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END-OF-SEMESTER HIKE
For the Department and the Earth Sciences Club

Saturday, May 21
10 am – Montara Mountain

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HIKE AND CELEBRATE the hard work of everyone this semester.

What’s going on next Fall?

NEW CLASS
Climate Change GEOL/GEOG 41A
Carla Grandy
Fridays 1-4 pm
10/28/11–12/9/11
1 unit – short term

An introduction to the science of climate change. Basic processes of weather and climate, measures of climate and climate change, natural and human-induced processes of climate change.

What’s going on this summer?

Teacher workshop – June 3&4
(For K-12 science teachers)

Summer classes:
Physical Geology Lecture and Lab
Oceanography Lecture and Lab
Physical Geography Lecture
From the Department Chair… Katryn Wiese, May 2011

We have had a very productive year while enduring the challenges of severe budget cuts with higher enrollments and fewer sections. The college faces a $12 to $18 million budget cut for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 (up to four times bigger than last year), and the college is struggling with the need to restore classes to ensure we get the maximum amount of state funding while also cutting the budget. Despite these distractions, we were able to implement a number of exciting new opportunities for our students. The Earth Sciences Club kept itself busy during its second year with a number of activities (see more later in the newsletter). S45 study sessions have been as busy as ever, filled with students working together, studying rocks, fossils, maps, and more. We finished the development of three new transfer majors (geology, oceanography, and earth science), and all were approved by the State (a mean feat I understand!). We created three new classes: Climate Change, Environmental Geology, and an accompanying Environmental Geology Lab. The first one we’ll offer in Fall 2011. The latter two we hope to offer in Spring 2012. We revamped our GIS curriculum, thanks to the work of Gordon Ye, so that we could offer the two advanced classes in parallel. We offered our first field-only class in years – San Francisco Coastal Geology, February 19th and 20th, Spring 2011. The class was filled with dedicated adventurers who suffered rain, sleet, and snow on day one and got to enjoy lovely sun on day two. We finally got some new office space outside our lab storage room (S134). And we are offering a robust summer program in Oceanography, Geology, and Physical Geography for the first time in years. We hope to serve hundreds of students from the surrounding area.

On the faculty front, we were approved for a new full-time hire – half-time geology, half-time physical science – and welcome Chris Lewis in the Fall as a full-timer! We also completed a part-time geology and geography pool hiring. We will be welcoming a number of new part-time hires for Summer and Fall, including Kristin Keenan, Ian Duncan, and Russell McArthur. We are also grateful to our Spring emergency hire, Ben LeFever, a past colleague in our department, who returned for Spring 2011 to assist with our night class. As a full-time instructor at Riordan High School, across the street, we look forward to continued connections between the two departments. Meanwhile our positive thoughts, support, and encouragement continue to go out to our colleague, Roberto Anima, who had to take a leave of absence this Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 to deal with a health crisis. He is constantly in our thoughts, and we look forward to welcoming back as soon as he is ready!

We participated more fully than ever in the annual American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in San Francisco this year. We sent eight students on free full or partial registrations – some CCSF grant funded, others donated by AGU. We hosted a modeling workshop for geoscience educators and led a field trip to the Marin Headlands and Mussel Rock for 25 geoscience teachers and students. On the last day, we generously agreed to help dispose of excess exhibitor materials, including hundred of 3-D maps and new geoscience books. We used some of these maps to teach high school students about Earth Sciences during the recent FRISCO day activities.

On the personal front, I did it make it to the Big Island of Hawaii this past January with my partner Pearl and was fortunate enough to partake of the hospitality of CCSF colleague Paul Hewitt (thank you Paul!), do some camping, snorkel amongst turtles, and watch fresh lava flow. It was a nice break.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

On the resources front, we were fortunate to receive a number of donations:

- Thanks to current and former students Jim Ambrose and Joe Henley, we received a hand-made display cabinet for our meteorites. Buildings and Grounds installed it in August 2010, and Jim has been filling it with rotating department displays all year.
- Thanks to colleague, Dr. Joyce Lucas-Clark, for the donation of new hand lenses.
- Thanks to Princeton Press and other AGU exhibitors for the donation of books and maps.
- Thanks to Helen Court for continuing to add funds to and support the Jim Court Scholarship Fund – which provides scholarships for Earth Science students.
- Thanks to APASS STEM grants and AGU outreach, we received funds and passes for eight of our Earth Science students to attend the Fall 2010 American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in San Francisco.
- Thanks to former student and lab aide Melissa Dubose for donating funds toward a new microscope for the Oceanography and Paleontology labs. Thanks to her encouragement, we eventually made contact with Yvonne Koshland and were lucky enough to receive a donation of $8,400 towards microscopes and in-class smart projection technology for those scopes and $6,000 to the college for the restoration of one Earth Science class for Fall 2011.
- Both Darrel Hess and I have contributed financially to our discretionary department fund. We hope, in the next year, to use these funds and others that we raise to repair our seismograph, geochron, and weather station and to increase our computing power and bring in laptops to our labs, to help our students to access real-time online data and satellite images during labs.
- Thanks to ALL of the Earth Science faculty and students who have made time contributions to our department this year, including Ben LeFevbre, Shirin Leclere, Darrel Hess, and Wanda Simpson-Baczek for helping out with FRISCO day, Darrel Hess for helping out with a December workshop we hosted for geoscientists using modeling in their teaching, volunteers in our mentoring program, and so many more. We depend on all of you!

With a reduction in state budgets and our own internal budget pretty much nonexistent, we rely on donations, both internally and externally. Meanwhile, we are also working with other departments to raise funds to upgrade the Science Hall and keep our beautiful building a symbol of excellent community science education. Thanks everyone for your help!

CONGRATULATIONS WingYee Lee
OUR JIM COURT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPRING 2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO AGU ATTENDEES
The Fall 2010 meeting happened the second week of December. This year we were able to send:

* 4 students on 1-day passes, courtesy of AGU organizers:
  * Raymond Chen, Jessica Lockwood, Suzanne Ubick, Kevin Yee

4 students received a full-week registration, thanks to funds available through the APASS program:
  Allison Adams, Rikki-Nikol Anderson, Albert Ma, Wing Yee Lee
Thanks to the donation of Yvonne Koshland, our oceanography, geology, and paleontology labs have been upgraded with eight new binocular compound microscopes – of supreme quality! These scopes make plankton viewing far clearer and the long viewing time much easier to handle (hours of time). In addition to the student scopes, we also were able to get two instructor scopes, with LCD screens and built-in cameras for capturing photos and videos and projecting the live images through the classroom. One instructor scope is for large field of view and 20 + 40 times magnification. The other scope is for 40 to 400 times magnification. With the addition of a wireless tablet/mouse, we can interact with the screen like a whiteboard, while projecting images, making the use of our projection system more dynamic and allowing the instructors to move throughout the room, while still controlling and interacting with the screen. We received this equipment at the very end of the semester and have only begun to learn how to use it. We provided our first real demonstration of it with Yvonne Koshland as our guest in our Oceanography Lab class on Tuesday, May 12.

New microscopes projecting onto screen – with some members of the Oceanography Lab class, including four lab aides. From left: Melissa Dubose, Amanda Meth, Al Garduno, Rosa Anduaga, Treena Lawrence, Ellie Lum, Brianna Kirby, Kathleen Alioto, Kehaulani Ahu, Yvonne Kosland, Allison Adams, Katryn Wiese, Jeff Newell, Joe Dean, Liam Triggs-Fulton (and scrunched in the back, Cort Benningfield, Judson Steele, John Herrera)
STUDENT UPDATES AND NEWS

Earth Sciences Club Events

End-of-Semester Hike – Saturday, May 21, 10 am

May 19, SF Natural History Lecture Series – Randall Museum – Who Killed Off the Oysters of SF BAY?

PAST EVENTS

- May 10, Peninsula Geologic Society Lecture at Stanford – Durations of magma storage and evolution at large and small silicic volcanoes.
- FRIsco Day (FRiday = Successful College Opportunities) -- 10 am to 2 pm -- Friday, April 29
- March 11-13 -- Ocean Film Festival -- Pier 39
- Thursday, February 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m. -- USGS, Conference Room A, Bldg 3, Menlo Park, California
  Is Our Coast in Jeopardy? -- predicting the impact of extreme storms on the California Coast by Patrick Barnard, USGS Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center
- Feb 25-27 -- Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley Annual Mineral and Gem Show in Newark
- Friday Dec. 12 5-7 pm DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY PARTY -- End-of-semester celebration. Brought our favorite Earth Science process/feature captured in food or just food to share.
- Mineral Gazing – October 23rd – 2:30 pm – We met Jack Halpern and examined his amazing mineral collection
- Coastal Cleanup Day -- September 25th -- 9 am to 12 pm at Ocean Beach

Earth Science Mentoring Program

Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Mentors and Lab & Department Aides:

- Allison Adams (oceanography)
- Rosa Anduaga (geology, oceanography)
- Cort Benningfield (geology, paleontology)
- Joe Dean (geology, oceanography, paleontology)
- Melissa Dubose (geology, oceanography and geology)
- David Lapeyrouse (geology)
- Raymond Lee (geography)
- Wing Yee Lee (geology and paleontology)
- Aase Mitchell (geography)
- Victor Nadbikov (geography)
- Jeff Newell (oceanography, geology, geography, and paleontology)
- Adam Nunes (geography)
- Erika Padilla (geography)
- Suzanne Ubick (geology, paleontology)

For more information, go to www.ccsf.edu/Earth

From Earth Science Student, Wes Brown – Geology

I've always had a strong connection with nature but prior to resuming the pursuit of my bachelors I never considered applying those interests into my career. When I left the tech startup world to commit to school full-time all I knew was that I wanted to rejoin the workforce doing something that I am passionate about. Working on preserving the environment or one of a few social issues are what I call ‘fighting the good fight’ – words I use to explain where I want to spend my energy. My geology class combined with Dr. Doug Orr's economics class inspired me and helped connect the dots to my future goals. Last week I received my acceptance to UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources for their Environmental Economics and Policy degree. My eventual goal is to work for the EPA on renewable energy policies, a likely topic for my graduate studies. In the meantime, I’m waiting to hear back on a volunteering opportunity at the SF EPA office this summer.

2009 Study Session in S45
From Mentor, Raymond Lee – Geography

I was accepted into the Geography Department at San Diego State University for an MS program, with an emphasis in watershed science, which starts in the Fall. My sponsoring professor asked me to go with him and another graduate student on a field trip in late May to a high altitude lake in the Indian Himalaya (near Leh) to set up a weather station, do site reconnaissance and hopefully get some measurements of lake bathymetry and water samples for isotope measurements. After several weeks in the Himalayas, I will do some personal traveling in the Rajasthan desert, then go eastward from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan, China and Hong Kong, following the Silk Road through the desert.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is paying for our study of Lake Tsomoriri, which has a wetland habitat for birds, such as the Barheaded Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Brown-headed Gull and Great Crested Grebe, and the threatened Black Necked Crane. The WWF has been monitoring the situation at this lake for many years. The purpose of our trip is to see if lake water level will rise or fall with global climate change, and what are the possible effects to the habitat area and ecology (increased inundation, loss of habitat, etc.).

I went to CCSF from '02-'04 for the general education requirements (IGETC) and then UC Davis from '04-'06, where I got a BS in Managerial Economics, with an emphasis in Environmental and Resource Economics, and a BA in Philosophy. I always wanted to be a scientist so I came back last year and took Physical Geography with Darrel and then applied to graduate school.

From Lab Aide and Scholarship winner, Wing Yee Lee – Geology

In the coming Fall, I will be transferring to UC Berkeley and continue my studies in Geology. I will be taking a class on Minerals, investigating their constitution and origin. I will also enroll in a class on Field Geology and Digital Mapping, which includes seven hours of field work each week in the Berkeley hills. Outside the classroom, I am applying for a research-based scholarship program, through which I will obtain skills and techniques that will be useful in my future research. I am excited for the coming year because I finally have a chance to concentrate on subjects that I love the most and forget about all the GE classes. Thanks Earth Science Department for providing me all the preparatin work in my major. I believe I am ready to accept all the challenges the new environment offers and I am sure I will continue to love Geology.
From Earth Science Student and Lab Aide, Allison Adams – Oceanography

The oceanography lab has been a source of inspiration for me in many ways, and for quite a long time now – from the lab I was a student in several years ago, to the labs I have been a lab aide for in the past two semesters. When I decided to take Professor Wiese’s oceanography lecture class and lab, just for fun, about eight years ago, I had no idea it would inspire me to pursue a master’s degree in marine biology. After taking many math and science classes at City College to prepare myself, I am now about one year away from entering graduate school!

Last semester’s inspiration in oceanography lab resulted in two exciting projects. The first one was about plankton. I was so thrilled with looking at the little critters under the microscope in plankton lab that I organized a plankton lab at Mission Science Workshop for my son’s first grade class at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy in San Francisco. The Earth Sciences Department’s amazing and knowledgeable mentors, Jeff Newell, Joe Dean, and current oceanography student John Herrera volunteered their time and expertise in this project and provided inspiring guidance to the 6 and 7-year-olds who were thrilled with the alien-looking creatures they saw under the microscope. If you can measure success by how many and how loud the exclamations of “Awesome!!” were from these kids, then this was definitely a success. Thanks so much to Katryn, and Melissa Dubose, for advice on how and where to collect the plankton and what kind of net is best and to Katryn and City College for providing a great atmosphere in lab!

The second project was inspired by last semester’s oceanography lab’s field trip to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. It was during this trip that both myself and lab student, Greta Hanley, decided to apply to be a docent at the reserve. We spent eight Saturdays in January, February and March in intense 5-hour training sessions, learning details about every type of creature you might possibly see at the tide pools there. (See http://fitzgeraldreserve.org/ for more information.) Greta and I have graduated from “tide pool school” and led school groups on tours of the tide pools. I even had the privilege of being a docent on this semester’s lab field trip there in early May!

Thanks so much to all the Earth Sciences department’s professors whose dedication to their science and their students make this department an amazing place to learn and be inspired!
“Schist Happens” by Earth Science Student, Dion Campbell

It was a dark and stormy morning, and people in bright colored rain gear were gathering on a beach. They were holding tiny vials and closely examining the contents. The steel grey pacific threatened as it came closer to them with every advancing wave, and all they did was stare downward, down toward the sand, as though perhaps they were intently watching their feet. This was Geology 41. Everyone had a different reason for wanting to be there. From future geologists and oceanographers, to hobbyists and beach lovers; a field class on San Francisco’s coastal geology was worth coming out for, rain or shine. Shine, however, it did not.

This was me beginning my first semester of many as a future geologist/volcanologist. I had eagerly signed up for all the Earth Science I could handle, including the two day field class up and down the coast to learn about our local geology. Day 1 begun at 8 am on beautiful Rodeo Beach, with our ever-positive Professor Katryn Wiese, helping us forget about our wet shoes to marvel over the amazing chunk of red and green chert on the beach. Awaiting us just up the road was an old chert quarry complete with a multitude of folds and faults, divulging the impressive story of its formation and subsequent journey up from the ocean floor. We saw barren green serpentinite cliffs by the Golden Gate and cross-bedding in ancient sand dunes at Baker Beach. We tromped through flooded sea caves by the Sutro Baths, examining layers of sandstone and mudstone, and ruins of old train tracks destroyed by landslides. Throughout the day, wet and cold, we took samples of sand and measured the tides and the winds, taking notes in the car between stops, with hands almost too cold to hold a pencil. The weather did its worst, but no one was complaining. It was a real adventure!

Day 2 began at Fort Funston, surprising us with the loveliest blue skies as the backdrop for the awesome sight of an enormous landslide just above the beach. We hiked down to find sand full of magnetite and green glass, and just down the beach, cliffs containing a stark white layer of 400,000-year-old volcanic ash. We stood on high cliffs and looked out toward the infamous San Andreas Fault and viewed first hand evidence of massive landslides and coastal erosion, discussing causes and effects and where we humans fit into all of it. Near Pacifica we hiked up to a limestone quarry containing beautiful blueschist, greenstone, and various and sundry wonderful things to gaze at through our hand lenses. Our last stop brought us to a hidden and amazingly peaceful beach covered in soft sand and backed by striking igneous-rock cliffs, solidified magma from long-since eroded volcanoes. We could see two distinctly different types of magma had mixed to form this polka-dot granite, and younger intrusions of beautiful green eclogite snaked throughout, all sparking our imaginations regarding the history of these granite giants.
The sun was setting over the grey-green waters of the Pacific, and we were all sitting on what we knew had once been magma, far away, molten and deep inside the earth, whether it now be sand or mounds of rough, weathered granite. All at once energized and completely exhausted, we, with pockets full of rocks, and shoes full of sand, trudged our way back to our cars, in search of hot coffee and warm showers. It felt like we had really done something. We certainly had learned a lot. For me, watching serpentinite weather in front of my eyes as rain eagerly dissolved it, and coming away with a pocket full of ancient volcanic ash, evidence of the everyday presence of that power, beauty and destruction, and a feeling of the true immensity of geologic time, was a perfect beginning to my studies and career as a geologist. I mean, I have a Ziploc baggy of ancient volcanic ash... that is pretty cool!
FACULTY FOR FALL 2010 & SPRING 2011

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)
Ben LeFevbre (Geology)
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 Ye (GIS – joint with Engineering)

In Summer 2011 and Fall 2011, we look forward to some additions to our faculty:

- Chris Lewis will become our newest full-timer with ½ time in Physics teaching Physical Science and ½ time in Geology.
- Kristin Keenan will be teaching our summer Oceanography lecture and lab.
- Ian Duncan will be teaching Physical Geography (lecture and lab) in the Fall.
- Russell McArthur will be teaching a summer Geology 10 lecture.

A GLIMPSE INTO A PALEO LAB FIELD TRIP

Joyce Lucas-Clark – Paleontology

It is almost a tradition now that the Paleontology 1 class comes to the instructor’s house on a Saturday near the end of the semester, called a “Field Trip to Doc’s House.” Doc is the nickname for Dr. Joyce Lucas-Clark. This year I also taught Historical Geology and so those students were also invited on the trip. Doc’s house is in Niles Canyon in Fremont, but is reachable by BART. The field trip is unofficial and voluntary.

Doc’s house contains 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 Euripterid (sea scorpion), and a Placyderm (ancient plated fish) in the coffee table (That’s right, I said in), plus a little egg with eyes peeking out of it.

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

This year about six students made the trip. We had a great time.
Since coming to City College in 2007, one of my goals has been to get students outside and thinking about the things we talk about in class. In an effort to combine my motivation with the students, for the last 2 years, I have been offering extra credit to students for environmental service learning, which has been a huge success. Students have participated in many types of events, but the big deal is that I want students to get outside and think about how our actions on a daily basis can have either a negative or positive impact on the environment. Over the last 2 semesters, I have been collecting data on student activities and so far this year students have spent over 140 hours picking up garbage from beaches, over 76 hours on local park and neighborhood clean-ups, and over 22 hours on other types of environmental service (including: tree planting, butterfly habitat, community gardens, water quality sampling, working at the marine mammal center, wetland restoration, working at recycling centers, invasive species removal and other habitat restoration projects). Students provide a picture of themselves doing the work to receive credit, which serves as proof and has also been really fun to see!

As a department, over 25 Earth Science faculty, students, and members of the Earth Science Club participated in the California Coastal Cleanup Day, which is organized by the California Coastal Commission as part of the larger International Coastal Clean-up. This year’s California Coastal Cleanup participants collected 1.1 million pounds of trash and recyclables from California beaches and waterways! (Check out the Coastal Commissions website for more information and pictures from that event.) In the future, I hope that the Earth Science Department together with the Earth Science Club can make the beach clean-up an even larger event where we can involve other departments and groups from City College.

In terms of the ongoing service work that students are doing, I have a list of organizations that I keep on my website and am working on a calendar that I can maintain for students to let them know when events are happening in their neighborhoods. I am always happy to add new groups to my page and advertise events in my classes, so if any of you know of or are involved with any type of environmental restoration work, please let me know.

On a personal note, I will be on leave for the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester. Our family is expecting a new addition in June – “baby brother” Grandy, as he is currently known. I will be back in late October to teach the new Climate Change course that we are offering as a 1-unit class. I will let you know more about how that goes next year!
Jim Kuwabara – Evening Oceanography Lecture – Mission Campus

Aside from evening oceanography lectures and labs, I work as a Research Hydrologist in the National Research Program (NRP) within the Water Mission Area of the newly re-structured U.S. Geological Survey (USGS; an agency within the Department of the Interior). In fact, I am fortunate to serve as an instructor at CCSF with the approval of the USGS. Administratively, I serve as the Research Advisor of NRP’s Ecology Subdiscipline, a broad spectrum of interdependent hydrologic, chemical and biologic studies. My own research focuses on the benthic sources of solutes (both nutrients and toxicants) in surface-water systems (that is, lakes, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters). I quantify the relevance of the benthic (bottom) environment in solute transport and water quality. To do this, we have developed and employ a variety of research approaches that help water-quality managers evaluate remediation and restoration strategies. The major topics of current research include:

1. Benthic nutrient and trace-metal sources from the newly restored Alviso Salt Ponds (South San Francisco Bay, CA)
2. Food-web and nutrient dynamics in North San Francisco Bay, CA
3. Water quality trends associated with microcystin (an algal toxin) production in Upper Klamath Lake, OR
4. Time scales of chemical transitions for solute release from restored wetlands adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake, OR

This summer, we are pleased to host an intern from the USGS – National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) Internship Program who will work with us and develop a thesis topic. For more detailed information, please visit the project Web site (http://wwwwrclamnl.wr.usgs.gov/solutetransport/index.htm).

Figure caption: The sediment-coring device shown above is used to measure sediment oxygen demand in the Alviso Salt Ponds (adjacent to South San Francisco Bay). Note the sharp saw teeth on the left end of the corer to cut through thick benthic algal mats as part of the core sample.
Chris Lewis – Geology

Geology is one of those careers that can take you to some far out places. As a research associate at the University of California, Berkeley, I did field work in West Africa, Russia, and Australia. Later, as a post-graduate researcher at UC Davis, I found myself on organic farms and farmers markets all over the United States. But perhaps the most rewarding turn in my career happened in 2004, after I received a single subject teaching credential in geoscience. For the past eight years, I have been teaching math and science in public schools. The last four of those years have been spent teaching 6th and 7th graders at Everett Middle School. The students at Everett come from all over the world, as well as the City. Many of Everett’s students are recent immigrants from Central and South America, but students come from as far as Africa, the Middle East, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Italy and many other countries. On the playground, I see Pakistani girls in headscarves playing baseball alongside girls from the Bayview. In the classroom, I hear an Eritrean boy speaking Spanish taught to him by a classmate from El Salvador. One of the most satisfying experiences though, is finding out one of my students’ parents or grand parents is also a student of mine, here at City College. This fall, I will be teaching full time at City College and continuing my work with San Francisco’s diverse community of life-long learners. I’m looking forward to infusing my geology and physical science classes with the sense of wonder and spark of excitement I see in the younger people I’ve been fortunate to teach and learn from. I’ll begin that process this summer with the Geology 10 lecture and lab courses I’m teaching, as well as a lab section of Physical Science 11 targeted for people interested in K-6 education. While I won’t be traveling far, I’m sure to see the world represented in the classroom.

Chris, with students from Everett Middle School
Another busy year has passed. This last year I completed on the final projects associated with the new edition of my physical geography textbook, McKnight’s Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, 10th edition. I also finished the updates of my Physical Geography Laboratory Manual, and developed some Google Earth™ “virtual field trips” to accompany the field guides in the Second California Edition of the textbook. This month I received copies of the Korean translation of my textbook—a great honor for me, since I served in the Peace Corps in Korea more than 30 years ago.

In July, Nora and I visited relatives in Montana and spent some time in Yellowstone National Park enjoying the animals and the geysers. Over Labor Day weekend, we headed to the Mono Basin for a few days of relaxation—including a hike up Obsidian Dome and time down at Convict Lake to gaze at my favorite mountain-front scene in California. Over winter break we traveled to the East Coast to spend the holidays with Nora’s family, and then headed down to Key West, Florida, for the New Years celebration and a few days of scuba diving. During spring break, we took the Amtrak Coast Starlight train from Los Angeles to Seattle—a wonderful two-day trip during which we saw everything from dolphins playing in the sunny surf of central California, to a snow storm in the mountains of Oregon.

Last summer, my solo backpacking and hiking trip took me to the east side of the Sierra into Parker Canyon and the area around Mono Lake. I made several trips down to the San Gabriel Mountains in the fall to work on field guides for the California Edition of the textbook, and took my annual trip to Death Valley over Presidents’ Day weekend—through a wild mix of snow and rain on the mountain passes, into perfect weather in Death Valley itself.

Nora and I haven’t decided where we’ll head this summer, but no doubt it will include time along the coast and time up in the mountains—and some time spent on long-postponed projects around the house.

Have a good break everyone!

Convict Lake near Mammoth Lakes, California.
Nora with a piece of pumice on top of Obsidian Dome, south of Mono Lake.

Close-up underwater photograph of coral off of Key West, Florida.
WE MISS YOU ROBERTO!

Best wishes for a speedy recover from Wednesday Evening Geology 10

Best wishes for a speedy recover from Wednesday M/W Geology 10
Russell McArthur – Geology

I am very proud to say that I am teaching Geology this summer at the City College of San Francisco. This is very exciting to me since I got my start in the field of Earth Science as a student at CCSF. While a student of the Earth Science Department at CCSF, I experienced high quality teaching. This level of teaching was rarely approached in the rest of my school career. My time at CCSF was a very informative and formative experience for me.

From CCSF, I transferred to U.C. Berkeley where I earned a B.A. in Geology and a M.A. in Earth and Planetary Science. In 2008, while I was a student at U.C. Berkeley, I was hired to work on a month-long geologic resource exploration project in Montana. This was my first experience working as a scientist.

After finishing school I began working with U.C. Berkeley's Geomorphology Group as a lab technician. I soon returned to school, but this time as an instructor. I taught a class on Natural Disasters at Sonoma State University during the Fall of 2010. I am now teaching Geology at Napa Valley College and working as a research assistant on fluvial geomorphology projects with San Francisco State University.

My near future is filled with many exciting opportunities that I am very much looking forward to. Aside from offers to teach at several Bay Area colleges for the next few semesters, I am also scheduled as a lecturer for Cal Alumni Association’s Discoveries Travel National Park Program, and I am soon giving a local geology tour to a private party. Some topics of interest to me are natural resource and environmental issues, paleontology, and Earth’s history. My hobbies include exploring natural regions and photography. I love to travel when I can. I am excited about joining the CCSF Earth Science faculty and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the community and work in a field that I find very rewarding.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Lorraine Cassazo – Paleontology

When I started taking classes at CCSF in 1998, I was working full time in a warehouse. I’d been working at minimum wage jobs for six years since finishing high school, and even though this kept my rent paid, when I thought about spending the rest of my life barely getting by packing boxes, I knew college was my only chance for a different future. I still remember how nervous I was going back into the classroom and how unprepared I felt, but CCSF offered introductory classes like Physics 40 and College Algebra to prepare me for the more difficult classes I needed to take if I was going to be a paleontologist – and that’s what I wanted to do.

At CCSF I was able to complete all of my lower division science requirements – from Calculus to Organic Chemistry. The terrific Financial Aid office helped me get the financial support I needed to cut back on my work hours without ending up homeless, and the outstanding science faculty gave me the academic foundation that all of my later successes have been built on. Looking back, my years at CCSF were some of the most difficult years of my life, but also the most transformational.

The work I did at City College permitted me to transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall of 2001, where I went on to earn my B.A. in Earth and Planetary Sciences. I went on to pursue a PhD at UC Berkeley in the Department of Integrative Biology, which has allowed me to design and implement original paleontological research. I lived in Cairo, Egypt, for two years as a Fulbright Fellow while I carried out my fieldwork, and have had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the world’s best scientific minds. I’ll be spending the rest of this year writing up the results of my research and expect to earn my PhD before Christmas. I haven’t made any definite decisions about the next steps in my career, but I have many options, and that’s exciting. I’m so grateful to City College for giving me the chance to change my future.

Outside my apartment in Cairo with the Boab (a building manager/door man/handy man/go-to-guy)

Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna with this funny early tetrapod display