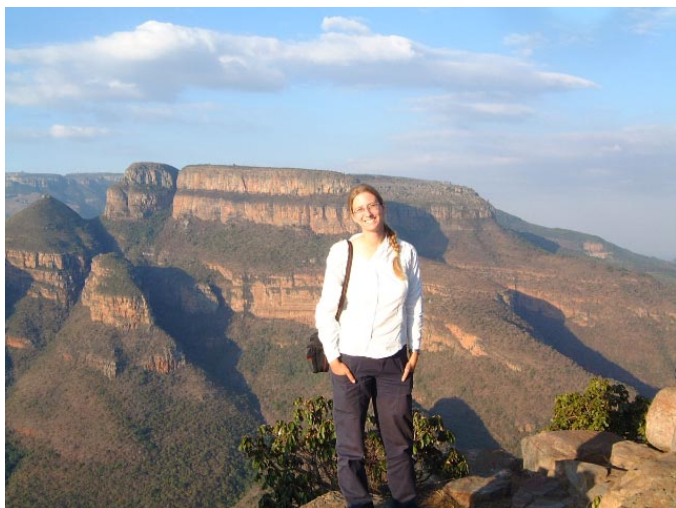


## Dept of Geology Newsletter – Summer 2007

This has been a year of changes in the Temple Geology Department. In December, Gene Ulmer retired after 37 years in the department, and we had a farewell party attended by current and former students. Gene is still seen around the department working on video editing of his Hawaii volcano tapes along with other research projects. He also continues to be the North American Editor for NEUES JAHRBOOK fur MINERALOGIE.

Two new faculty will arrive this coming year (Jan 2008): Nicholas Davatzes and Alexandra Krull Davatzes come to us from Stanford University. Nick will fill our structural geology position, and he comes via a USGS postdoc where he has been working on geothermal energy. Alix is finishing a postdoc at NASA where she has been involved in the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter mission. She has designed geoscience education projects for NASA and will teach sedimentology among other things. We were very fortunate to get two full time positions in the first round of hiring since our new dean arrived.



**Alix in Blyde River Canyon, South Africa**



**Nick in Moab, Utah**

In other personnel news, Dr. Laura Toran was promoted to full professor this year. And Roger Cutitta accepted a position in the new dean's office. We still see him occasionally, but he is already missed.

Renovations of Beury Hall continue, with the third floor being the focus this summer. Our main office moved around the corner and the class rooms and labs are being redesigned. Stop by sometime in the late fall if you want to see our new look.

Dr Jon Nyquist was recognized with the Gold Award for distinguished service by the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS). He has just finished a 4-year term as editor of their journal and will be organizing the upcoming annual meeting held in April 2008 in Philadelphia. Jon encourages you to submit an abstract and attend the meeting since this is the first time it is being held in Philadelphia!

We not only have new faculty we have new tools this year: the department purchased a JEOL 733 electron microprobe jointly with the chemistry department. The new instrument is already being put to use on a variety of projects from weathering of lead shot in soils of the NJ Pine Barrens, elemental and morphological analysis of K/T boundary glauconites, and elemental analysis of fossil bone. We have been very fortunate to have Dr. John Friel (MA 73 and former president of the Microbeam Analysis Soc.) hired to work on calibrating the instrument and assisting students with their research projects. John taught a microprobe class in the spring to help get student research launched.



The fall field trip will involve geochemistry, sediment, and geophysics along the New Jersey shore. The proposed dates are Oct 12-14. Contact Laura Toran, [ltoran@temple.edu](mailto:ltoran@temple.edu), if you would be interested in joining the tour.

If you are an alumni who has a job to post, contact the department webmaster, Laura Toran [ltoran@temple.edu](mailto:ltoran@temple.edu). You can also find job postings on the department web site for both recent grads and more experienced positions. Look in the Jobs tab.

We've had a bumper crop of grad students complete their theses this past spring and summer. Take a look at the thesis titles and you'll see the variety of research going on in the department:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Thesis title</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Kathy Gross	Analysis of effects of urbanization on spring geochemistry and sediment for a karst aquifer in Valley Creek basin, Chester County, PA	Laura Toran
Matt Heaney	Marine resistivity as a tool for characterizing groundwater discharge zones at Lake Lacawac, PA	Jon Nyquist
Jason Mintz	The terrestrial response to the post Eocene-Oligocene climatic transition, Poleslide Member, Brule Formation, Badlands National Park, South Dakota, USA	Dennis Terry
Gary Stinchcomb	Paleosols and Stratigraphy of The Scenic-Poleslide Member Boundary, Early Oligocene Brule Formation, White River Group, Badlands National Park, South Dakota, USA	Dennis Terry
Audra Crocetti	A Lithologic Comparison between the Late Cretaceous Cape Fear Formation and an Unnamed, Non-marine Unit of the Southeastern Atlantic Coastal Plain	Dennis Terry