This is the first in a series of occasional newsletters for alumni of the Department of Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (or its many predecessor institutions – Lowell Technological Institute (Meteorology), Lowell State College (Environmental Science), and the University of Lowell (Environmental Science and Meteorology)). The current undergraduate program consists of a single major in Environmental Science with concentrations in Atmospheric Science, Environmental Studies, and Geosciences. As you know we have also established an alumni list serve. Please feel free to use the list serve to contact fellow alumni and in particular to submit items that may be of interest to other alumni. And, of course, our graduating seniors and recent graduates are always keen to know about employment opportunities. We are also looking for items for the Alumni Newsletter. Tell us a little about yourself and what has happened to you since graduation for the Alumni Profile section of the newsletter.

Please send items for both the list serve and the Alumni Newsletter to Nelson Eby. My E-mail address is Nelson_Eby@uml.edu.

The Alumni Cook-In

The first alumni event was the April 17, 2010, alumni cookout. Given that a cookout depends on the weather it was perhaps inevitable that the event became a cook-in. Despite the weather over 20 alumni plus guests, several faculty members, and a number of current undergraduate students attended the event. Alumni ranged from two of the earliest graduates of the Meteorology program at Lowell Technological Institute, to two alumni from the first Environmental Science class at Lowell State College, to alumni from the University of Massachusetts Lowell class of 2009 - 2010. Campus and laboratory tours were interspersed with good food and good conversation. A great time was had by all. A special thanks to Lori (Nosal) Weeden (2000) who was the driving force behind the event and the chief planner and organizer.

We plan to do this again in the near future, perhaps this fall. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Pictures of a number of the alumni who attended the event are found in the Alumni Profiles section. We didn’t get everyone’s picture so if you’re not in the Alumni Profile section, please don’t feel slighted. Just come to another alumni event and be sure to seek out the photographer.

Alumni Profiles

Dean Gulezian (1974) and Dave Houde (1972) are amongst our earliest Meteorology graduates. We were delighted they could attend the first alumni reunion.

Dean worked for the National Weather Service for 36 years and retired July 9, 2009. For the last nine year of his career he was Eastern Regional Director for the National Weather Service. His wife Janet is a retired school teacher and daughter Jennifer is married and working in the Rochester, NY area as a music therapist.

Dave is currently employed as a computer network engineer. As an AFROTC Student, he drew an assignment for duty as a Missile Launch Officer. As luck would have it, he was reassigned to the weather field during the summer before he reported for active duty. He worked the forecast counter at Reese AFB, TX and became Chief Forecaster, but after two years in the weather field, the Air Force was critically manned in Navigators and he left weather for Navigator School. He became a B-52
Bill Smith (left) and Greg Bush (right)

Navigator and remained in the B-52 for much of his career. Although he never went back to the Air Weather Service, he says that his meteorology background served him well. It made him a better Navigator and one of the few crewmembers who could do really good airborne radar weather reports. He retired after 26 years in the Air Force. Dave was in the last class (as a freshman) to participate in Upstream Day and in the first meteorology class to take computer courses. He's married to the former Sandy Murray (A Lowell State grad) and they have one daughter and two grandchildren.

William “Strata” Smith (1975) and Greg Bush (1975) were members of the first Environmental Science graduating class at Lowell State College. It was indeed a pleasure to see them again after more years than most of us care to remember.

Bill is a type section example of the old adage that college prepares one for life, not a career. After graduation he taught 9th grade Earth Science at his old Jr. High school in Tewksbury, MA. He was the first certified Earth Science teacher in Massachusetts. It was a one year permanent substitute teaching job and was enjoyable. He then worked for five years for the consulting company ERT (Environmental Research & Technology) in Lexington, MA. He loved that job, did some good environmental work and did a lot of traveling (45 states in five years). During that time Bill earned his Masters in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch University. He was then employed for five years by Public Service of New Hampshire at the Seabrook Nuclear Station in Seabrook, NH, as a training specialist for the Plant Operators during the construction phase of the plant. He was subsequently employed by The Gillette Company in Andover, MA and is still there after 23 years. He was originally hired as a Technical Training Specialist and after two years transferred into the engineering department as the Sr. Environmental Specialist. This is an excellent job. He is responsible for regulatory compliance which has included all air and water permitting, as well as employee training on many environmental topics. He has also been successful in achieving ISO 14001 certification for the plant and having the plant pass admission criteria for the EPA's National Performance Tracking Program. At the time it was one of only about 300 individual plants nation-wide that were accepted into the program. With assistance from consultants and lots of input from the EPA and the Mass. DEP, Gillette Andover wrote the first VOC RACT Plan in the aerosol industry. It is still a benchmark in the industry and has morphed into a Title V Operating Permit. Five years ago Gillette was acquired by Procter & Gamble and he now has responsibility for safety as well as environment at the Andover plant. Back in 1972 the only students enrolled in the Environmental Sciences Program at Lowell State were Tom Dufresne, Tom Valarose, Greg Bush, and Bill. There were four professors, two of whom were working on their PhDs. It was all new, very interesting, and fun. Bill is married to Jackie Amlaw ('74 English, Lowell State). They have three children; one married and living in Harrogate, England, one living in Boston, MA and one living in Portsmouth, NH. No grandchildren yet, but they have a dog, Molly. Jackie and Bill have recently downsized and moved from Exeter, NH to a condo at Hampton Beach.

Carl Schewizer (1977) and Mark Dufault (1978) were members of the last two Environmental Science classes to graduate from the department when the Environmental Science component was still in Mahoney Hall on South Campus (the former Lowell State College). Talk about a trip down memory lane.

Chris Coppi (2001) and Jason Sorenson (1999) are part of the bumper years of the program during which we reached a total enrollment of almost
200 students. They are also among the last groups to graduate from the department when we offered two separate degree programs.

**Jason** graduated with a BS in Environmental Science, Geology concentration, Spanish Minor. He was an EMT (with various companies) from 1989-2002. (As a senior faculty member it was always a comfort having a trained health care professional in the classroom. Jason was followed in the program by Sharon McKechnie, a former nurse, who filled the same role. If you know of any health care professional who would like to enroll in our major please encourage them to apply.) He was a United States Geological Survey (USGS) volunteer for 6 months in 1999, did the Southern Utah University Geology field camp in 1999 and was a USGS Intern through the Environmental Careers Organization (the company no longer exists) in 1999-2000. Since 2000 he has worked as a hydrologist for the USGS MA-RI Water Science Center. In 2003 he received a M.S. in Geophysics from Boston College. During his undergraduate years he notes that he helped the Civil Engineering Department install and calibrate their atmospheric sampling equipment, traveled once in the winter and once in the summer to muscovite mines in NH, and participated in our 'made for kids' Earth Science program that traveled to various grade schools and unknowingly met up with his little cousin's class. Jason is married and has custody of his wife's two nephews (2 and 4 yrs yikes!).

**Tara Johnson** (2000) and **Heather (Bellegarde) Wagner** (2000) were, respectively, Environmental Studies and Geology option majors. After graduation Tara worked for New Hampshire Soil Consultants doing wetland delineations, upland and wetland functions and values assessments and permitting. When her second son was born she decided to take time off...like 7 years! She went back to work part-time in 2007 for the Department of Environmental Services in the New Hampshire Geological Survey. Tara works with the State Geologist on various projects and is a co-PI for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program grant, funded by the USGS. They preserve documents, cuttings, core samples and anything else of interest to the geology community. She is married and they have two boys.

**Andrea Lynch** (2007) and **Ryan Lambert** (2009) are two of our most recent graduates. Both majored in Environmental Studies. Andrea is currently working on a master's degree in biology at UML. She has worked at Cabot Corporation in their EHS department since 2006 (thanks to Dr. O'Brien for the summer internship that's lasted 4 years!).

**Anne McWilliams** (1999) and **David Pietras** (1976) were both Atmospheric Science majors. Anne did both an undergraduate and graduate degree at UML and has done ozone forecasts for a number of years for EPA. David was one of the earliest Meteorology graduates to attend the alumni cook-in and we were delighted to see him.

**Erik Jordan** (2009) and **Bob Mentzer** (1989) were, respectively Environmental Studies and Atmospheric Science majors. Erik is one of our renaissance graduates as he is both a musician and a scientist. He has returned to UML and is pursuing a graduate degree in Solar engineering. After graduation Bob worked for Sigma Research Corporation. He did air quality permitting and model development for EPA and industry for 4 years. For the past 15 years he has worked for Harris, Miller, Miller & Hanson Inc. and is involved in studying environmental noise for transportation projects, specializing in aviation. He has also done some air quality work for airports and is part of the design review team for the FAA for the development of their new Noise and Emissions model. He found that the computer programming aspect of the Meteorology program really assisted him with his career. When he returned to campus he found that the map wall had been replaced by computer terminals which he’s sure hold a lot more information. It was a great program and he’s glad he went to UML. Bob is married and has five children and one grandchild.
Cindy Morrell (2010) and Erin (Longo) Pinkham (1999) were respectively Environmental Studies and Geology option majors. Cindy is one of our most recent graduates and is renowned for her homemade jams. She will be greatly missed. Since graduation she has been house sitting, job hunting and contemplating driving across country to Washington State! We wish her the best on her travels. Bring back lots of pictures and perhaps a new musical. You'll have plenty of time to work on it while you're driving.

For the faculty it was truly a pleasure to see so many of our former students and to find out how your life has evolved. We hope to see all of you, and other alumni, at future alumni functions.

A note about the Newsletter banner. In keeping with the integrated nature of the department, the banner at the top of the newsletter, which shows the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull volcano, Iceland, combines all elements of the department: geosciences – the volcanic eruption, atmospheric science – the distribution of the ash plume, and environmental studies – the impact of the ash on the environment.