Homecoming for Earth Science Alumni

The College of Natural and Agricultural Science is hosting a Homecoming Extravaganza to honor the Earth Science and the Physics Departments and their alumni, family, and friends. This Annual Homecoming Party will feature specialty beer and wine tasting and delicious BBQ. Children of all ages can enjoy climbing the Portable Rock Wall that will be set up in the courtyard. There will also be various hands-on activity booths set up for children and families to enjoy. These include fossil identification, stomp seismograph, Mr. Wizard Show, planetarium show and other fun activities. This is also a perfect opportunity for those of you who have not seen the campus recently, to witness the growing development taking place within the Earth Science and the Physics Departments. There will be special tours, conducted through out the day, of the research facilities, currently undergoing major renovation and upgrading. The festivities begin at noon on Saturday, February 24th in the courtyard between Geology and Physics. There is a $12 fee per person, but children 12 & under are free. For more information please contact Carol Lerner at (951) 827-5089. So mark your calendar for a day full of fun and a walk down memory lane.

Welcome Back Dr. Michael Murphy

Our former faculty member Dr. Michael Murphy is back! Dr. Murphy is an important part of Earth Science Department, because he is one of the founders of the department or as it was known before as the Geology Department. After many years as an emeritus Professor at UC Davis, Dr. Murphy has moved back to the Southland, with his wife, Marty. He has returned to UC Riverside to work on compiling his copious amount of data on ammonites in Northern California and the conodonts and graptolites in Central California. His current research interests are in refinement and precision of the stratigraphic record through the integration of all methods used in sequencing events in Earth history.

We are excited to have Dr. Murphy help us kick start our 50th Anniversary, from where he started this distinguished department 50 years ago and to continue to be a part of its growth and development for years to come.
Something truly extraordinary and rare in the world, a dinosaur nesting site with the eggs in place and intact

Susan Cummins Miller

Susan Miller’s new book ready for your holiday gift giving.

“...Something truly extraordinary and rare in the world, a dinosaur nesting site with the eggs in place and intact”

Art Ballard and Lowell Dingus have been friends and colleagues as undergraduates at UCR Earth Science (Geology) Department in the 70’s and were graduate students of Dr. Michael Woodburne in Vertebrate Paleontology. Both have been on a world wind adventure traveling to Patagonia and Mongolia in search of dinosaur eggs and their nesting areas. “There were places where the nest were so abundant, you literally could not avoid stepping on egg fragments” explained Ballard in his article The Search for the Lost Valley of Auca Mahuida. Ballard joined Dingus in Argentina for an expedition of a lifetime. They drove into the Patagonian countryside, and begun to setup camp. Ballard could not contain his excitement and began to explore. “Standing in front of a nest, with a beautifully preserved pair of dinosaur eggs nearby, and seeing several nest around me, I experienced a magic moment that most paleontologist live for; being transported back in time, and seeing in the mind’s eye the magnificent sauropods jostling for space as they dug with their hind feet the four or five-foot diameter depressions in the soft soil to receive their eggs”. Ballard and Dingus continue their expedition and you can read about this adventure and more on their website at www.infoquest.org.

Frankie MacFarlane back to UC-Del Rio in California, to defend her geology dissertation. While police seek her help in resolving past crimes, her mentor is victim of a hit and run, someone’s stalking her dissertation committee, and a student’s disappearance triggers a manhunt in the Mojave Desert. Susan recently did a book signing at GSA in Philadelphia. Check out Susan’s home page for more information on her publications and book signings at http://hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/

Susan and her husband Jon are still residing in Tucson, AZ.

Adventures in Patagonia

Scientist Turned Author

Susan Cummins

Susan Cummins Miller, born and raised in Southern California, received her BA and MS from the University of California, Riverside in Geology is now a popular author of mysteries. She worked for the U. S. Government (primarily with the U. S. Geological Survey) for nine years, conducting fieldwork in California, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah. Subsequently, she taught introductory geology and oceanography courses at the college level and offered short courses in writing, geology, paleontology, and oceanography in Tucson area schools. She has written three books apart of a series called Frankie MacFarlane mystery. Her first book Death Assemblage is the first mystery featuring geologist Frankie MacFarlane and involves ancient and recent murders in Pair-a-Dice, Nevada. The second is Detachment Fault, is set in Tucson, AZ, and the borderlands of Sonora, MX. After geosleuth Frankie MacFarlane pulls a body from the Sea of Cortez, a friend disappears in Mexico, and a colleague and student are slain in Tucson, Frankie’s search for answers leads her into the shadow world of money-laundering and the antiquities trade. The latest in this mystery series is Quarry, which follows...
Where Are They Now?

Judd Case has recently moved to Washington State to become Dean of the college of Science, Health and Engineering at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Congratulations and we wish him the best of luck!

Pictured here are three University of California, Riverside graduates who work together in Houston for BP. Christopher Lehmann, will be relocating soon with his family to Abu Dehbi where he will apply his expertise in carbonate reservoir management. Ray Prizler continues to work Joint Venture projects in the Gulf of Mexico. He has just completed a role leading BP's team on a Shell-operated project that was just approved to move forward. Here is a link to the project: [http://www.shell.com/home/PrintFramework?sitId=us-en&FC3=/home/us-en/html/iwgen/news_and_library/press_releases/2006/gom_perdido_102606.html](http://www.shell.com/home/PrintFramework?sitId=us-en&FC3=/home/us-en/html/iwgen/news_and_library/press_releases/2006/gom_perdido_102606.html)

Dave "Coach" Smith is also currently stationed in Kuwait. Craig Mosely, is beginning a global functional role whereby he will coach teams through the post-discovery appraisal process. It will involve a bunch of travel and be a great learning opportunity. “What could be better - a job where they call you a "Senior Consultant", you get to travel the world, are responsible for nothing and you get to share learning about what to do and how to do it,” say Craig in an email.

We want to hear from all of our alumni. Tell us about your great adventures and once in a life time discoveries.

Mary F. Stechmann and her husband Bob Stechmann are running their own environmental consulting business, Stechmann Geoscience, Inc. from home. Mary received her BS in Geology in 1982. Her projects mainly deal with commercial real estate development. They often return to their favorite geological hunts at Rainbow Basin and Joshua Tree with their three children. They have a 14-year-old daughter and twin 11 years old sons, who love the outdoors as much as their parents.

Larry M. Vredenburgh, received his BS in 1976 and is now working with the Bureau of Land Management since 1978. For the last 8 years he has been working on GIS mapping. Currently, he is doing GIS on wildland fire assignments. He is also been integrating GIS into ore body and mine modeling assignments. Larry also has a website on the “History of Mojave Desert Mining”, [http://vredenburgh.org/mining_history/](http://vredenburgh.org/mining_history/).
Breaking Ground

As you might have already heard the University of California, Riverside is going through a major renovation. New buildings have been built and plans are in the works for many more. As for the Earth Science Department, if you walk the halls of the Geology building you will notice that many of the rooms that were previously used as classrooms are now closed and being updated. The reason for this is that our department is growing and as more students enroll more labs are needed. For example, Geology room 1409 and 1429 are being retrofitted into labs for faculty and student use. These labs will add to our other well equipped labs and assist in our enhancement in studies of paleontology, mineralogy and mineral physics, geomorphology and Quaternary geology, sedimentary geochemistry, and computational geophysics. With the growing number of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students the expansion and renovation of the Earth Science Department is welcomed news to many, who have seen the department evolve from the beginning to its current status. If you have a chance come back and walk the halls again and witness the transformation first hand.

Hewett Club Newsletter is your link to your home “Earth Science Department” at University of California, Riverside. Our goal is to keep you informed of what is happening in the department and connect you with other alumni who are on world wind adventures, making fascinating discoveries, and traveling around the world. If you would like to share your adventures and explorations please contact Joslyn and/or Marylyn by email. Thank you and remember you’re always welcomed back home!