

To the Alumni and Friends of the Department of Geology and Geophysics:

It is difficult for me to believe, but the Fall 2013 semester is nearly over!

First, you might have wondered if the Field Camp property suffered any damage during the rain and flooding that occurred earlier this Fall. The good news is that the buildings are all fine. The not-so-good news is that the road leading in to camp required major reconstruction and the water delivery system will have to be rebuilt. LSU Facility Services and G&G are working with our Field Camp neighbors to facilitate repairs to the road as quickly as possible. Facility Services is also working to repair and IMPROVE the water delivery system so that we have a larger storage capacity! I hope that a larger storage capacity will prevent us from running out of water during the periodic droughts. Field Camp- from droughts to floods and the occasional fire- never a dull moment!

More good news – our undergraduate enrollment is climbing. I have mentioned this in the last two or three E-newsletters and the growth is continuing! As a benchmark for you, enrollment in Mineralogy for Spring 2014 is already at 35 and still climbing. Scheduling laboratory sessions for the required G&G courses is becoming problematic as there are only so many rooms and so many time slots; but this is certainly a good problem to have!

Our graduate students attended the AAPG Student Expo earlier this Fall and then participated in on-campus recruiting. They are looking forward to internships and full-time positions. The faculty are looking forward to completed theses and dissertations! Graduate enrollment is strong and we have finally achieved a balanced MS-PhD ratio. You probably know that the PhD program is critical to our success as a research university and that our MS program is critical to our success as an industry supporter. Maintaining a balanced graduate (MS-PhD) program is a department priority.

Our new faculty members, Drs. Amy Luther, Karen Luttrell, and Jianwei Wang are settling in nicely! Amy will be teaching Structural Geology in the Spring and then leading Field Camp in the Summer. Karen and Jianwei will be teaching 'Introduction to Geophysics' and 'Geochemistry of Sediments and Natural Waters' in the Spring, respectively.

The semester is nearly over, but our work is never done. I have accepted another term of 3 years as department chair and will continue to focus on advancing the department during my tenure. I know that we could not do it without you. As the end of the year approaches, please consider supporting the department. A gift, of any amount, will ensure that our students will continue to receive the support they need, from one of the finest universities in the country. On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff please accept our most sincere gratitude for your support and advocacy.

Happy Thanksgiving,



Carol Wicks
Chair, Department of Geology & Geophysics
Louisiana State University



August: New students, current students, and faculty mingle at our Graduate Student Reception before the academic year kicks off.



September: Graduate students attending the AAPG Student Expo in Houston pose before a long day interviewing with companies.



September: Students in our Sedimentology course are knee-deep in the Amite River conducting field exercises.