

Geosciences Program Newsletter

for alumni and friends of the geosciences program.
Spring, 2016



Jonathan Cooley's Field-Based Introduction to Physical Geology students "chill" on their first field trip of 2016 to the infamous Mica Mine.

New Field-Based and Petroleum Courses in the Geosciences Program

by Andres Aslan and Larry Jones

Some of you may remember when the campus of what was then Mesa Junior College was about the size of a typical Front Range high school. Obviously, the campus changed (a lot!) as the institution transitioned from Mesa Junior College to four-year Mesa State College to its current status as Colorado Mesa University, the largest university in Western Colorado with over 9,000 students.

The Geosciences program has grown and changed as well. This article highlights several innovative and unique changes to the Geosciences curriculum.

In the past, the Geosciences curriculum provided a solid and broad background in geology for students. That is still the primary goal of the program, now and for the foreseeable future. Even so, some modifications and additions have been made for two primary reasons. First, the faculty are committed to taking as much advantage as possible of the extraordinary natural laboratory in the area around Grand Junction. Second, a growing number of our current students are interested in pursuing careers in the oil and gas industry, and we are committed to helping our students achieve their dreams.

Compared to Geosciences curricula elsewhere in the U.S., one of the most unique components of the undergraduate Geosciences program at CMU is the field-based version of Physical Geology created by Professor Rick Livaccari. Geology 113, Field-Based Introduction to Physical Geology, has grown from two sections per year in 2002, to six sections per year in 2015-16, and the



In the Depositional Systems Field Seminar course, Dr. Larry Jones demonstrates how to trench a sand dune near Ruby Ranch, Utah.

majority of Geosciences majors at CMU are coming from this fun and exciting class! This course, which uses field trips to replace conventional indoor lectures and labs, is the preferred introductory course for geology majors. The course uses weekly 3.5-hour-long field trips to cover the basics of Physical Geology with supplemental indoor lectures. Students come away from this course with a real appreciation for the fun of learning geology in the field and enjoy learning about the geology of our extraordinary region. No other program, to our knowledge, offers this type of introductory course, and certainly no program has the variety of field trip offerings that we enjoy here in the Grand Valley.



David Smuin on a hot day at field camp in 1975.

Other field-based experiences offered to the current CMU Geology students include the ever-popular Western Slope Field Conference, which many of our alumni will remember, and the newly instituted Spring Geosciences Program field trip (keep Sunday April 24th circled!). But the cornerstone of any undergraduate field experience is field camp. While some schools are reducing the length and number of credits associated with their field camp, GEOL 480, Field Studies in Geology remains a six-week-long experience full of learning and adventures that includes projects in the Grand Valley, Moab, Browns Park, the Henry Mountains, and even a Colorado River raft trip! In addition, all majors take Geology 202, Introduction to Field Studies, which in 2004 became a required course for all Geoscience B.S. degrees. This change was made to ensure that all geology students were capable of doing field work needed in upper division courses, and it has served as a good bridge between 100- and 300-level courses.

Largely based on the success of GEOL 113, Dr. Larry Jones offers a field-based upper division elective course, Depositional Systems Field Seminar. Larry takes students on a series of 4.5-hr long weekly field trips that allow students to see and describe world-class outcrops representing depositional systems including fluvial, lacustrine, eolian, and various marine environments. This is the type of course that maybe a graduate program would offer and even if it did, it certainly wouldn't be so strongly field-oriented! This is an amazing opportunity for our undergraduates, especially those who want to pursue careers involving sedimentology and stratigraphy. Lastly, many upper division courses (e.g., Geomorphology, Structure, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, Geophysics, and some of the new Topics courses) have added a large number of field trips (during labs and on weekends), and students are expected to do field-based projects. Geoscience majors at Mesa now graduate with as much or more field experience than many graduate students!

The Geosciences program now offers a number of new "soft-rock" courses in response to students' interest in oil and gas careers, and the increased economic importance of the petroleum industry in the Piceance Basin and other areas of Western Colorado. These are currently being offered as upper-division elective courses. Subsurface Methods introduces students to the fundamentals of subsurface data collection and analysis, and includes a half-semester hands-on laboratory using PETRA software taught by Professor Rex Cole. Basin Analysis covers the fundamentals of large-scale depositional systems with an emphasis on sequence

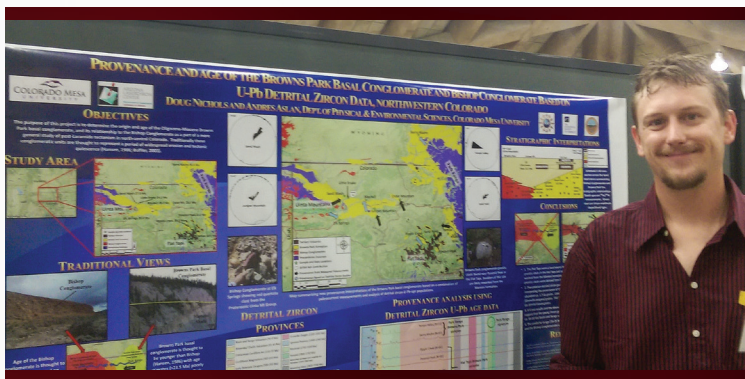
stratigraphic concepts. The Depositional Systems Field Seminar described above is also one of the new course offerings in this subject area. Lastly, a current course in Optical Petrology is being taught, which takes advantage of our newly acquired petrographic microscopes and includes a sedimentary petrology component that supports our petroleum-related course initiatives.

The history of the Earth is one of constant change. In a similar fashion, the Geosciences program has gradually changed for the better and will continue to do so as Colorado Mesa University and the Western Slope change through time. •

Coordinator's Corner

Hello again and welcome to the latest edition of the Colorado Mesa University Geosciences Newsletter. Here is a brief summary of past highlights and future events for the program in 2016.

December Graduation 2015. Three of our students, **Tyanna Eaton, Robert Gasnick,** and **Doug Nichols,** received their B.S. degrees in Geosciences this past December. Tyanna is a new momma and will hopefully honor our request for Kason's middle name to be "Wollastonite" or perhaps "Wingate." Doug wrapped up a distinguished career with several awards for his work on detrital zircons of the Miocene Browns Park Formation and presented his thesis work at the national Geological Society of America meeting in Baltimore this past April. Congratulations to our December grads!



Doug Nichols with his poster at GSA, Baltimore, Maryland.

CMU Geology Alumnus Visit. **Andy Darling** (B.S. '08) returned to Mesa this past November to present his ongoing Ph.D. research on the Grand Canyon, which he is close to completing at Arizona State. Andy took time to meet with current students to discuss his career path and graduate school adventures including numerous research raft trips through Grand Canyon. The current students really appreciated Andy's visit, and as several of them expressed, his visit gave some of them "hope." Thanks Andy! If any alumni would like to meet with students to talk about possible career paths, we would sincerely appreciate the visit. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Andres Aslan (aaaslan@coloradomesa.edu; 970.712.3834).

2016 CMU Geosciences Spring Field Trip Sunday April 24.

As a follow-up to our spectacularly well attended 2015 trip to the Book Cliffs, the Geology program will tour the geology of the canyon country near Moab on Sunday April 24. Stops will include areas near Castle Valley, Moab, and Island in the Sky. The Geology program will provide vans that will leave from campus at 7:30am. We hope that alumni as well as current students will take this opportunity to re-connect with the faculty and the CMU Geosciences program! For further information, please contact Andres Aslan (aaaslan@coloradomesa.edu; 970.712.3834).

2016 CMU Geology Student Presentations at Grand Junction Geological Society (GJGS) meetings. Each spring, the April GJGS meeting is set aside to showcase CMU student research. Presentations are a combination of short talks and posters, and this meeting (scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 6pm in Wubben Science 141) is a great way to see what current students are working on at CMU. If you can't make the Spring Field Trip on April 24, this might be a great way to re-connect with the Geosciences program. All alumni and friends of the program are welcome to attend this event!

Thank you to everyone for your continued interest and support of the CMU Geosciences program. We hope everyone is well and that we see you soon! •

Sincerely,
Andres Aslan
Geology Program Coordinator

In Memoriam, Richard Dean "Dick" Dayvault

As many of you know, Dick Dayvault passed away unexpectedly this past August. Dick was an avid supporter of all things geological and was frequently at CMU to attend GJGS meetings or judge geology presentations at the annual CMU Student Showcase. Dick was a highly respected author of books and magazine articles including works on fossilized wood, Jurassic conifer seeds and celestine geodes of Utah. Dick also was deeply involved with the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club and the John D. McConnell



The late Dick Dayvault enjoying a day in the field.

Math and Science Center — all while working as a geoscientist in support of Department of Energy activities for 35 years!

Dick's wife, Jalena Dayvault, and April Gil have established the **Richard D. Dayvault Endowed Memorial Scholarship** "to assist passionate future geologists or geoscientists who are committed to fostering interest in geology in their local community and contributing to scientific peer groups." Awards will be available for this fall and students should apply through the standard CMU application of the Financial Aid Office. Anyone wishing to add to this endowment in Dick's memory is welcome to do so, and should contact Rick Adleman (SupportingCMU.org) at the CMU Foundation. Dick left us with the following verse:

*...And some rin up hill and down dale,
Knapping the chucky stands to pieces wi'hammers,
Like sae mony road-makers run daft.
They say it is to see how the world was made...*

— Sir Walter Scott, St. Ronan's Well, 1824

Note: Those who wish to donate to the **Dayvault Endowed Memorial Scholarship** can just write "Dayvault Scholarship" on the enclosed scholarship donation envelope. We'll have the form updated for the next issue. Thanks for your support!

Faculty Profile:

Dr. Andres Aslan, Professor of Geology

Brown University (B.S., Geology)
University of Colorado (M.S., Geology)
University of Colorado (Ph.D., Geology)

My career as a geologist began as a rock hound in southern New York and Connecticut with visits to pegmatite quarries. Rock hounding made me look forward to taking Mineralogy as an undergraduate at Brown University, but ironically it was absolutely the worst college course I ever took (don't tell Rick!) and almost made me change majors!

I had two big breaks that steered me towards a professional career in geology. First, I had a fantastic summer field experience collecting Eocene mammal fossils in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming after I graduated with my B.S. in 1986. This summer experience introduced me to the amazing geology of the western U.S., allowed me to experience the fun of camping and doing geology in the field, and enabled me to meet my future graduate advisor, Dr. Mary Kraus, of the University of Colorado. After my summer in Wyoming, I worked as an intern at the Smithsonian Institution in the Department of Paleobiology under the tutelage of Dr. Anna K. Behrensmeyer. This job introduced me to an amazing group of graduate students, postdocs, and researchers including the renowned Richard Leakey! It was the fascinating adventures of the researchers that I met which motivated me to enroll in graduate school at the University of Colorado.



Dr. Andres Aslan

I loved every minute of graduate school in Boulder! I started a M.S. degree program in 1987 focusing on sedimentology and the application of alluvial paleosols to paleoenvironmental interpretations. Although my field area was the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming, I accompanied a colleague to Pakistan and briefly studied paleosols associated with a famous “walking whale” fossil, *Ambulocetus natans*. This fossil represents a true missing link and shows that whales evolved from land animals to aquatic mammals. The study was brief because the first Gulf War erupted while we were in the field and led to our rapid departure from the Kohat region of western Pakistan where machine guns were standard accessories among the local Pashtun.

I finished my M.S. in 1990 and promptly re-enlisted in the Ph.D. program at University of Colorado. My Ph.D. introduced me to the world of modern depositional environments and involved studies of the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and Red Rivers in Louisiana, and the Colorado and Trinity Rivers of south Texas. My research led to a suite of publications on Gulf Coast rivers and Quaternary stratigraphy, and a specialization in fluvial geomorphology.

Following completion of my Ph.D. in 1994, I had temporary teaching appointments at Oberlin College in Ohio, and Virginia Wesleyan College and Mary Washington College in Virginia. Afterwards, I landed a dream job. I was hired by the Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas to work on a multi-year environmental survey of the Orinoco Delta in Venezuela sponsored by P.D.V.S.A., the national oil company of Venezuela. With an operating budget of \$1 million/year and complete scientific freedom I thought I had it made. Little did I realize how expendable gringos are when the price of oil dips down to \$10/barrel! Despite my short tenure at the Bureau, Venezuela and the Orinoco Delta were a tremendous experience! One of the most amazing things I saw were active mud volcanoes representing surface expressions of giant mud diapirs, which formed due to transpression along the Caribbean-South American plate boundary.

Following my stint in Venezuela I returned to the western U.S. and began teaching at Mesa State (now Colorado Mesa University) in 1999. Being able to teach in this geological wonderland has been a true thrill, and I never get tired of telling our introductory students how lucky they are to be taking geology courses in

western Colorado. With my arrival at CMU came a complete change in my research interests and a chronic affliction with “gravelitis”. Instead of a life of Gulf Coast humidity, swamps, and river delta mud, I began to study the Rocky Mountains and river gravels of the upper Colorado River system. This just goes to show that people do get smarter as they get older! Over the past decade I have worked with many CMU students mapping river terraces and using new dating techniques (e.g., OSL, cosmogenic dating, detrital zircons) to slowly improve our knowledge of the river and canyon histories of western Colorado. In fact, these collaborative research projects (and river trips!) have been one of my greatest sources of satisfaction as a CMU professor. To all of my past and current students who have helped make these efforts so rewarding, I say “thank you!” •

Retired Faculty Profile: The “Golden” Years with Dr. Dell Foutz

Weber Junior College (A.S. Geology)
Brigham Young University (B.S. and M.S., Geology)
Washington State University (Ph.D., Geology)

Dr. Dell Foutz first became interested in geology in the hills and mountains around Ogden, Utah, where he was born and raised. As a youngster, he liked finding things, like golf balls in the rough at a golf course where he worked, and fossils and minerals in the mountains, and gold. He was lucky enough to take a high school geology class that piqued his interest enough that he went on to get an Associate’s Degree in Geology at Weber Junior College. He continued his education with a B.S. and M. S. in geology at Brigham Young University, and eventually earned a Ph. D from Washington State University. His dissertation was a stratigraphic study of Mississippian carbonates in the Uinta Mountains. Dr Foutz was in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp during college and was an Air Force pilot after graduation.

After leaving the Air Force, Dell went to work for Exxon in Texas. He started out as a production geologist in Kingsville and later worked as an exploration geologist at Midland. He spent seven years in Texas and was considered a senior exploration



Dr. Dell Foutz admiring a nice gold hugget in the wilds of Siberia.

geologist and a senior production geologist by Exxon. He recalls that 13 of his production wells in a row were drilled successfully. His boss called him in and complained that he needed to drill more dry holes — his high success rate indicated he wasn't taking enough chances! Dell is still bothered by the irony that perfection wasn't good enough! Regardless, he really enjoyed having a prospect become a successful well.

Dr. Foutz claims "Oil is easy to find in Texas". In fact, he eventually realized he had discovered all the oil there was left to find in Texas and needed a new challenge. This realization eventually led to his next career as a college professor at Mesa State College.

Dr. Foutz did field work one summer in the Overthrust Belt in Wyoming with Arch Girdley, who at the time was teaching at Mesa. Arch mentioned that the geology program at Mesa was about to transition from two years to four, and a faculty position was likely to open up. Dell followed up on this information and ended up as a faculty replacement for Jim Johnson for one year. The following year, however, there was no need for a new faculty member even though a four-year program was in place because there were no geology juniors or seniors yet, so Dell took an office position. The next year, however, the four-year program was in full swing, and Dell became a geology faculty member.

Dell taught Geology of Colorado, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, Paleontology, Economic Geology, and Geology of the Grand Canyon. He really liked the field trips with students. He fondly remembers trips to collect trilobites in the House Range in Utah and trips to an underground coal mine near Rangely, but his favorite field trip was to Grand Canyon, Arizona.

The Grand Canyon course took place every year over Spring Break for about 20 years and was always full with 15 students. Some years, Mesa faculty would sign up for the course because they had heard how good it was. He and the participants hiked to the bottom where they camped. On the way out, they spent

"I've already found all the oil in Texas. Now what?"



a night part way up at Indian Garden. When they reached the top, they had to take a test on all they had learned. Getting a campsite was difficult because reservations were available on January 1 every year and were gone very fast. Dell had a friend in Arizona who would go to the Grand Canyon every year and reserve the campground for him. One year, however, a former student who had become a teacher and really wanted to take his own students down, got there first and got the campsite.

Dr. Foutz "officially" retired in 1993 but continued to teach night classes until 2000. Dr. Rex Cole was hired to replace Dr. Foutz and teaches many of the same courses that Dell started.

No former students have clearly stated that Dr. Foutz is "obsessed" with finding gold, but they, and he, would agree that he does have a certain "fondness" for the dense, yellow metal. One former student, who will remain nameless although his guilt is widely acknowledged, helped a second student "salt" a placer deposit when Dell was giving a panning demonstration for a class. He admittedly became quite excited when some fairly large nuggets appeared in his pan instead of the few flakes of flour gold that he expected. The Nameless One confessed, and for a time, Dr. Foutz agonized over a proper grade for the student ("that rascal") — "A" for a brilliant prank, or "F" for embarrassing the professor...

Dell relates another time when he returned from a field trip and was looking over some samples he had collected. To his surprise, he found gold flakes mixed in with the samples! His excitement soon diminished when he realized gold lettering on the sides of the sample bag had come loose and mixed with the samples...

Yet another "golden" episode in Dell's life took place during his Air Force career. He flew in a C-121 outfitted with radar because he was both a radar intercept specialist and pilot. He jokes this was because "...I could tell the radar crew I was up flying and tell the flying crew I was up with the radar, and go take a nap in the back... but not really". He distinctly remembers one flight engineer showing him a bunch of large gold nuggets because Dell was a geologist and known to be interested in gold. He eventually found that these were recovered from scuba diving beneath a waterfall on a river somewhere within a few hours drive of Sacramento, but the exact location remains a mystery.

Dr. Foutz has published three books. The first, "Where is the Gold on the Colorado River?: And how Do You Get it Out?" was based on his experience panning gold at 217 locations along the Colorado from near Breckenridge all the way downstream to Grand Canyon. Almost every location showed some gold, by the way. His second book, "The Geology of Colorado Illustrated", was written for use as a textbook for his "Geology of Colorado" class at Mesa. Dell's most recent book, and in his opinion, by far the best, was written during his retirement and is entitled "Elusive Treasures". The book recounts Dell's numerous close encounters with wealth or fame throughout his life and is "mostly true". Many of the stories involve gold, but emeralds and uranium also came almost within his grasp along the way. Although his first two books are out of print, "Elusive Treasures" is still available. Interested readers can find the book on Amazon, at Grand Valley Books in Grand Junction, or the book can be purchased for \$11.15 plus \$0.85 tax from the author. Dell can be reached at: yourgeologist@yahoo.com, 970.243.7088, or 221 Mesa, Grand Junction, CO 81501

After retirement, Dell traveled a lot and went on some cruises. He liked flying and for a while had a home built airplane, but he eventually sold that. He did join the Army National Guard and spent some time flying L-19s out of Salt Lake City. He notes the L-19 was used as a spotter for artillery and for that reason flew "low and slow" over the enemy and drew a lot of ground fire. The L-19 was a lot of fun to fly, but he eventually left Bountiful, Utah, and moved to a town where the Army National Guard did not have a presence.

Dell has four daughters and one son. His wife passed away in 2008, but he has since met and married Arvilla, who has four sons and one daughter, so between the two of them they now have a perfectly balanced family of five sons and five daughters.

Dell still lives in Grand Junction and enjoys seeing his former students around town. He really enjoyed his time at Mesa getting to know the students, teaching, and taking field trips. He has had some recent health issues that he claims have "taken all the smarts out of my brain" but this author found him to be doing just fine, and he still lights up when the topic of "gold" comes up. Rock on, Dr. Foutz! •

Going with the Flow: Water-Related Activities in CMU's Geosciences Program

The Water Center at Colorado Mesa University has continued with its busy agenda of water-related activities and has changed its name. In October 2015, the Water Center was renamed after late water activist Ruth Powell Hutchins (for more information about Ruth Hutchins, see "A warrior in irrigation boots" http://www.coloradomesa.edu/news/2015/09/warrior-irrigation-boots.html#.VrU-Z_krKM8).

The 5th Annual Upper Colorado Basin Water Forum was held in November 2015 and drew water professionals from around the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Water Center also published the premier report in its new Scientific and Technical Report Series in collaboration with the Tamarisk Coalition about the tamarisk beetle in the Colorado River Basin. The second report in the series will be out in February 2016 and will be about riparian groundwater and base flow studies in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The report series is available on the Water Center's website: coloradomesa.edu/water-center. •

The mission of the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at CMU is to support and promote education, outreach, research, and dialogue to address the water issues facing the Upper Colorado River Basin.

— Gigi Richard, Faculty Director,
Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center



COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Map It: Geographic Information Science & Technology Program at CMU

I am proud to say the Geographic Information Science and Technology program at Colorado Mesa University is growing. Several years ago, when we moved the GIS Lab to WS147 after expansion and renovation of Wubben Science Building, there were 12 workstations. At that time, we had a total of 10-15 students taking GIS and Computer Applications in Geology per semester. More than 30 students are now taking GIS classes each semester. Students majoring in biology, environmental science, geology, archeology, health science, and history are now taking GIS classes to expand geospatial knowledge, and more geology classes now require computers. For these reasons, the demand for computers in the last few years has greatly exceeded the number of computers available. The CMU Board of Trustees approved additional funds to expand the GIS lab, and six additional work stations were added in November of 2015. We now have 18 workstations. •

— Verner Johnson, GIS Coordinator



The GIS lab in Wubben 147 now contains 18 student workstations.

Alumni News: Maverick Geologists

Jesse Houghton (B.S. '08) works for Environmental Resources Management in Austin, Texas. He found Dr. Rick Livaccari's faculty profile (last issue) to be highly entertaining. **Andrew Katen** (B.S. '14) serves as Director of Individual Matters, LLC, a psychology and education practice located in Grand Junction. His role includes strategic business development, education consulting, and psychometric support. Andrew has recently released his first novel, "Chaturanga," about the travels of an American boy and his (geologist) father along the Silk Road. As an example of young adult educational fiction, the story weaves together Central Asia's history, geography, politics, geology, and culture amid a backdrop of drama and adventure. "Chaturanga" is available on Amazon. **Bryan Richards** (B.S. '11) has been working for the City of Hayden and has recently applied to graduate school at the Colorado School of Mines. **Jennifer Graham** (B.S. '14) has started working as a Project Scientist at Navarro Research and Engineering. **Rob Rice** (B.S. '13), reports he is living under a bridge and eating worms, but has high hopes. Oh wait, he was kidding! He also works at Navarro with **Jennifer Graham** (B.S. '14) and is working on an M. S. at Emporia State University. Rob plans to begin his thesis work this coming summer. He is also working on obtaining a Wyoming Professional Geologist license. Doesn't really sound like Rob has time to hang under bridges, does it? Keep it up, Rob! **Sally Potter-McIntyre** (B.S. '06), Assistant Professor of Geology at Southern Illinois University, just published a paper in *Lithosphere* summarizing recent geochemical and detrital zircon studies of the Jurassic Wanakah Fm. in western Colorado and eastern Utah. Co-authors include former and current CMU geology students **Marisa Boraas** ('14) and **Keegan DePriest**, who worked with Sally while she taught at CMU in 2012-2013. Funding was from an Unconventional Energy Grant that Sally received during her time at CMU.

We always like to hear from our former students. If you can, please drop by or send an email and let us know what you are doing! •

Upcoming 2016 Colorado Mesa University Geosciences Spring Field Trip

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, the Geosciences program will host a field trip to Canyonlands. The Geosciences program will provide vans that will leave from campus at 7:30am. We hope that alumni as well as current students will take this opportunity to re-connect with the faculty and the CMU Geology program! For further information, please contact Andres Aslan (aaaslan@coloradomesa.edu; 970.712.3834). •



CMUgeology

Alumni
Facebook Page

Did you know Colorado Mesa University Geology Alumni have a Facebook page? You can access it by logging in to Facebook and searching "Colorado Mesa University Geology Alumni" or by going to [facebook.com/CMUgeology](https://www.facebook.com/CMUgeology).

Missing Mavericks

We would like to send the newsletter by email and regular mail to all CMU geology alumni. Unfortunately, we have lost contact with a few. We hope they are happily employed (or retired) and sipping Mai Tais on a tropical island. Regardless, if you know where any of the following alumni are (email or postal address) please let us know, or ask them to contact us:

Donnelly, Lyall G. ('80)
Dougless, Thomas C. ('82)
Fukasawa, Kazuma ('98)
Funayama, Junichi ('98)
Indivero, Gregory D. ('12)
Johnson, David W. ('81)
Knapp, Cheryl D. ('77)
Kreid, Douglas S. ('77)
McBride, Michael G. ('84)

McCulley, Lynette E. ('83)
Nair, Marilyn K. ('77)
Simmering, Michael G. ('81)
Smuin, David ('75?)
Stermitz, Matthew J. ('84)
Triplett, Gloria A. ('81)
Velky, G. A. ('97)
Vining, Brian T. ('02)
Wilson, Cynthia J. ('78)

Also, if you are not receiving both an emailed and hard copy of the newsletter, and would like to receive both, please let us know your current contact information.

Larry Jones, Editor lajones@coloradomesa.edu. •

Club Activities

Colorado Mesa University Student Chapter, **American Association of Petroleum Geologists.** The AAPG Student Chapter at Colorado Mesa University is busy with monthly meetings, and a spring field trip is in the planning stages. An election was held at the end of fall semester to replace Secretary Robert Gasnick who graduated in December. Trevor Potter is the newly-elected Secretary. Congratulations, Trevor!

The Chapter is interested in hosting speakers, particularly those who would like to talk about local geology or who can provide job-finding guidance to geology graduates. The Chapter would also be interested in hearing from geologists who would like to guide students on local field trips. Interested individuals should contact AAPG Student Chapter president Trey Nusbaum-Davis: tjnusbaum-da@mavs.coloradomesa.edu. •

Base Level: From the Editor

Ihope you are all enjoying the newsletters. In this issue, we've provided an update on some of the changes the program has undergone in recent years. This month's featured faculty member is Andres Aslan, who ended up doing double duty by writing his normal column (Coordinator's Corner) and his faculty profile. The retired faculty member is Dell Foutz who graciously gave me a copy of his book, *Elusive Treasures*, after our interview. I'm currently reading it, and if you are one of Dell's former students, I think you'd find "Elusive Treasures" more than interesting! This issue also contains the Coordinator's Corner and other regular features. We welcome your input, suggestions, photos (especially old photos of former students!). As before, we are particularly interested in hearing from alumni — where are you and what are you doing? You can contact me directly at lajones@coloradomesa.edu or contact Dr. Andres Aslan, Department Coordinator, at aaaslan@coloradomesa.edu.

Larry Jones, Newsletter Editor

