IN THIS ISSUE…

- Earth Sciences Club Events
- Earth Science Mentoring Successes
- Current student successes
- Current faculty successes
- Alumni updates
- What’s going on this summer?
- What’s going on next Fall?

END-OF-SEMESTER PARTY
Hosted by the Earth Sciences Club

Friday, May 21
3-5 pm S45

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
Our scholarship winners
Our department mentors and aides
Our students who are transferring!
And the hard work of everyone this semester.

Study Session in S45 Fall 2009

See our updated website: www.ccsf.edu/Earth
Welcome to the first annual May newsletter from the Earth Sciences Department at City College of San Francisco. We have had a very productive year and endured the challenges of severe budget cuts with higher enrollments and fewer sections. It’s been my first full year as department chair, after taking over the reins that Darrel Hess held so well for so many years. It’s been quite the learning experience, not so much inside the department, but in my interactions outside the department. We face a $4 to $12 million budget cut for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, and the college is struggling with the need to restore classes to ensure we get the maximum amount of state funding, but also maintaining a hiring freeze to reduce operational costs. We need to prepare for more cuts ahead – in all areas of the college. (Note: 90% of CCSF’s operating budget goes for salaries, so I’m sure more cuts are destined for this area – starting with the top administrators and trickling all the way down).

Despite these distractions, we were able to implement a number of exciting new opportunities for our students. We have an official Earth Sciences Club (see articles to follow). S45, our department lab room, has turned into a real study hall when classes are not in session, and it’s common to see it filled with students working together, studying their rocks, fossils, or geologic time puzzles. We’ve had a lot of additions to our website this year - providing numerous resources for our students and faculty (careers, internships, transfer information, etc. Take a look! www.ccsf.edu/Earth). We’re embedding a student learning outcomes evaluation process into our multiple instructor courses. During this process, all instructors of a course are coming together and sharing ideas about class activities, the general course mission, and improvement possibilities. We’re in the process of working on majors for a variety of our programs. And finally, we were able to hire two federal workstudy students this past year to help us with department projects. Both Monica and Jana have been invaluable in helping to handle many of our new projects, while maintaining our existing classroom and building displays and other projects.

On the personal front, my partner, Pearl, and I bought a home together on the edge of San Francisco, in Daly City, on San Bruno Mountain. I can and do now walk to work and enjoy hiking in San Bruno Mountain State Park in the evenings and weekends. For my classes, I developed a new homework assignment this past year – an attempt to wed the material from the class with the skills and hobbies the students bring to class. There were some highly creative and fun projects. Students clearly enjoyed producing them, and I enjoyed reviewing them. You can see a sampling online at: http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/Earth_Sciences/content/Katryn/Classes/PastHW.html

As summer break nears, I wish everyone a wonderful break full of peace, adventure, and lots of sleep and restoration!

**What’s going on next Fall?**

**NEW CLASS**

Historical Geology GEOL 11  
Joyce Lucas-Clark  
M/W 11-12:30

*Origin of the earth and its development through geologic time. The formation and destruction of mountain ranges and ocean basins. The evolution of plants and animals as seen through the fossil record. Emphasis on the geologic history of North America.*

**What’s going on this summer?**

**Teacher workshop** – June 8 & 9  
(For K-12 science teachers)

**Open College Workshops**  
June 2, July 14, Aug. 4  
(open to all)

Join the Earth Sciences Club to hear about more events as they get organized.
Earth Sciences Club Events

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
End-of-Semester Party – S45 – Friday, May 22, 3-5 pm

**PAST EVENTS**
- **Unity Day Celebration** (CCSF – May 12)
- **Mt. Diablo Fieldtrip** on Saturday, April 24th (Rock City and Fossil Ridge 3-4 hours), Led by Professor Katryn Wiese
- Gem and Mineral Show in San Jose on April 16, 17, and 18
- The Earth Science Club welcomed Karen Grove, from San Francisco State University, who gave a talk about Chile's Magnitude 8.8 Earthquake FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1:30 TO 2:30 PM in Science Hall room 5, Ocean Campus
- **Marin Headlands Fieldtrip** on Saturday, March 27th (Battery 129, Pt. Bonita Lighthouse, Rodeo Beach – 12:30-2:30), Led by Professor Katryn Wiese
- **March in Sacramento to rally against budget cuts** (March 22)

To subscribe, e-mail Majordomo@cloud.ccsf.edu. Include this message in the body (not the subject line) of the e-mail: subscribe earthsciencesclub.

Earth Science Mentoring Program

**Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Mentors and Lab & Department Aides:**
- Katherine Cooper (geology, oceanography, geography)
- Joe Dean (geology, oceanography)
- Andrew Delgreco (geology)
- Melissa Dubose (oceanography and geology)
- Eric Heilbronner (geology and paleontology)
- Wing Yee Lee (geology and paleontology)
- Torborg Lundell (paleontology)
- Garret McGurty (geology)
- Jeff Newell (oceanography, geology, and paleontology)
- Victor Obeck (geography)
- Kate Orsini (geography and geology)
- Babs Reitz (geology)
- Maccabee Shelley (geology)
- Terra Tice (geography)
  (department assistants)
- Jana Ng
- Monika Shrestha

To get involved: contact Katryn Wiese at katryn.wiese@mail.ccsf.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR JIM COURT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SPRING 2010

WingYee Lee and LuoYan Yu

CONGRATULATIONS
TO AGU ATTENDEES
(FUNDED THROUGH MESA/STEM GRANTS)

WingYee Lee, Garret McGurty, Kate Orsini, Terra Tice

From the current Earth Science Club President – Terra Tice:

In the last year I have been working towards transferring to a university, to obtain my degree in Geography. Through the last academic year I have worked as a mentor for both physical geography lab and lecture. This last semester I helped to start the Earth Sciences Club as an official club at CCSF. For activities this year we invited Karen Grove Professor of Geosciences at SFSU to come give a lecture on the Magnitude 8.8 Earthquake that occurred in Chile. We also were able to go on two different fieldtrips, one to coastal Marin and the other to Mt Diablo. With the starting of a new club there were obstacles to overcome, but I feel with the right people this club can flourish in the future. As for my future, I have been accepted to the University of California Berkeley in the Geography department for the spring of 2011. Between the end of this semester and January when I will start at Berkeley, I plan to drive across country stopping at National Parks, work to save up money for school, and I would like to travel to the state of Veracruz in Mexico to take some language courses as well as climb Pico de Orizaba, the largest mountain in Mexico.
From Lab Aide and Scholarship winner, Wing Yee Lee – Geology

I’ve completed all my science classes. This next year I will be taking all the remaining GE classes and completing IGETC, so I can apply for transfer. After being a lab aide for Geology 10 for a semester, I realize the importance of assisting other students and plan to continue my role next semester.

From Lab Aide and Tutor, Katherine Cooper – Geology, Oceanography, Geography

Since taking my first class in City College's Earth Sciences department in the Spring semester of 2008, I have found myself more often than not planning trips around what I have been learning and sharing that information with my friends and traveling companions along the way. My first class was Oceanography, after which I visited beaches in the East Coast of the US to see the features of a depositional coastline and then traveled down to Florida to visit the mangrove forests of the Everglades and go snorkeling in the coral reefs off of the Florida Keys and out at Dry Tortugas National Park.

I continued to take trips around the country on school breaks, including one to the Oregon coast during spring break of the Fall 2008 semester -- where I managed to catch an intense storm that washed a lot of sea life up on shore for me to inspect. I have continued taking classes in the Earth Sciences department, taking Geography with Professor Hess in Spring 2009 semester and Geology with Professor Wiese in the current semester, Spring 2010.

The knowledge gained in these classes has helped me to plan trips to see glaciers in Alaska, lava tubes near Mt. St. Helens in Washington and also in central Oregon, salt flats and Basin and Range topography in Death Valley, Lassen Peak at the bottom of the Cascades Range and Mt Baker at the northernmost end of the United States portion of the Cascades Range. I’ve also taken trips with the department, to see the ancient rocks and fossils of Mt. Diablo and to see the teeming tide pools at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Future trips will include more of what I have learned during the last semester tutoring and taking classes in City College's Earth Science department. I will be traveling back to Alaska this summer and following that with a long trip through Southeastern Asia, Eastern Europe and hopefully North Africa as well. I look forward to taking my broader view of the world with me on these trips as I can see the similarities and differences in geography and landforms along the way and understand how they got there and how they may change in the future.
Full time:
Carla Grandy (Geography and Oceanography)
Darrel Hess (Geography)
Katryn Wiese (Geology and Oceanography, Department Chair)

Part time:
Robert Anima (Geology and Oceanography)
Jim Kuwabara (Oceanography)
Chris Lewis (Geology)
Joyce Lucas-Clark (Paleontology and Geology)
Elizabeth Proctor (GIS)
Wanda Simpson-Bazcek (Geology of Gems)
Sean Stasio (GIS – joint with Engineering)
Gordon Yee (GIS – joint with Engineering)

A GLIMPSE INTO A PALEO LAB FIELD TRIP

Joyce Lucas-Clark – Paleontology

The Paleontology class of Spring 2010 is a boundlessly enthusiastic bunch that has been disappointed twice on field trips. One trip was cancelled because road construction prevented us from getting to the fossil deposits and the other field trip had to be cut short. So in trying to come up with a “make-up” voluntary, unofficial trip, someone suggested “Let’s go to Doc’s house.”

Doc is a nickname for me – Dr. Joyce Lucas-Clark, Instructor for Paleontology 1. My house also houses a small but fascinating collection of fossils (also minerals). There is the giant ammonite (24” across) in the hallway. There are dinosaur eggs, a Mesosaur (proto-dinosaur), a fine Eupodocida (sea scorpion), and a Placoderm (ancient plated fish) in the coffee table (That’s right, I said in), plus a little egg with eyes peeking out of it. For the field trip, I had arranged on the dining room table, a Cretaceous crocodile skull, skulls of Oligocene Oreodonts, a beautifully preserved fossil crab, a 4 inch, well preserved trilobite (Phacops), and “lots of little stuff.” Everywhere students looked in the living room were shelves with mineral specimens and more fossils. Among the little things were a dragon fly, a cricket (both Cretaceous in age), a shrimp, crayfish, tiny crabs, more trilobites, more ammonites, and, well, too many to mention them all.

There were munchies (meatballs and potato salad, chips and dips), and when you finished inside the house, there was the yard. Out there we have walking little dinosaurs (chickens!) and fairly good sized furry mammals (rabbits, a dog, two cats). For a little exercise students could climb the three-story tree house and hang on tight to fly on the zip line. They didn’t believe there was a zip line, but there it was.

All in all, it made a quite suitable Paleontology field trip and a good time was had by all.
Chris Lewis – Geology
Pathways to Becoming a Teacher – An SFSU Faculty Dialogue Report

As a full time teacher at Everett Middle School and evening instructor at City College, I was a natural match for the Bechtel Future Teacher Transfer Project. Coordinated by Dr. Betsy Kean from SF State, faculty from East Bay and San Francisco State Universities are meeting together with teams from each of the region's community colleges to discuss pathways to becoming a teacher. One of the project’s goals is to create pathways between community colleges and state universities that foster more successful transfer students who ultimately go on to becoming successful teachers.

I received a single subject teaching credential six years ago, after completing a teacher preparation program at CSUS, a biology class at American River Community College and taking a series of subject matter tests. Since then, I've taught both high school and middle school math and science. I was surprised that, with both a masters and a bachelors degree in geology from a University of California, I still needed to take subject area courses to teach high school or even middle school science and math. It turns out, though, there are some gaps between what a college or university expects the students in it's major subject area to know and what the state of California expects middle and high school students to learn. Since highly qualified teachers need to know the subject matter they are teaching, teacher preparation programs need to cover these gaps.

Some of the recommendations that are surfacing from these dialogues include how community colleges can help by adjusting their course content to meet subject matter requirements for teachers and by offering courses that articulate well to the programs at CSU East Bay and SFSU. Instructors should model good pedagogy through the use of diverse learning activities that engage students in multiple ways, helping prepare future teachers with methodology and well as subject matter. Finally, students need to be aware that community colleges offer advising to potential teachers through centers such as CCSF’s Teacher Prep Center (www.ccsf.edu/cdev). The Teacher Prep Center at City College is by far one of the best in the area and students interested in possibly becoming teachers will find its services and support invaluable. Coming up June 8th and 9th is the Center’s 5th Annual Math, Science and CTE Conference for Teachers. The conference theme is "Bridging the Achievement Gap in Math & Science" and workshops related to reaching and teaching under-served student populations as well as specific content are being offered. I’ll be there hosting an Earth science workshop and anyone with questions about becoming a teacher is also welcome to contact me at cjlewis@ccsf.edu.

Elizabeth Proctor – GIS
(Geographical Information Systems)

The academic year finished on a high note, with several Geog 110 Intro to GIS students coming up with creative and insightful final lab projects. It's always inspiring to me. I'm looking forward to a relaxing summer entertaining myself while my husband finishes his SFSU Geography M.A. thesis. I'll be helping transcribe notes. My day job at PG&E is ramping up as I have taken on some new responsibilities as supervisor of the ten-person GIS group. Less time working with rasters and vectors, more time explaining the difference between raster and vector to people outside the world of GIS. It's fun!
For me, the last year has been as much about learning as teaching. Since the birth of my daughter I have learned many things about patience, priorities, values and the importance of sleep. As we near her first birthday and I reflect back on this year I realize that some of the most important lessons actually apply to the classroom as well, like: physical presence is meaningless without mental presence, doing anything is the quickest way to learn it, and the outdoors make the best classroom.

Caroline joined our family two weeks after the spring 2009 semester concluded. Throughout that spring semester I worried that she would come early and I would not be able to finish teaching my classes, but she was cooperative and arrived on her due date. After 2 semesters of being pregnant on the City College Campus, walking up and down hills and stairs all day – I was ready!

The fall semester was spent at home with Caroline, getting to know her. Raising a child is not only a full-time, but also a full-body experience. It is exhausting – especially in the early weeks and months and I was happy for the time to focus my energy on her. Before having a child, I did not truly realize how much personality and preference, likes and dislikes people are born with. It is interesting to see the things she has strong feelings about and how even from very early on she was able to communicate her needs and wants to us.

Caroline is a very energetic little person and we try to get out as much as possible to put her energy to good use. She already enjoys hiking, trips to the park and traveling. Since she was born we have visited England, Italy, and Texas and we are currently planning trips to England, France and New Mexico for the upcoming summer. My husband and I both feel strongly that if she’s going to hang out with us, she has to love to travel and be outdoors – those are the requirements for being in our family and so far, she has been up to the challenge!
FACULTY UPDATES

Jim Kuwabara – Evening Oceanography Lecture – Mission Campus

Except for Thursday evenings, when I am teaching OCAN1 at the CCSF Mission Campus, I serve as a Research Hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in the National Research Program within the Water Resources Discipline. Although I help direct research in the broad area of ecology for the program, my own studies are rather tightly focused and ask the general question, “How do inorganic solutes (both nutrients and toxicants) move and distribute in surface-water systems (that is, lakes, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters)?” Many of our studies involve the movement of solutes between bottom sediments and the overlying water column. This movement is of interest to resource-managers who must consider all the important sources of solutes into and out of the aquatic system to be managed. Often times, these systems experience a legacy of accumulated, sediment-associated, biologically reactive solutes (for example, trace elements such as mercury, or dissolved nutrients such as phosphates). We employ a variety of research approaches and work with many other researchers within and outside the USGS, to implement these studies that result in publications to distribute our findings and their implications. We typically measure and compare the rates at which solutes move from the bed (bottom) sediments to the water column where it may be taken up, transferred and biomagnified by organisms. In brief, here are our recent and ongoing studies. For more detailed information, please visit the project Web site (http://wwwrcamnl.wr.usgs.gov/solutetransport/index.htm).

1. Benthic-oxygen demands in the newly restored Alviso Salt Ponds (South San Francisco Bay, CA)
2. Food Web Dynamics in North San Francisco Bay, CA
3. Sources of Microcystin (an algal toxin) to Upper Klamath Lake, OR
4. Solute release from wetlands restored adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake, OR
5. Benthic Sources of Nutrients to Upper Klamath Lake, OR
6. Mercury Cycling in Lahontan Reservoir, NV
7. Trophic Transfer of Mercury in the Guadalupe River Basin, CA
8. Mercury Cycling in Camp Far West Reservoir, CA (in the Sierra foothills)
9. Trace-metal and Nutrient Transport in Coeur d’Alene Lake, ID (downstream of one of largest USEPA Superfund Sites).

Upper Klamath Basin: profiler samples from the wetlands under restoration (note the tea-colored, high organic concentrations in the deeper samples). That’s because the lands were leveed and used for agriculture (with regular fertilizer applications) for 60 years.
Roberto Anima – Geology & Oceanography

After about three years as a Part-time professor, I can only say it is a pleasure working in our department. I have enjoyed working with great professors and students. After thirty-six years as a marine geologist with the USGS I am able to continue with the science by teaching it to young inquisitive minds (and some not so inquisitive). One year before retiring from the USGS, I started a diving business conducting hull cleaning, underwater maintenance, and salvage in the various marinas in South San Francisco Bay. I live on a houseboat, Sandy II, which I spent all of last summer rebuilding. It still needs some work but is much more comfortable.

My free time is spent working on my boats and sailing. I was bitten by the sailing bug approximately 35 years ago and have owned four sail boats during that time. After 19 years with my 32 ft cutter, Velero, I sold her and purchased Destiny, a 38-40 ft cutter. Destiny is a cutter-rigged sailboat that is built for open ocean sailing, and my plans are to head out the Golden Gate and go south this summer. I’ll sail as far as I can, giving myself enough time to return to the Bay Area, before the Fall Semester begins. I am presently fine tuning the boat and will have her ready in the next two to three weeks. Below are some pictures of both my ladies.

My hope is to continue teaching at CCSF as long as I’m needed. Next semester I will be teaching Geology on Monday and Wednesday, I hope to see you then. Have a Great Summer.
Gordon Ye – GIS (Geographical Information Systems)

In my day job I work for a game software company developing virtual reality simulations for emergency response and combat training. Our software consumes large quantities of GIS data to build up accurate models of real places. Much like doing GIS cartography, our software needs to handle coordinate system conversion, data interpretation, filtering, and visualization of abstract data.

In my spare time I like to climb mountains and to travel. One of the most gorgeous mountain areas is the Sierra Nevada, where I spend many summer weekends. The highest mountain I’ve climbed is Mount Kilimanjaro (19340 feet) in Tanzania. This was part of a month-long African trip I did four years ago. Safari at Serengeti National Park and visiting Zanzibar Island were both fantastic experiences. This summer I’m travelling to China, looking forward to the World Exposition in Shanghai.
Wanda Simpson-Baczek – Geology of Gems

Currently I’m teaching classes at the Downtown Campus. My husband, Peter Baczek, and I have opened a wonderful art studio/gallery in Berkeley. It features works by both of us and is a complete working studio and gallery with a Sturges CP 5 Art Press. The Baczek Studio/Gallery is at 2808 Adeline Boulevard, across from the ‘world famous' Berkeley Bowl! And now we are about to participate in the 2010 PRO-ARTS in Berkeley June 5 - 6 and June 12-13. The Gallery is always open Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to six pm. You may also call the Gallery at (510) 841-1774, or Wanda at (510) 909-8461 in case you're in Berkeley and want a special look at the Gallery. We all have diverse and unique lives outside, so come and see what we do when we aren't teaching! The entire East Bay has open studios for the two weeks of June. For more on our Gallery www.baczekstudio.com.

Darrel Hess – Geography

It’s been a busy year! When not at school teaching, most of my time over the last 12 months has been spent working on revisions of my textbook. Now six years (and two editions) after senior author Tom McKnight passed away, the book has been renamed McKnight’s Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 10th edition, and I’m honored to be designated the sole author.

For the 10th edition, in addition to expanding and updating information on climate change, we added a series of new focus boxes on renewable energy, as well as on other topics such as the “Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch” and the Bark Beetle infestation of the western pine forests. I also worked with natural science illustrator Dennis Tasa to upgrade the art throughout the book.
Probably my most enjoyable writing project this last year was updating and expanding the California Edition of the textbook. I was able to increase coverage of the San Andreas Fault (now six sites along the fault are described), and to add new field guides for California Redwood Forests, Coastal Fog, and the San Gabriel Mountains, bringing the total number of field guides to twelve. This summer I’ll be working on Google Earth™ “tours” of many of the field guide sites.

I did manage to get away for a few short trips over the last year. Last summer, my annual solo backpacking and hiking trip in the Sierra took me to Bloody Canyon and the Dana Plateau near Tioga Pass (one of my favorite corners of the range). During winter break, Nora and I did some scuba diving in Hawai’i (where we saw this cute little moray eel). In February, I made it down to Death Valley for a few days where I sloshed around on a surprisingly muddy basin floor following a series of winter rainstorms (and also checked out this saltwater pool that opened up on the basin floor a few years ago). Over spring break, Nora and I took a wonderful trip on the California Zephyr across the country to Chicago where we took in the music, the architecture, and the museums of this beautiful city.

This summer, after finishing a few final textbook tasks, I plan to get some overdue time outdoors recharging my batteries, coming back in the fall refreshed and ready for classes!
**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Kristen Wood – Geology – 2004**

I actually finished my thesis in December 2008, and started job hunting in February 2009 after a little break. I soon found out that jobs were scarce, even in Environmental Consulting which had previously been a busy industry and had been hiring geologists like me, since I had done a lot of extra work in hydrogeology (thesis focus, hydro field camp, and 2 classes at SFSU).

Since interviews were few and far between, I decided to work as a volunteer on a river restoration project to keep my geology skills up. That quickly turned into a paying part-time job, and I get to work surveying rivers for a Regional Curves project in Marin and Sonoma counties. It is ongoing, and flexible, and I love it. My boss is an expert fluvial geomorphologist and I’m learning a lot from her.

I also signed up to do a little research for the Berkeley Water Center. I connected with this project when I met a woman who runs the center at a professional organization meeting (AWG). Again, I’m learning more about groundwater and am glad I can maintain a decent resume while continuing to look for a full-time permanent position.

Note: Kristen Wood transferred into a Master’s Program for Geology at SFSU, because she already had a Bachelor’s Degree in Women’s Studies.

**Matthew Gonzales – Geology – 2007**

I have spent the past year finishing my BA in geology at UC Berkeley. Much of that time has been devoted to growing calcite in the laboratory under controlled conditions in order to study how calcium isotopes partition themselves within crystals growing from solution. Next fall, I will begin a Ph.D. program at Pennsylvania State University where I will continue to study calcium isotopes and mineral growth. This will most likely lead me to a cave system in Italy where gypsum grows amid a film of bacteria. There, I hope to gain a better understanding of how the presence of the bacteria changes the chemical composition of the minerals and possibly find a signature of life in that chemistry.

**Anita Engelstad – Oceanography – 2007**

I transferred from City College into the Oceanography program at San Francisco State in 2007. One year ago I completed my Bachelor’s of Science in Oceanography and stayed on to complete a Master’s Degree. My master thesis project at San Francisco State University is to investigate the damping characteristics as waves travel over the muddy seafloor on the Louisiana shelf. The fact that a muddy seafloor, compared to sand or rocks, can cause energy losses in the waves has been known for a long time. The location of 92º30’W at the muddy Louisiana coast is also well-known as an emergency harbor during storms due to the energy dissipation by the mud. But despite various research efforts, the underlying physical processes that cause the damping of the waves are still unknown.

My project uses data which were collected in 2008 near the Atchafalaya outflow at the Louisiana coast. At 32 sites, which cover an area of 15x25 km, current and pressure were collected over almost two months. I will now use spectral and bispectral analysis, and cross-correlations between wind events, sediment suspension events and the observed wave damping to evaluate the data. Hopefully, next year, I will have gained some insight into the principles of wave damping.
Joe Henley – Geography/Geology – 2009

I completed my G.E. requirements at CCSF in 2009 with a focus in Geography/Geology. During my final semester at CCSF, my wife and I purchased a property in the country about an hour north of San Francisco in the hamlet of Sebastopol. I enrolled at Sonoma State University in the fall of 2009 as a Geography major, with a minor in Geology. While I had some trepidation about whether I would be prepared for four year university, as well as how it would compare to my CCSF experience, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the education I’d received while attending CCSF was second to none.

I’ll never forget the first day of classes at SSU - a professor was trying to assess the general knowledge of her new students. She gave us a vocabulary test which consisted of Earth Science terms we were expected to know. Not only did I know all of the terms but I was one of only a few who knew the definition of “Uniformitarianism.” I knew then that I would be forever grateful for the dedication and hard work that each professor at CCSF gives to their students.

I continue to be involved with the mineral collecting community in the Bay Area and travel whenever possible. My wife and I recently returned from a trip to Hong Kong. With those interests, school, my three dogs and taking care of our property, my life has never been busier or more fulfilling.

If you have news, please let us know, so we can include you in our future newsletters. Just send your updates to: Katryn Wiese (katryn.wiese@mail.ccsf.edu)