

# St. Lawrence University

## Geology Newsletter

Winter, 2004

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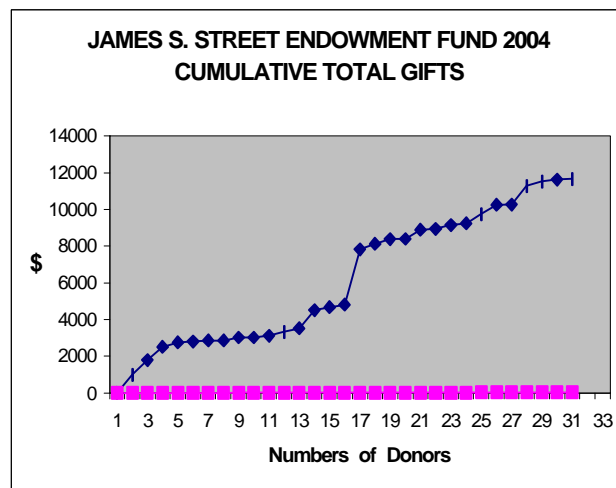
### JIM STREET FUND CAMPAIGN – 2004 UPDATE

Last January, each of you for whom the department had a correct address was a recipient of our letter describing the Geology Department's hope that we can double the endowment for the Jim Street Fund from \$60K to \$120K in support of student research expenses and travel to professional meetings. We have a leadership position in the area of undergraduate research both nationally and locally, having been involved in the process at least since the days of Doc Bloomer. Until the 1990's our students did research with faculty and some published that research, but few actually presented their research at national or international meetings. That condition changed as many universities began to foster undergraduate research programs and their students were encouraged to present. New venues for student presentation have opened.

At St. Lawrence our students have been eager to participate professionally, and the University has helped with financial support as needed. Some of you have also helped by creating Student Research Fellowships specifically for Geology projects. These have had a major impact and are essential as the "heavy lifters" of our student research effort so please continue them. It is fair to say, however, that the greatest good for the greatest number of Geology students has been afforded by the Jim Street Fund which can act on students' proposals immediately upon receipt with little or no delay and can fund needs of intermediate or lesser cost. These are an important aspect of student research you may be sure! Eventually we may be able to award a Jim Street Fellowship if needed in addition to the research or travel awards that we

make presently. We are "growing" the Fund with those goals in mind.

The **growth** of the Fund as it has occurred from December 15, 2003 to December 15, 2004 is presented in the figure below. These are the gifts that the department is aware of because you have sent them directly through us or because the university has notified us of them! Donors to the Fund are listed here with this expression of our gratitude. **Thanks very much to all who have made this growth possible.** In four more years we will achieve our goal of adding \$60,000 to the Street Fund. It is doable and we thank all who contribute. Every gift counts.



In 2004, donors to the Street Fund Campaign have included the following:

- Graham Baird
- Henry Cerwonka
- Dale N. Chayes
- Bob & Kim Delatour
- David & Marlene Egan
- Dean Eppler
- Mark Erickson

Kenneth & Mary Feathers  
Andrew Fetterman  
Ruth Fetterman  
Andrew Fountain  
Gerald & Maureen Gould  
Michael Hayes  
F.D. and Margine Holland, Jr.  
Frank Karboski  
Mark C. Klett  
Rob & Karen Lewis  
Tom Loomis  
Ron & Kathy Metzger  
Kenneth H. Noble  
Mike Perfit  
Andrew P. Perham  
Alisa Scott  
Bill & Mary Scott  
William H. Sias  
Sally Street  
David Wald  
Bill & Joan Watts  
Marguerite Walsh  
Don & Cindy Weeks

THANK YOU! Please let JME know if there errors at [meri@stlawu.edu](mailto:meri@stlawu.edu). Look for updates at <http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/jimstreetfund.html>

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### **NEWS FROM GEOLOGY ALUMS:**

#### **Chris Adams '84**

Chris stopped in the department and had a visit with Mark. He is a High School Principal in Lancaster, PA and will be finishing a doctorate in April '05. He has two children.

#### **Jeff Barclay '84**

Jeff and his family were in the process of moving back to the U.S. after an amazing 3-year adventure in Rome, Italy where he and his wife, Beth were teaching at a small K-8 international school called Ambrit Rome Int'l School. Now they are in Manchester, Vermont where Jeff will be teaching Physical Education, Earth Science and a bit of Math at Maple Street School.

#### **Hank Cerwonka '80**

Hank sent a note in May to Mark with a donation to the Jim Street Fund and congratulations on Mark's champsosaurus fossil

find. At that time he was gearing up for a show of his photos. Last summer he had his first solo show that was an exciting milestone for him, and he will have 20-some images for sale on the web, through the stock agency Coloradoimage.com.

#### **Sarah Czajka '01**

Sarah has been working in Connecticut at Geologic Services Corporation for 3 years as an environmental consultant. She writes that the company has given her a great base and numerous opportunities to develop her career, but she feels the need to diversify her background beyond petroleum sites. She is looking to move out west, and has leads in Tempe, Arizona and Denver, Colorado. Good luck, Sarah.

#### **Carrie Denesha '00**

Carrie is having a great time examining road cuts and bridges and cores of Kansas cyclothem as she works for the Kansas Dept. of Transportation in Topeka. That sed. and strat. stuff that she did seems to be paying off if the enthusiasm of her emails is any example. Glad you are enjoying your work, Carrie.

#### **Dean Eppler '74**

There is not much to say that hasn't been on web sites and in the news. Dean visited campus in June to receive an ALUMNI CITATION for his work in the space program. He presented an informative and humorous seminar describing his career activities at NASA and everyone enjoyed it. Congratulations, Dean!

#### **Jeannine (Mansfield) Fiore '97**

Jeannine has been working in child care at the local YMCA for the last 4 years. She is married and they had a son, Elias Daniel in August. She plans on being a stay at home mom for a while.

#### **Karl Fleischmann '83**

Karl is still in Anchorage, Alaska going on his 7<sup>th</sup> year there. He and his wife, Carolina, have 4 children. Karl is the GIS/Remote Sensing lead for ConocoPhillips, working inside more than he would like, but will be getting back out in the field this summer to help put new batteries

in the radio collars on polar/grizzly bears and double-check some surveying operations. He is also field testing some new remote pen-based GIS mapping gear. Sounds very interesting.

### **David Griffing '83**

Dave has joined the faculty at Hartwick College. He really seems to be enjoying it based on discussions with Mark at GSA. How could he not be happy with the Devonian right outside his department's back door? David is also expected at SLUGAC.

### **Brett Harvey '02**

Brett has been operating an instrument for A.C.Z Environmental Labs in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, mostly testing water and soil samples from mining sites for Mercury and Selenium. He has also been coaching Alpine ski racing part-time in the Winter.

### **Trent Hubbard '94**

Trent was married this summer in Fairbanks, Alaska on Summer Solstice! He and Grete visited Canton later and found no one here, but they were impressed by the new student union and athletic facilities! He has just submitted an abstract to the NE GSA in March on some of the work he did with Mark for his senior thesis some years ago! Now that he is teaching in Missouri we hope to see them both more often.

### **Charles Kreitler '69**

Charlie sent Mark an email after receiving the last newsletter with identification for people in the photo and some reminiscences of Doc Bloomer and they visited at GSA.

### **Tavis Lloyd '02**

Tavis is working for Louis Berger Inc., in Florham Park, New Jersey. He completed his Masters at SUNY Oneonta and seemed to get along well there.

### **Len Mason '99**

Mark was pleased to have a good visit with Len Mason while he was presenting, with his advisor Daryll Pederson, two posters describing his Masters research at U. Nebraska, Lincoln. The excellent posters dealt with knick point

generation, waterfall morphology and migration/wasting stimulated by mineral-rich ground water seepage. Needless to say Len is doing great work and we hope he will go on as he seems to be enjoying his geology. Look for Len at SLUGAC in April.

### **Sarah McElfresh '98**

Sarah attended Bonnie Muller's wedding and sent a picture of David Waugh, Heather Cunningham, Bonnie and herself. She and Scott are enjoying their daughter, Katie, and Sarah keeps in touch with Mark often.

### **Robert Morrow '84**

Bob has been teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Sciences for the past 5 years in Fairfield, Connecticut. He writes that he really enjoys it and is hoping to start teaching some single semester electives in the next few years including Astronomy and also resurrecting the Geology course that was once offered before he joined the staff. At the time of this note, Bob was getting ready for a wedding in the summer. Congratulations.

### **Bonnie Muller '99**

Bonnie is working at Buffalo State College as a lab instructor and stockroom tech. She was married in October. Congratulations, Bonnie!

### **Paul E. Myers '53**

Paul wrote this nice tribute to Robert Bloomer. "Doc' Bloomer changed my life! He stimulated my imagination, gave me a vision of what I could do with my life, and helped, goaded, encouraged me to always get out there and do more. He saw to it that I got a summer job panning heavy minerals with USGS in NC the summer after I took my first geology courses. (He didn't waste time with me, just got me "out there.") Then, in the spring of my senior year, graduating with a "base" geology degree, he informed me he had "saved a place" for me at Harvard. My protestations were ignored – so I went. He ALWAYS wanted to know how I was doing. He cared, he pushed, he shaped my directions, helped me find my way. He was a great teacher – my life's model – because I

ultimately became a teacher. I hope I was half as good as he was.”

### **Andrew Owens ‘99**

Andrew worked for ATC Associates in Baltimore, Maryland for three and a half years. He has done everything from drilling for water and soil samples to NEPA work for the telecommunications industry to working as an EH&S manager for a commercial shipyard. He recently started working for a local consulting firm (Advantage Environmental) and has begun a few months worth of no-stop asbestos sampling for telecom sites. A wedding is in the works for March 12, 2005 in Woodstock, Maryland.

### **Nate Page ‘02**

Nate is in Jackson, Wyoming working for Nelson Engineering. He is working on a project that is a contract with the State of Wyoming on their Abandoned Mine Land program. He is learning a lot working with several old mine engineers and geologists who have been in the business a while.

### **Booth Platt ‘00**

Booth is completing a very useful study of aquatic and semi-aquatic oribatid mites as his Masters research under direction of Roy Norton at SUNY-ESF. Booth visited Canton and presented a long afternoon of lab technique and systematic information for Mark’s Paleocarology course. Booth has a good eye for mites and really enjoys the work. We hope the thesis goes well Booth.

### **Larry Robjent ‘96**

Larry and Jess made a brief stop at Mark’s house on their way over to catch a show at the Black Box in which Trisha Smrecak a junior geology major had a lead role. They were well and still enjoy teaching in Lake Placid. Larry is actually teaching some Earth Science among his other duties! SLUGAC – no excuses.

### **Bill Romey (Professor Emeritus)**

Bill sent Mark an email – he had just finished his latest e-book, An illustrated guide to the Geology of sites commonly visited around the

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands. Bill gave the guest lecture for the NYSGA Banquet in Potsdam and showed his spectacular images of Gondwana geology! Lucretia visited too. She is still an active participant with their Antarctic lecture cruises.

### **Paul Sanchirico ‘97**

Paul and wife, Liz Polzl ’98, just bought a house in Fayetteville, New York. They have 2 boys and were expecting a third last September. Paul entered a radiology residency that he has two more years of training to do before he will be on his own. He writes that “geology was a great major for a physician. Formulating a story base upon snippets of info such as structure and stratigraphy is exactly what I do every day now. The difference is the field work is the human body and the only rocks I see are pathologic (kidney & gallstones).”

### **Christopher Stevens ‘04**

Chris is now pursuing the study of sand dunes on the Canadian Prairie Provinces at the University of Calgary. He is very excited to be starting his MS.C program this January there and looks forward to the many opportunities they have to offer. He writes: “The department has already made me feel welcome as all of you in Brown Hall did four years ago.”

### **Jessey Tase ‘99**

Jessey wrote in April that she was in Missoula completing her Masters in geography. She was doing GIS, and had a job for the Forest Service. In the Summer she was moving down to the San Juan National Forest in Colorado to work for them.

### **Doug Waters ‘79**

Doug was in NY while his son visited colleges. Once again Mark missed him but had a great phone conversation with him in Alaska. Doug heads up the Geophysics Exploration program for the largest Native American landholdings in NA, and his group does major consulting around the world. He fishes a bit too and Mark plans to visit him one of these days!

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## NEWS FROM MARK ERICKSON:

What an incredibly rapid year 2004 has been! I think most of the Spring activities were covered in the last Newsletter but I can reiterate the high spots because they were special for me. Lance's graduation from Macalester Cum Laude with a double major in Physics and Geology, which I attended accompanied by Bud Holland, was followed the next day by our graduation at SLU with Mark Klett receiving an honorary doctorate (see alumni page of Geology Club web site -- <http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/index.html>). After the red eye flight from MSP, I was able to put Mark's hood on him. These events had to be the highlights of May. Lance has stayed in St. Paul and while "taking a year off" is working at a brewer's supply store since he and some of his college friends are investigating the brew pub industry.

June started out with another pleasant alumni event at Reunion time. This year Dean Eppler was awarded an Alumni Citation for his contribution to America's space program and his interest in St. Lawrence over the years. I hosted his seminar where he recounted some of those adventures and I think I saw Alisa Scott there but she did not stay around to visit if I did! Many of the other participants were local residents and old friends such as Alice Quackenbush, Sally Street and Severn Brown who came to visit. The entire experience was very gratifying.

Pretty quickly Trisha Smrecak, her field assistant (and senior class president) Anna Burke, and I were packing up for Trisha's field work in North Dakota as a SLU Summer Fellow. She was initiating a study of the paleobotany of the Hell Creek Formation in the Missouri Valley as a continuation of the work started by Daniel Peppe a couple of years ago. Anna and I met Trisha in N. Michigan, and we convoyed to Bismarck after a brief stop in Grand Forks. This was the coolest June I have seen in ND in quite a while. It made the badlands rather comfortable. With the great help of John Hoganson and the ND Geological Survey, we found two leaf sites but not the diversity of flora that Dan and I found in the top of the Fox Hills. The girls stayed on in early July until rain made it hard to work. I returned to NY before the 4<sup>th</sup> and began to think about Vermont. GSA abstracts were due mid

July. I put in an abstract based on some observations I had made on Potsdam's trackways. Matt Burton-Kelly, a senior, is working out more details of these trackways for his thesis which he hopes to present at the NE GSA in March '05. Then I was off to camp for some fishing, which was inconvenienced frequently by the rainy weather! Nonetheless there were eventually some very large bass out there and I caught my share. Lance visited camp for a few hours on his way to the Phish concert which was an exercise in mud survival. He drove back to St. Paul after the concert without so much as a goodbye as he had to work the next day!

Fall semester began in a hurry this year. Mike Owen is on sabbatical so Diane Burns from U. Wyoming is taking his place. She takes her work very seriously. We all took part in the September NYSGA meeting sponsored by SUNY Potsdam. Some of us led trips and the rest took students in the field. I took a Cambrian-Ordovician trip with Al Donaldson of Carlton and Jeff Chiarenzelli of SUNY Potsdam which demonstrated presence of algal/microbial mats in the Potsdam. Bill Romey and "young Bill" who is in Biology at Potsdam led a trip as well and big Bill gave the banquet lecture describing Gondwana geology seen on his Antarctic cruises. Bill and Lucretia both were well and it was good to see them. The meeting was very successful and Rob Badger, SUNY Potsdam Dept. Chair, should be congratulated. Shortly after Chris Stevens, Noah Noyes and I made a one day trip to Glovers Pond in NJ to install a bank of remote thermal monitoring equipment to record lake temperatures through a complete season. This is part of the work Scott Carpenter and I continue to do. While there we sampled oribatids for Noah's senior thesis project which will define mite assemblages from various microhabitats around the lake. It is similar to a project that Booth Platt is working on at SUNY -- ESF.

Shortly after was the Cincinnati Paleo trip -- the trip from hell--this year. All went fine for the first two days. We met Dave Waugh and Heather Cunningham in Cincinnati and visited a couple of new outcrops with some great collecting near Richmond, Indiana. The car

trouble began by the smell of burning belt, but we couldn't find the problem. We got all the way back to about Geneva, NY, when the tensioning wheel self destructed on one of the vans and we came to a halt while repairs were attempted. Eventually we were brought a replacement vehicle and completed the trip. I suppose after all the great trips we have made, we were due for a bit of bad luck.

In October, I visited North Dakota to meet with John Hoganson and Bud on some Fox Hills vertebrate work manuscript of which is due in December. On return, I prepared for the GSA poster to be held in November. Chris Stevens and Steve Robinson also went from Canton. That was a great meeting in particular because Lance presented a poster on some research he did with one of his Macalester faculty on alpine structure using calcite axial orientation. It was a great pleasure seeing Lance's poster. I had a great time, too, visiting with more than 25 alums who were present. We even had a group of a dozen or more who went to dinner at the Buckhorn Exchange! Next time we will have to find a less pricey venue, but a good time was had by all. I saw the following alums: Dan Peppe, Graham Baird, Dave Waugh, Ed Cavallerano, Tom Fitz, Dave Griffing, Jay Fleisher, Ken Johnson, Steve Metzger, Len Mason, Don Rodbell, Barb and Dave Tewksbury, Heather Cunningham, Tanya Justhams, Bob Shuster.

I think there were another half dozen of you there that I never got to see! I had some really good visits with several of those noted above. Steve Robinson spent some of his GSA time interviewing candidates for sabbatical replacements as both Cathy and I will be on leave next year! Chris Stevens who had graduated last May visited with faculty and grad students from the Univ. of Calgary where he is beginning graduate work even as I write this!

Now as the semester comes to an end and the holidays are upon us, I wish you all the very best returns of the season and a prosperous new year. We are gearing up especially for the main event of the Spring – namely **SLUGAC 5** – (see <http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/slugac.html>.) This is likely to be the last SLUGAC before major changes in the department take place so I encourage you to come and reunion

with us. See the information herein on the meeting or visit the Geology Club alumni page on the department web site.

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#### **NEWS FROM STEVE ROBINSON:**

It's continuing to be busy around here! A trip to China with a group of faculty last summer has led to funding for myself and two students (Camille Partin '06 and Ben Meade '06) to make a return trip. We plan to conduct an evaluation of the new Chinese systems of National Geological Parks and look at the balance between protection and development at these sites.

The department is also putting on a trip to Alaska for next August, with 11 SLU students already signed up and likely a similar number from Queen's University. We'll follow roughly the same route around the Chugach Mountains as our 2003 trip, but perhaps with a few additional detours.

It seems like just yesterday that I joined the department, yet here I am planning for my first sabbatical (Spring 2006). I'll likely stick around Canton and get some writing done but will also take a trip to do some hiking in New Zealand.

See everyone at SLUGAC next semester!  
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#### **NEWS FROM DIANE BURNS:**

Greetings! Allow me to introduce myself, I am Diane Burns and currently substituting for Mike Owen while he enjoys a sabbatical year. With roots in the east coast from having been born and raised in Baltimore, MD, I came to SLU this past August from points west having done my graduate work at the University of Wyoming. It is quite a change, seeing all of this greenery and the over-abundance of rivers and rain.

Come the spring semester, one of the courses I will be teaching will be on the resources of the earth. As a substitute for lab experiences, I will be taking the students on a series of Saturday trips to visit mines, factories and other facilities. We hope to see many different ways in which earth materials are transformed into everyday products. If you have any suggestions for trips, please feel free to email me [dburns@stlawu.edu](mailto:dburns@stlawu.edu). I would certainly like to hear more ideas!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

**St. Lawrence University Geology Alumni Conference**  
**---- SLUGAC 5 ----**  
**“REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS”**  
**April 21-24, 2005**

This spring will be the 5th SLU GEOLOGY ALUMNI CONFERENCE. The first and second announcements can be found on the alumni website <http://it.stlawu.edu/~geoclub/alumni/slugac.html> under SLUGAC.

SLUGAC is a very unique conference, and I have found in attending other conferences and in talking with others in the field that they wish they had a similar conference where they were an undergrad. Where I did my graduate work, the department thought it would be a great thing to do – that is of course if someone else was willing to do all the work. Here at SLU we are lucky that back in the early 90’s, some people did decide to do the work and SLUGAC 1 was held in 1992. About every 3 years there has been another conference where Geology Alums return to campus to share their experiences with each other and current students. We let students know just what they can do with that B.S. in Geology – whether it seems like it is connected or not. We share what we are working on and pass on the types of opportunities exist that the students never thought existed. We can become current in other aspects of the field that we might miss at an AGU or GSA conference. We can network and discover new collaborators. It may just be that one alum has refined a computer program to do what you need to, or that someone has gained access to a field area you're interested in. The possibilities are endless. Perhaps most importantly is that we reconnect with each other and make new professional friendships. It may be the one “reunion” where it is ok to talk shop!

We hope that you will consider attending SLUGAC 5 this April. We are trying to maintain a list online of alumni who have expressed an interest in attending and those who wish to present at this year’s conference. If you are interested in attending, please email me at [mcelfres@telerama.com](mailto:mcelfres@telerama.com) or Mark Erickson at [meri@stlawu.edu](mailto:meri@stlawu.edu) and Mark will forward your name on to me.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in April.

Sarah (Zimmerman) McElfresh '98  
[mcelfres@telerama.com](mailto:mcelfres@telerama.com)

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The Geology Club Executive Committee is proud to announce that we have finally gotten together and produced something! This year we will be selling commemorative glass “Root Beer” mugs to raise funds for the spring trip and other sundry activities. They hold 25 oz. and have “SLU Geology” written below our Boot and Ring logo. A limited number are currently available for purchase at \$20 including shipping and handling. Pre-orders (with payment) will be taken until the end of February and will be finished in time for SLUGAS 5 in April. The cost is \$15 each. If you will be unable to come to SLUGAC, or for some other reason would like your mug shipped to you, add \$5 per mug for shipping and we’d be glad to send them to you!

So, if you’d like to purchase mugs, here’s what you do:

- 1) contact [meburt01@stlawu.edu](mailto:meburt01@stlawu.edu) with questions
- 2) send order and money to SLU Geology Club, c/o Geology Department, 23 Romoda Drive, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617
- 3) If you want us to send you your mug, be sure to include a return address.
- 4) Enjoy your mug.



Also: Long- and short-sleeved T-shirts are available with SLU Geology Club logo on front and image of geologist in Big Bend Country on back at \$12 each or two for \$20. (Sizes Lg and XL in short-sleeved; Med., Lg & XL in Long sleeved).

Please sign up ASAP and reserve late April 2005 NOW on your busy schedules.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

Business Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) OF ACCOMPANYING ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_,

ADDRESS FOR MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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email \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

If you so desire, you may help us by making **ADVANCED PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION WHICH INCLUDES CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BOOKLET, LUNCH ON FRIDAY, ADMISSION TO RECEPTION, COST OF R. O. BLOOMER BANQUET, AND ADMISSION TO THE R. O. AND VERA BLOOMER LECTURE AND THE W. T. ELBERTY GEOLOGY AUCTION:**

**FOR THE ATTENDEES LISTED ABOVE, I ENCLOSE MY CHECK FOR \$65.00/PERSON (Significant other \$30) made to the SLU GEOLOGY ALUMNI CONFERENCE TOTAL: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Are any in your party requiring a non-meat meal? \_\_\_\_ How many please? \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A 12-MINUTE TALK WITH THE FOLLOWING THEME OR FOCUS (or title if known) \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A GEOLOGICAL ITEM FOR THE W. T. ELBERTY AUCTION.

\_\_\_\_\_:WHAT?\_\_\_\_\_

I VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE AUCTION. \_\_\_\_\_; BE AUCTIONEER\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_