Geology Department Newsletter

March 6, 2023





Upcoming Events:



Save the Date: GUAC Movie Night, sponsored by the Geology Department: **Thursday**, **March 9**!



NO TGiRx on **Friday, March 10**: Enjoy Spring Break



Majors' Fair: Come speak with majors from every department: Saturday, March 25, 1:00-3:00 PM

PLEASE RETURN....Do you have a geology department lab key (1343-##) that you no longer need? Please return it to Diane Hutton, Academic Department Coordinator BEBU 101B!

New geology course for Fall 2023

GEOL-253/ENST-253: Qualitative Research Methods for Environmental Studies

Geospatial inquiry is an iterative creative process that involves asking, answering, and communicating the results of questions using data linked to geographic locations. The anticipated results of this process are thoughtfully assembled maps and geographic datasets that serve as accessible, persuasive, and even beautiful means of conveying large amounts of complex information. Geospatial thinking is a critical skill for pursuing a systems-based perspective on our rapidly changing and interconnected world. This course is a hands-on introduction to geospatial inquiry using geographic information systems (GIS) software applied to a variety of intersecting topics in environmental studies, natural science, and the humanities. Technical topics include geospatial data acquisition and database management, coordinate systems and projections, creation and manipulation of raster and vector datasets, data digitization, incorporation of field data into GIS, use of lidar, aerial imagery, and other remote sensing tools, and the production of professional quality final maps.

Visiting Assistant Professor: Michelle Fame

Upcoming GUAC events:



GUAC is a student run organization established to create a safe space for underrepresented students in the geosciences. Our goal is to create a be a safe space and serve as a bridge between underrepresented students and faculty in the department in order to diversify and create change at Amherst's department, and the geosciences as a whole.

- Movie Night: Thursday, March 9: "Don't Look Up" in Keefe at 8 PM
- Rock Craft Night: Rock Painting and Rock Jewelry Wednesday, March 29 at 5:30 PM



Internships, Opportunities and Graduate School Info:

- The Connecticut River Conservancy is a strong voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers, and educate and engage communities. View local opportunities.
- Archer, Cathro & Associates has been providing expert consulting services for mineral exploration. Our team of professional geoscientists and geological engineers help mining companies make and advance discoveries through conception to resource definition. Learn more.
- Want to learn more about the wildlife in the area? Join The MassMammals, they are looking for outreach volunteers.
- 10th annual GeoIntern, a summer training program we run in association with local and international experts and institutions that places students in active research projects where they can learn a range of highly transferable skills over the course of four weeks. The deadline is March 10, and it is open to undergraduates and recent graduates from relevant fields of study of any nationality. Apply now.

Geology Department Opportunity and Resources

Updates from Faculty and Students:

Assistant Professor Victor Guevara

Greetings from Catalina Island, California! I'm here doing fieldwork, studying metamorphism and deformation in a former subduction zone.





Claire and friends hiking and mapping on a long ridge in Arthur's Pass, NZ

Claire Jensen '24

My program (Frontiers Abroad Geology) has spent a month traveling around the

north and south islands of New Zealand doing geotourism - travel with quite a bit of geology sprinkled in. During field camp, we traveled to 3 different locations: Westport, where we explored igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary formations, Cass, where we explored the famous limestone cliffs and practiced mapping, and Whakapapa Village, where we stayed on the side of an active volcano (Mt. Ruapehu) and explored historical volcanic activity and deposits. It was a lot of work being in the field all day every day, hiking quite a bit no matter the weather, but amazing regardless. It's been an incredible experience so far, and we have just started classes at the University of Canterbury, diving into our semester-long geology research projects!

Follow Claire on Polarsteps: https://www.polarsteps.com/cjense/6432730-new-zealand



Fiona Anstey '24 was working on a sailing research vessel called the Corwith Cramer for ten days in the Caribbean Sea. We were studying primary productivity, temperature and salinity profiles, and surface current data in the Tropical Atlantic and the Caribbean Sea. My project for the trip was looking at how land masses affect these properties! I also got to go snorkeling (I saw sea turtles!) and watch dolphins playing in the bow waves.