dallas D. Rhodes is learning the fine art of juggling. He reports

that: "Managing budgets, personnel, schedules, facilities, and deans fills most of my days. The department is thriving, so this is also the most rewarding part of my job." Last year, he also served on the University Honors Program Council and was appointed to the University's Information Technology Task Force. At the national level, Dr. Rhodes was elected to the Board of Directors for the American Geophysical Union's Committee of Heads and Chairs of Earth and Space Science Departments. Fieldwork and research have been slowed by all the administrative activity, but his work on the tectonic geomorphology of California strike-slip faults continues. One of the highlights of the last year was a field trip Dr. J Ramon Arrowsmith and Dr. Rhodes ran for students and faculty from his department at Arizona State and the 12 faculty and students from Georgia Southern who spent their fall break on the San Andreas fault. A major personal accomplishment of the year was to set foot in Alaska, which completed Dr. Rhodes' quest to visit all 50 states.

Dan Good continued to hit the trail with several significant trips that included 10 days in Costa Rica last Thanksgiving, during which he attended a professional meeting, and rented a 4x4 for field work around several volcanoes, national parks, and other sites along the Pacific Coast. In June 2000, he attended an educational conference in Washington, DC. Upon returning to Georgia, he flew to southwestern Wisconsin to study the lead mining district. Information gathered there will be used in his Historical Geography of North America class. In July, Dr. Good went to the Dominican Republic for 10 days on a medical humanitarian project. He conducted some research on the Haitian sugar cane workers who live in bateys in the country. The department has installed an official National Weather Service Weather station. GSU weather data can be seen on the web page under "News, Sports, and Weather."

Fred Rich continues to enjoy his role as a full-time faculty member. No job is too big compared to being department head. He spent considerable time in 1999-2000 working with two seniors, Tracy Zayac and Jason Lennane, on their senior theses. Tracy studied the sedimentology and paleoecology of a middle Holocene buried forest near Douglas, GA, while Jason conducted shallow seismic surveys of the mouth of the Savannah River. Both students are in grad school (Tracy at the University of Nebraska, and Jason at the New Mexico Institute of Mines and Technology).

Fred is deeply involved in a debate that centers on a proposed Savannah Harbor deepening project. His work on the distribution of fracture systems in the Miocene of the Coastal Plain resulted in considerable discussion about the potential effects of harbor deepening on aquifer contamination. While he never planned on establishing a reputation as a structural geologist, the presence of the joints is well established and is the result of fieldwork that he conducted over the last three years.

Fred also served as President of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, so he was instrumental in providing guidance for that organization. The joint meeting of AASP with the Geological Society of America in Reno required a lot of planning but was a great experience.

Mark Welford continues to explore innovative approaches to geographic education. He will run his third Study Abroad to Ecuador in July 2001. In addition to these trips, Mark has spent many weeks researching bird utilization of abandoned pastures in Ecuador. He has published three peer-reviewed papers on this work. His responsibility as Associate Editor of the Journal of Geography ended in August. He concludes his stint with the journal by guest-editing an issue on Education Theory within Geographic Education.

Environmental Geology has become our largest introductory geology course, and Kelly Vance is

shouldering his share of the load in lecture and labs. He also co-authored the department's Environmental Geology Laboratory Manual with Jim Reichard during the summer of 1999 and continues to work on improvements with Jim. Kelly's other activities include resurrection of the Regional Field Geology course during the Spring semester of 1999, team-taught as a vulcanology course with Dr. Pranoti Asher. The course began with lectures and culminated with a sixteen-day field trip through New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, studying volcanic rocks that ranged from 1.8 billion years old to 10,000 year-old "youngsters." Fourteen brave students took the challenge, and Chuck Trupe and Mehmet Samiratedu assisted Asher and Vance as they all enjoyed outstanding geology and southwestern scenery. Planning is underway for another western field course for the summer 2001 short session. The fall Mineralogy class reflected growing enrollments in geoscience with 19 students registered.

Dr. Vance's recent research activities include investigation of pegmatite-aplite genesis in the Sparta Granite with student Kevin Collins and initiating a study of some Georgia outcrops of Mesozoic diabase with Dr. Pranoti Asher.

Jim Darrell's commitment to the classroom and service continues. His teaching centers on Environmental Geology and Principles of Oceanography. He continues his strong working relationship in Middle Grades Science Methods and College of Education committees. Last April marked his 25th year judging at the state Science Fair. Locally, he has been involved with the Bulloch County Comprehensive Water Use Plan that has been mandated for coastal counties of Georgia. In July 2000, he participated in a conference on coastal water resources in Savannah as well as a public hearing on the proposed deepening of the Savannah River Harbor.

Denise Battles continued her work this year as both a geology faculty member and administrator, serving as Associate Dean for

Research and Budget in the College of Science and Technology. While her administrative responsibilities limit her teaching time, she did teach two introductory-level laboratory classes in the past year. Denise continued her service as Project Director of a collaborative, multidisciplinary project, "Environmental Literacy for All Students," an NSF-funded Course and Curriculum Development grant that focuses on environmental science courses in the recently revised core curriculum. She reported on the results of this project at the 1999 GSA Annual meeting in Denver. Denise had two professional articles appear within the past year. She and former Georgia Southern geology faculty member Mark Evans published on their central Appalachian Ridge and Valley research in the December 1999 GSA Bulletin. A single-author article reporting on a teaching technique appeared in the January 2000 issue of the Journal of Geoscience Education. In the area of professional development, Denise participated in the summer 1999 Management Development Program offered through Harvard University's Institutes for Higher Education. She also was accepted into the 2000-2001 class of the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program. The ACE Fellows Program is a year-long leadership development program that prepares participants for positions in higher-education administration. Fellows who are selected into the program spend a year working with senior administrators at a host institution. Auburn University has been Denise's host for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Jim Reichard's main teaching responsibility continues to be environmental geology and hydrogeology. The past year he and other faculty members put together a custom lab manual for environmental geology, providing hands-on exercises geared towards environmental issues in Georgia. Jim continues his research efforts in the areas of pedagogy and hydrology. He currently is involved in a study on the Canoochee River where a groundwater contaminant plume greatly increased the

stream's nutrient load and severely impacted its water quality. Finally, he is developing a new research project on the Altamaha River that will investigate the relationship between critical sturgeon habitat and possible artesian discharge (springs).

Pranoti Asher kept busy teaching Physical Geology (both lectures and laboratory) and Petrology and Petrography during the last academic year. While petrology is her first love, she finds teaching and motivating freshmen and sophomores enrolled in her introductory courses far more challenging. She continues to stay involved with the Association for Women Geoscientists as their publicist and has just completed her term as an at-large delegate. She recently had a paper accepted by the Journal of Geological Education. Dr. Asher continues to do research on Mesozoic diabase dikes in Maine and Georgia. She is also working with another colleague on understanding the reflectance spectral and compositional properties of zeolites and serpentinites.

Sam Couch continues to seek ways to bring the world to his students and Georgia Southern students to the world. During the 2000 spring semester, his urban geography students were engaged in service-learning projects with the City of Statesboro and the Statesboro Downtown Development Authority. For the second year, the Summer Study Abroad in Ireland program that Couch directs took Georgia students to the Emerald Isle. Plans are underway for a third Ireland summer program in 2001. Last summer, Moscow (not Idaho) and St. Petersburg (not Florida) were "checked off" Sam's list of "places to see before I die." Introductory classes in world regional and human geography were complemented this year with courses in Sub-Saharan Africa and Urban Geography. Dr. Couch was named co-editor of the Geography of Religion and Belief Systems (GORABS) Newsletter. GORABS is a specialty group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Couch remains active

professionally in AAG, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Anthropological Association of Ireland, and the American Conference on Irish Studies. As a result of fieldwork in Idaho, Couch served as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Idaho during the summer and fall of 2000.

During the last year, Chuck Trupe taught introductory geology courses and was involved in team-teaching a tectonics course with Dallas Rhodes and Pranoti Asher. The tectonics class took a 4-day field trip to southern California to view features along the San Andreas Fault system. In addition to teaching, he co-chaired a symposium at the Southeastern Section GSA meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, on the geology of the eastern-western Blue Ridge contact. Two of his senior thesis students also gave presentations at this meeting. Chuck continues to conduct field research on structure and metamorphism of the Blue Ridge in western North Carolina, and he is currently supervising senior thesis research in that area.

Jim Henry is the Director of the Applied Coastal Research Lab on Skidaway Island. Jim is working on a number of things, including the Savannah Inlet and Estuarine Processes Study. The study focuses on the geologic processes that shape the estuarine/inlet sand-sharing system. The processes that transport sediment and shape the inlet and estuary are being examined using side-scan-sonar imagery. Modern and historic sedimentation patterns will be determined by seabed sediment sampling and radiochemical geochronologies. The study will provide information about issues that must be addressed when developing an estuary/inlet management strategy that is compatible with economic development and preserving natural resources. Dr. Clark Alexander, Associate Professor at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, is the co-principal investigator. Dr. Henry also serves on several committees and boards, including: the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research

Reserve Advisory Committee, the Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Chair), the Skidaway Marine Science Foundation Ad Hoc Committee, and is Board President of the Center for a Sustainable Coast.

Tony Foyle is a research geologist with the Applied Coastal Research Lab in Savannah and an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Geology and Geography. His primary research and teaching interests lie in coastal environmental geology and marine geology. Tony is co-PI with Jim Henry and Clark Alexander (Skidaway Institute of Oceanography) on a Georgia Department of Natural Resources study of the Floridan aquifer/Miocene aquiclude on the Georgia/South Carolina coast where seawater intrusion poses a threat to the largest aquifer in the southeastern US. He also is involved in a geophysical investigation of structure and stratigraphy in the Gulf Trough area of onshore Georgia, and in a Georgia Coastal Zone Management study of modern sediment transport processes in the Savannah River estuary. He is very interested in local environmental issues and is a member of the Georgia Ports Authority Stakeholder Evaluation Group's Floridan Aquifer Committee that is charged with identifying the potential impacts of Savannah's harbor deepening on the Floridan aquifer. In his spare time, Tony teaches Ocean Sciences at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

During the past year, Clark Alexander has focused on research both locally and nationally in the area of sedimentary processes and their products in coastal and continental margin environments. He continues to work in Northern California on the STRATAFORM program, which seeks to understand the signatures of geologic events (floods, storms, earthquakes, and mass flows) in the stratigraphic record. A project in Santa Monica Bay in Southern California, which is examining the historical record of pollutant input to the

Bay and the processes of sediment redistribution on the continental margin, is about to conclude. Another historical pollution study, this one sited in Delaware Bay, recently was funded. He works with Georgia Southern faculty members Henry and Foyle to examine the processes of sediment transport and erosion on the Savannah River ebb-tidal delta and to determine the integrity of the Miocene aquiclude overlying the Floridan aquifer, the major source of drinking water in the Georgia/South Carolina coastal region. Alexander continues to monitor a wetlands-remediation site on the Ogeechee River, where the Georgia Department of Transportation is remediating an old rice impoundment to mitigate wetlands destruction caused during road building. Because of his and the public's great interest in our natural environment, he continues to give about a dozen talks annually to civic and school groups on oceanography, barrier island geology, and earthquakes in the Southeast. He stays involved with local and statewide environmental issues by participating in the Stakeholder Evaluation Group for the Savannah Harbor deepening and the Aquifer Committee and by serving on the Georgia State Shore and Marshlands Protection Committee.

Gale Bishop, although retired from Georgia Southern, remains at his post. The "post" changes locations however. Gale actually is a resident of Spearfish, South Dakota, but he comes back to Georgia to manage the St. Catherines Island Sea Turtle Conservation Program. The web address is as follows: <http://www2.gasou.edu/cturtle/001welc.html>.

Gale spent summer 2000 working again with Nancy Marsh and Fred Rich. The Eisenhower Higher Education Program funded the sea turtle project again this year and funding will continue next year. Last summer was a record breaker for the turtles, with more nests, more eggs, and more baby turtles than any time since the program began in 1992. More than 9,000 baby turtles are known to have hatched on St. Catherines beaches this year. After scampering

across the sand they embark on a perilous journey of 20 years or more at sea. With any luck at all, we might just be around to see this years "class" come back to the beach where they originated. After the nesting season finished, Gale returned to South Dakota, where he continues to work as a geological and educational consultant, and where he was recently selected to be the Director of the Museum of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Fred Rich

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN

There's an old story that the IBM offices in the 50's and 60's had signs posted everywhere that read only, "THINK". One day a manager saw an employee with his feet propped up and his eyes closed. When asked what he thought he was doing, the employee replied, "thinking". To which the manager responded, "well cut it out and get back to work".

Everybody in the geology and physics department at Southwestern is trying to get some thinking done.

Actually, some of what's keeping some of us from doing more thinking is pretty exciting. We've spent some time hiring Sam Peavy, a graduate of VA Tech, to assume geophysics duties for us. We are really enjoying having him around.

However, the best news is that a very generous donor has given us a big wad with which to renovate our observatory completely. Rolf Schimmrigk (Physics), Sam Peavy (Physics/Geophysics) and I (Paleontology/Stratigraphy/Stargazing) have been arranging rehabilitation of the telescope. (Instead of rehab we could really call it "drying out" since it got soaked during Hurricane Alberto). We've also arranged, demolition/construction of the old/new observatory atop our building, purchase of a new automated dome to be put on it, and a

camera/computer setup to allow us to operate the dome, scope, and camera from an inside room. We're hoping this will be done sometime during the summer.

Sam has also been acquiring/fixing geophys instruments and trying them out. Rolf has been thinking and writing about strings. The universe, it seems, is only a set of harmonics on a string. (Maybe it's the first E string, and maybe Clapton really IS God)!

Tom Weiland and Dan Askren continue their work on educational materials for the Eisenhower fund. Khaleq has been sampling and analyzing water from all over the local watershed, ground and surface, as an ongoing water quality monitoring project. As part of that, we have a local driller coming to campus to put in a monitoring well for us sometime this term.

Burt Carter has now finished about 58.3% of his 3-year stint as acting chair. Occasionally (during class breaks) he pretends to be a paleontologist

Burt Carter

SCHOOL OF EARTH AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, GEORGIA TECH

Charles and Lin Pollard left in late January for the South Pacific where they are spending two months with Georgia Tech's "Study Abroad Down Under" Program. Their geology field course, Geology from a Pacific Perspective, co-taught with John Collen of Victoria University of Wellington, begins in New Zealand in early March. From there the group will go to Raratonga in the Cook Islands and then on to French Polynesia. Tough assignment!

Charles Weaver has written a novel, *Global Bogeymen*, published in the fall by Wings Publishers of Atlanta. I understand that the

protagonist (presumably not one of the bogeymen) is an expert on clays and shales. H'mmm. A reviewer for CMS (Clay Minerals Society) News has congratulated Chuck "for his effort, especially in trying to disseminate accurate technical information to the lay person, in the form of a novel. This is one good way to reach out to the general population who is not apt to seek out information from non-fiction books about ... technical issues."

Two geochemists have joined our faculty this year. Martial Taillefert is an Assistant Professor interested in the geochemistry of aquatic systems, environmental engineering and sensor development, environmental analytical chemistry, chemical oceanography, speciation of trace metals in aquatic systems, redox reactions, biogeochemical processes, and reactive transport modeling. Ellery Ingall has joined us as an Associate Professor whose research interests are aqueous geochemistry, elemental cycling in marine sediments, nutrient fluxes, redox processes, organic matter diagenesis, sediment-water interface processes, and NMR. Both are actively working with some good new graduate students who came here in the fall.

Our new Environmental Science and Technology Building is under construction. It won't be ready for occupancy by this fall, contrary to what I had hoped at this time last year, but it is rising. Check it out at www.cos.gatech.edu/est/.

Marion Wampler

COPROLITES - ANOTHER SCOOP

A few years ago I shared my disappointment on learning that the well-known Washington coprolites were, in fact, pseudofossils. Now comes word from Adolf Seilacher and co-

workers, 2001, (Paleobiology, v.27, p. 7-13) to send shivers down the alimentary canal of scatologists. Specimens from the late Miocene Wilkes Formation (Washington State), Paleocene Golden Valley Formation (N. Dakota), and Late Permian of China share similar morphologies and are even more exciting than coprolites; they are cololites. According to the authors these specimens are "incompatible with even the most artistic mode of defecation". In particular they are pinched at both ends but "observation of our dog tells us that droppings become pinched only at the rear end". Rather, they represent intestinal casts from the carcasses of animals, probably killed by flooding or some other catastrophe. There is good morphological evidence for this conclusion, including the meandrine shape, striations left by muscle bands and evidence of peristaltic segmentation. One specimen is interpreted to be the cast of a cecum. The question of why no recognizable digested material is preserved in the gut, nor surrounding hard parts, remains a problem that the authors ascribe to selective preservation. They argue that the guts of these vertebrates were preferentially preserved as a result of bacterial decay, which promoted very early diagenetic replacement of the food contents by siderite. The same diagenetic process may have been responsible for the obliteration of bones, teeth and other organic debris. The authors predict that this discovery may raise the price of these "sociologically marginalized" specimens. Better make your purchases before word hits the fan! Thanks to Burt Carter who drew my attention to this article. He has a nose for these things!

Tim Chowns

GEOLOGY CALENDAR

At the annual meeting last year the possibility of printing a calendar with colored satellite images of Georgia was proposed and an example was on hand for examination. Although it was our original aim to publish for 2001 the project was

postponed to allow more time for sales. Order forms will appear in the fall Newsletter and copies of the calendar will be available for purchase at the annual field trip and throughout the fall. For more information please call Rebecca Dodge (rdodge@westga.edu, 770 830 2376)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If there have been any changes in your address please send the following information to:

Tim Chowns, Department of Geosciences, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA 30118.

Name _____

Business Affiliation and Address

Address for mail if other than above

Telephone Numbers

Business _____

Home _____

FAX _____

E-mail

Address _____

Have you paid your dues for 2000-2001? \$5.00

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Georgia Geological Society
Department of Geology
State University of West Georgia
Carrollton, GA 30118