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Greetings from Athens

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR for the department.

Undergraduate enrollment continues to grow, and latest estimates indicate eighty geology majors. Consequently, the classes remain crowded and we continue to offer the initial core course, GEOL 3010 earth materials, in both semesters. Last spring, we successfully completed a search for a specialist in the physics or chemistry of water resources. Our new assistant professor is **Dr. Adam Milewski** who graduated from Western Michigan University in 2008, where he was also a post-doctoral research associate until taking our position. Adam uses GIS techniques, satellite data, and field investigations to study water resources around the world, but especially in the Middle East. This topic will become increasingly important in this century.

Newmont Mining Corporation again made a very generous donation to the department for the support of our field school and for the creation of scholarships for undergraduates to attend Field School. This year we awarded four Newmont Mining Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarships.

Our Alumni Advisory Board completed its second year. It has continued to act as an effective advocate for the department, and to provide timely advice on topics of interest to the department. This year, **Gilles Allard**, **Dorinda Dallmeyer** and **Andy Thomas** completed their terms and we welcome new board members **Sally Pennington Moore**, **Ryan Stepler**, **Mark Mitchell**, **Johanna Rogers Phelan**, **Alex Glover**, and **Jim Saunders**. As you can tell, we have decided to enlarge the board because we believe that this will insure critical mass at each meeting. We also thank Gilles, Dorinda and Andy for their service to the department.

Our buildings continue to undergo renovation with a new focus on the Hydrothermal Lab. Following last year's structural repair, we renovated approximately 60% of the interior, with help from the Vice President for Research and the Franklin College. There is now new faculty office space and storage in the building. The faculty space is critical, owing to the exhaustion of available space in the Geography – Geology Building and our need for new office space for new faculty in the future. We have yet to receive our budget for the coming year, but we expect it to be flat or cut by a small amount in the range of 1-10%, owing to the continued stress on the state budget.

We continue to welcome visitors from abroad. This year we have had students and researchers from Venezuela, Korea (**Dr. Jae Gon Kim**, M.S. 1994), China, and of course, Turkey. Spearheaded by **Paul Schroeder** and **Dr. Omer Isik Ece** of Istanbul Technical University, we have developed a fruitful scientific collaboration between faculty and students of ISU and UGA. We currently have two Ph.D. students and two faculty members visiting us from Turkey.

Given the difficulty of obtaining research grants from national and state sources, we are extremely grateful to our alumni who continue to support our students through donations to the **Allard Award**, the **Berg Scholarship**, the **Wheeler-Watts Scholarship**, the **Levy Award** as well as the general account for Geology. The primary use of all these funds is to support graduate and undergraduate research as well as student travel to scientific meetings. This year the alumni funds have been particularly important and have allowed us to support student travel to meetings of the Geological Society of America, the Georgia Geological Society and more specialized meetings. We are thankful for your past donations and hope that you will continue to support the department in the future. Please stop by the department when you are in Athens and visit our website (<http://www.gly.uga.edu/>). News events as well as weekly seminar schedules are also posted there.

Finally, after six years, I will step down as department head on July 1, and **Doug Crowe** will become the new department head.

Mike Roden
Professor and Department Head



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