

October 2013 News Notes

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SES alumni reception at GSA

The 125th annual Geological Society of America meeting is from 27-30 October in Denver. Over thirty abstracts from School of Earth Sciences' students, staff and faculty have been accepted for presentation. You are cordially invited to the OSU alumni reception at 800 PM on Monday evening the 28th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Hope to see you there.

Welcome new SES faculty!

Four new faculty members joined SES this fall, strengthening the School's programs in geobiology, geochemistry and energy-related geoscience.

Joel Barker, a Research Associate at the Byrd Polar Research Center and former Byrd Fellow, is a biogeochemist studying alpine and polar ecosystems and will be teaching at the Marion Campus.

Thomas Darrah, most recently a postdoc at Duke University, is a geochemist researching subsurface fluid migration related to energy extraction.

Joachim Moortgat studies multiphase flow in oil and gas reservoirs. He comes to OSU from the Reservoir Engineering Research Institute in Palo Alto, California.

Michael Wilkins, formerly a Research Scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is a geobiologist focusing on subsurface microbial processes and their interaction with contaminants.

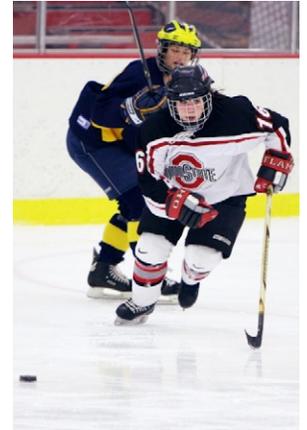
Joel Barker, Thomas Darrah, Joachim Moortgat, and Michael Wilkins are pictured below, from left to right.



Alumni change lives

Kelsey Bisson (B.S. 2013) received support from the Rector Endowed Scholarship Fund in Geological Sciences. Here, Kelsey describes how this helped advance her career. Photo: Kelsey Bisson on the women's club ice hockey team.

For the last two academic years I was honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Willis E. "Bill" Rector Endowed Scholarship, a scholarship established in honor of Bill Rector in 2002 by Jane Rector and her children. That scholarship instilled confidence in me both as a budding geologist and as a growing student. The burden of paying for one's college education is not an easy one, and this money helped pay for tuition, which allowed me to focus on challenging myself with a wide array of courses and leadership activities instead of working several jobs that would have interfered with my studies. I am reminded of how fortunate I was to receive these funds quite often as I reflect upon my last years at Ohio State. I was able to dedicate more time to Women in Math and Science, a student organization dedicated to retain and support women who face challenges in male-dominated disciplines, and to volunteer weekly at an elementary school to teach kids about the environment. Both were unpaid activities in which I would not have been able to participate had I needed to hold a non-academic job. Since the scholarship helped me with the bulk of my school-related expenses, I was able to afford ice time as a defender on the women's club ice hockey team, which kept me physically engaged and energized to tackle my research questions. Ultimately, I had more time and energy to do the things I loved doing: geochemical research with Dr. Berry Lyons, and working in the community on issues about which I feel passionate. I attribute a large part of my success in getting accepted into graduate school to these activities, which would not be possible without the generosity of Jane Rector and her family. I am forever grateful.



Seismology faculty search

The School of Earth Sciences is searching for a new faculty member in seismology, one of 33 positions being advertised by the College of Arts and Sciences this autumn. This new tenure-track assistant professor position will complement the School's Energy Science focus. Applicants with basic and applied research in energy exploration, reflection seismology, subsurface, characterization, Earth structure, history and dynamics, and natural hazards are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted via AcademicJobsOnline at <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/3145>