Greetings from UWG Geosciences to all of our alumni and friends! I hope this newsletter finds you well. Perhaps our biggest change since last year is hiring Ryan Currier as our new Igneous and Metamorphic Petrologist. He comes to us from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, where he had already established a fine track record of teaching and research. He and his family arrived here just in time for a drought and heat wave, just after we all told him how much he would enjoy the climate in Georgia. We are also fortunate to have Claudette Ayanaba from Georgia EPD to teach several Weather and Climate lab sections for us. In Geography the new research/capstone requirement is proving to be very successful—we look forward to another round of research presentations by Geography students this year. In Geology we are building on momentum of successful geology field courses over the last two summers and plan to offer the course again summer 2020. We hope to offer it every summer going forward. Since cost is a major factor keeping students from taking the course we set up a new scholarship account (Geosciences Field Trip Fund) to help defray costs. Career Night each April has proven to be a very effective networking event for Geology and Geography majors exploring career opportunities. If you would like to drop in and share your career experiences with soon-to-be graduates, please contact the department for details.
**Professor Highlights**

**Claudette Ayanaba**

I would like to introduce myself as the new Weather and Climate Laboratory part-time instructor. I am not new-new but I am new. My first semester teaching Lab was Fall 2018 and I have been enjoying it ever since. Through the challenges and surprises, I am always excited to see the students on the one day of the week I am on campus. Some of my favorite moments are when I see a student’s face light up when working in the Augmented Reality Sandbox (thanks John Congleton!), or connecting everything we have learned in order to create their own forecast, or passionately discussing a climate change topic that they are concerned about. My background is in Engineering and I currently work full-time as an Environmental Engineer with the State of Georgia, Air Protection Branch. I started in Air Protection as a permit writer and I am currently a rule writer with the Planning and Support Program. I have three daughters ages 16, 14, and 8. This is a picture of us a few years ago at Sweetwater Creek Park.

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**Dr. Marian Buzon**

This is my fourth year at UWG! Time has flown by. As 2018 came to a close, I completed edits for the publication of "Current issues with purported "asbestos" content of talc: Asbestos nomenclature and examples in metamorphic carbonate and ultramafic hosted talc deposits." This paper is a result of the ongoing misuse of asbestos nomenclature, especially regarding talc and asbestos litigation, and was accomplished with the help of colleagues from the University of Idaho and UNC Asheville. I continued to work on a project involving ultramafic rocks in and near Carrollton. Research students, Robert Reid and Samuel Kirkham, had the opportunity to remotely analyze these rocks by accessing the electron microprobe at Florida International University during the spring. It was amazing being able to access such technology from afar, and was a great learning experience (for me too!). During the fall and spring semesters last year I spent some time working on a NSF proposal for a STEM+C grant with the goal of increased incorporation of computer science and computational thinking (+C) into STEM education in middle schools. This effort had representatives from all COSM departments as well as COE, and was a great collaborative experience. Dr. Mason and I led a field trip during the 2019 Maymester through primarily New Mexico and southern Colorado. Although we battled with the weather at times, the trip was a huge success and a lot of fun. Some favorite locations were Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo, Texas, White Sands National Monument, the Harding Pegmatite Mine, and Ghost Ranch. These trips are a fantastic way to end the academic year; I’m looking forward to many more years at UWG.
Dr. Tim Chowns  
Professor Emeritus

Tim Chowns is still working with Matt Dietel on the origin of "Rocktowns". This was a good excuse for a summer cruise on the River Elbe to see similar landscapes near Dresden in Saxon Switzerland. Would you believe karst in quartz sandstones? This is one possible explanation offered by European geologists. Although, the Rocktowns on Lookout Mountain are the result of sliding, karst features are well documented from Precambrian sandstones in the tepuis of Venezuela. I found it difficult to believe at first, but there are large caves, sinkholes and even opaline stalactites. Amazing! If you are intrigued see Sauro, F., et al. 2019. Genesis of giant sinkholes and caves in the quartz sandstone of Sarisarinama tepui, Venezuela; Geomorphology 342, 223-238.

Dr. Ryan Currier

My family and I moved to Carrollton in July, and we have fallen in love with the area. It has been a bit of a blur, but I am settling in, exploring the region, fixing up the house, while also managing the new semester at UWG and a couple of research endeavors. UWG is an absolute gem of a University and I am so pleased to be a part of this institution. A bit about myself. After receiving my PhD from Johns Hopkins University, I spent seven years as professor at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay (so I’m not exactly a spring-chicken). My particular flavor of geology is with igneous systems, more particular than that is I work in magma dynamics. I am interested in how magmas are transported and crystallize, and the processes that can result consequently. My recent work has taken me to the Dry Valleys of Antarctica, and slightly less exotic than that, the Wolf River Batholith in central Wisconsin. I am looking forward to taking on new projects in Georgia, working with students, and eventually cleaning my office.
**Dr. Brad Deline**

This past year has marked my tenth year at the University of West Georgia! I want to talk about a few highlights from the past year. First, I started teaching a new summer class discussing the geology of the National Parks. Sadly, this is an online class, but it has given me many ideas for the upcoming Western Field trip I am planning with Randa Harris for summer 2020. The most enjoyable part of the course was the final project, in which I had students record ranger talks discussing the geology of the parks- It was super enjoyable at the end of the semester to learn things from my students. On the science front, I recently published a paper this fall of which I am particularly proud. The paper documents coral occurrences from the Ordovician rocks of Kentucky and their implications for ancient invasive species. The specimen that spurred the research was found by a UWG student (Heather Alley) on a summer field course and another student took lead writing the paper (Felica Harris)! Lastly, I am happy to announce a new scholarship fund! This scholarship will be used to help students afford to attend the summer field courses! I am looking forward to growing the fund so more of our students can participate in this formulate geologic experience.

**Dr. Georgina DeWeese**

This year I began a new collaboration with the Funk Heritage Center, Reinhardt College to date local Cherokee dwellings. I also continue to spread my disdain for palm oil by having the GTU club participate in Safe Treat. This year, we will hand out palm-oil free candy to kids and literature to parents. This spring’s Rake the Lake was a success, despite it being very cold and rainy (see our photo)!


**Dr. Hannes Gerhardt**

The last year seems to mark a transition for me out of Arctic related studies, as I begin to focus more on the emerging economic spaces that are driven by what has been termed “commons-based peer to peer production”. Think Wikipedia - a collaboratively built, free commons - and then apply that concept of creating value to other things, in the digital or material world. Examples abound. I explore some of this in my recent publication in the geography journal Antipode. On top of my academic pursuits I continue to enjoy teaching and spearheading sustainability efforts on campus in my role as Director of Sustainability. Just recently I've been asked to serve on the presidential search committee at UWG, and I look forward to doing my best in finding a new and inspiring leader to take our university to the next level of excellence. Lastly, I should mention that I visited the Grand Canyon this past summer, and for the first time I had a deep longing for my geology colleagues to be around (lol). The amazing landscape was almost too much to take in, and I needed someone to explain it all to me. I did my best finding answers on Wikipedia, but a personal geology guide would have been much appreciated.

**Dr. Jessie Hong**

Since fall 2018, I have been taking the online graduate certificate program in interdisciplinary qualitative studies at UGA to learn about qualitative study design and methods. In spring 2019, I took a sabbatical semester and stayed with my family in Korea. During that time, although I didn’t teach, I took two online courses and worked on a couple of research projects on spatial concept learning, critical/global citizenship, and female doctoral students’ perspectives of living and studying in the U.S. One of the projects was about Korean college students’ critical citizenship. I’ve been interested in the issues of Japanese military sexual slavery, so called “comfort women,” so I attended several events like seminars, workshops, and protests regarding this issue. I found an active college student organization working for this matter, and I was fortunately able to interview the members of the organization asking about their motivation to join and perspectives on their experiences. I transcribed the interview responses during the summer, and I am currently analyzing the transcripts.

I took this picture at the Wednesday Demonstration, a weekly protest to demand Japanese government’s sincere apology since January 8th, 1992. It is always held at noon on every Wednesday in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul for about one hour.
**Dr. Cody Mason**

What a great academic year it has been! For me, the big highlights were co-leading an epic West Trip to New Mexico and Colorado with 10 students and Dr. Buzon, and leading my small research group on field work (really playing in the mud) in areas of eastern Arkansas and western Mississippi. My research group collected samples of ancient (15 – 25 thousand years) Mississippi River sediment, and this summer UWG Geosciences major Jourdan Speessen took those samples to the University of Texas at Austin, where she measured U-Pb ages of detrital zircons. With these new data, we should be able to better understand sources of sediment and patterns of erosion across the Mississippi drainage basin, over glacial-interglacial cycles. Jourdan and two other UWG student co-authors will present their work at the annual Geological Society of America meeting this September. Meanwhile, I’ll be (a) giving an invited seminar on the Mississippi River and related Amazon River work at Tulane, then (b) presenting my own work and co-chairing a session at GSA, and (c) attending a post-meeting stratigraphy workshop in Utah. All in one week. Whew! After September, I plan to slow things down a bit, but will continue with some field work in the Mississippi Valley, while engaging in some new collaborative work with researchers at the USGS and Virginia Tech, and developing potential new field areas in the Paleozoic basins closer to home. Last, I want to thank the warm and welcoming Geosciences faculty and staff, without whom this last year would have been way crazier than it was, and way less fulfilling.

**Dr. Shea Rose**

I am continuing research on regional climate extremes while teaching courses on weather and climate. A project using a GIS technique for drought analysis was presented with geography major Henrick Gordon at the American Association of Geographers conference in April 2019. I plan to continue working with this technique to explore relationships between weather phenomena and climate in the southeast. Beyond that I serve as Assistant Dean in the College of Science and Mathematics.

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**UWG Geology faculty and students at White Sands National Monument, New Mexico**

**UWG geography students, Henrick Gordon and Michael Griffin, in Washington D.C. for the AAG conference. Look closely and you will see the Capitol Building in the background.**

**UWG geography student Henrick Gordon in Washington D.C. for the AAG conference. Taking time to smell the flowers!**
Dr. Karen Tefend

Not too much to say this year, except that I decided to take the ASBOG P.G. exam in October 2018 and passed; now I am a subject matter expert (SME) in ASBOG and I am also on the Council of Examiners (COE). This past April 2019 I attended the ASBOG COE meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire. After the meeting there was a really cool field trip that included a stop at the famous Lake Winnipesaukee (well, famous to 3 stooges fans like me, anyway!). That is snow in the foreground.

I took my first vacation (other than family or work related trips) in three years (!!!), this summer when I visited the Rocky Mountains in Colorado with my former Ohio State friends. Look, more snow!

I am still serving as Treasurer for the Georgia Geological Society (GGS), and there are plans being made to move the annual GGS meeting to the spring, so keep an eye on the website for news regarding the next meeting and field trip! I look forward to seeing the UWG alum attendees again!

Dr. Andy Walter

I had a full year, which might explain why it went by so quickly. Or I’m getting old. I guess those are not mutually exclusive things. During the year I was primarily occupied with three things: teaching and advising Geography and Interdisciplinary Studies majors, building out the Interdisciplinary Studies major, and continuing with my research on economic and urban geographies of the sports industry. Among the highlights were serving as research mentor for four Scholars Day students, presenting an invited research talk at Mississippi State University, presenting a paper--and getting good, critical feedback--at the annual Geography conference in Washington, DC, and working with the UWG Center for Public History on the University History and the West Georgia Heritage Textile Trail projects.
Dr. Jeong Seong

In 2019 Dr. Seong published Georgia Image Atlas - Volume 1: Impact of Urbanization. This atlas is one of GeorgiaView’s outreach activities. Many people underestimate the extensive change of land cover in their living environment. Even if many online platforms provide land cover or land cover change information, they are not reached to the public easily because of, mostly, technical limits. As a way of helping people’s environmental awareness and decision making, intuitively and informatively, GeorgiaView developed this image atlas using community boundaries in Georgia such as 159 counties, 14 congressional districts, and 12 regional commissions. Two undergraduate students (Jordan Woodall and Daniel Moye) have assisted designing about 180 maps in the atlas. The atlas was delivered to multiple decision making agencies including GDOT and ARC. The atlas is freely downloadable from http://gaview.org.

Dr. Seong has secured three externally-funded projects in 2019. One is the Korea Atlas Project. In its 5th round, the project aims at translating Korean to English. Dr. Andrew Ivester has joined the project as co-PI. As a part of the project, Dr. Seong and Dr. Hwang have visited Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City in August 2019. Another is a conference keywords analysis project with Kyunghee University in South Korea. With Dr. Ana Stanescue in UWG Computer Sciences Department and two Korean graduate visiting scholars the project will visualize a summary of conference keywords using network analysis and machine learning methodologies. The last is the on-going GeorgiaView project. In this new round of 2019-2020, Dr. Seong will work with three undergraduate students to design and publish the second volume of image atlas. Its topic will be the primary productions in Georgia including crops and pastures.

Dr. Seong hosted the 4th UWG Geospatial Workshop for the Kyunghee University undergraduate students in July 2019. The workshop introduced the southeastern geography, physical and cultural, and various GIS skills including ArcGIS Pro.

Dr. Seong has also directed the post-baccalaureate GIS Certificate Program in 2019 and the program is getting more and more students. The program will give students the opportunities to learn GIS skills using QGIS, ArcGIS, and ArcGIS Pro.
The Geosciences Club has continued our busy year of mineral collecting, visiting local schools, hosting professional talks, and the like. The club took a trip to Arkansas to collect quartz at the Coleman Mine and diamonds at Crater of Diamonds State Park (retired Curtis Hollabaugh tagged along for this trip). The 9th annual Career Night this past Spring was very successful, with many alumni present to talk about their careers. If you are interested in coming to speak to the students for Career Night, please let us know.
Dr. Andrew Ivester

Hello from the UK! I've temporarily relocated to the Department of Geography at University of Sheffield for a two-year research contract. In collaboration with Ed Rhodes (University of Sheffield) and James Dolan (University of Southern California), I'm working on a project to apply infrared-stimulated luminescence techniques to understand Late Pleistocene and Holocene paleo-earthquakes by developing fault slip rate chronologies for the South Island of New Zealand. We are primarily dating fault-displaced fluvial features along braided streams -- and I plan to visit New Zealand for a field season next spring to collect more samples. We presented initial results at the 2019 UK Luminescence and ESR Dating Meeting, held this year in Roskilde, Denmark, where I met many others active in the European luminescence dating community. I also represented Georgia at the conference by presenting OSL results from a project at Fort Benning.

Sheffield hosted this year's meeting of the British Society for Geomorphology, with a record attendance of over 150. I helped with the field trip to a few sites in the beautiful Peak District National Park where we are dating some fluvial terrace sequences. It was fantastic to meet face-to-face some of the legends of British geomorphology! The move to England was a big change for Heather and the kids, but we are settling in nicely. And I'm getting used to the accents and vocabulary -- some of Tim Chown's enigmatic phrases are now starting to make sense! If any of you are over this way, stop by and I can give you a quick tour! My contact info is:

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Anita Bryant

Whew! It's hard to believe how fast the years go by. I am happy to celebrate my 25th Work Anniversary with the Geosciences Department, and enthusiastic about the years to come! (1994-current)

Tiffany Harris

Has it actually been a year since our last newsletter? I've been in a very sweet baby bubble as a new mom. I'm just thankful to be here...and that people still let me work here! I'm officially part of the Sustainability Council, so I get to do fun stuff in that role. I'm hoping to finally secure a grant for UWG to compost our dining hall waste. I guess I'll let you all know next year if we get it! :) Below is the bean and our sweet pup Hank. They party hard.
Myers teaches introduction to geography, world regional, economic, North America, Latin America, Africa, cartography, physical geography for teachers, and cultural geography for teachers; makes quarterly class schedules; serves on Faculty Senate and is a member of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee.

Dr. Myers - Geography
Newsletter 1985

Pig Roast circa 2012
Dick Sanders
Hiking across the west

Nine WGC geology and earth science students returned to the campus Friday after a 6,006 mile field trip where they hiked their way across the western states. Highlights of the 26-day adventure included visits to the Rocky Mountain National Park, Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado, Yellowstone National Park, Devil's Tower in Wyoming and the Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota. Shown are Kenny Carroll, Wendell McLendon, Kevin Berry, Brat McCanless, Jan McDaniel, Melissa Olson, Matt Robinson, Vonda Smith, Debbie Warner, and Dr. Curtis Hollabaugh, associate professor of geology.