

TENNESSEE TECH DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES ROCK LODGE NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Chair

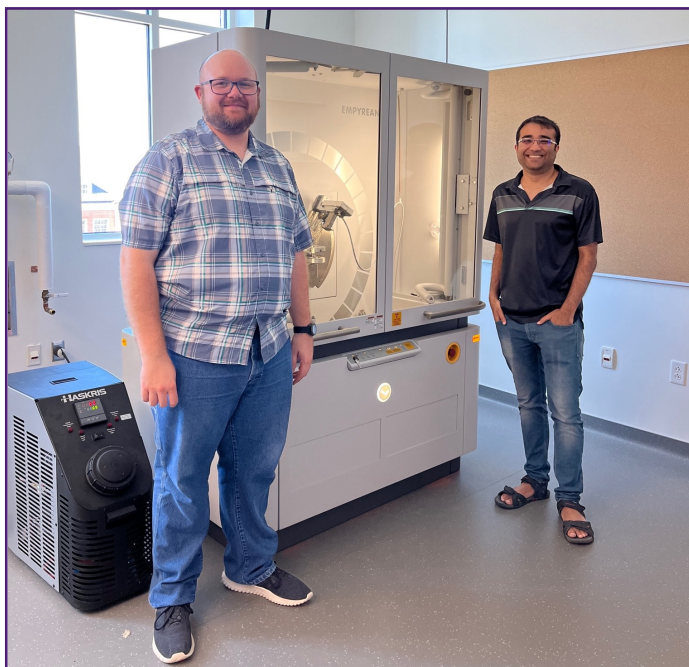
Greetings from the TTU Rock Lodge!

As the summer winds down, we're excited to welcome new geoscience majors this fall. We've had a wonderful year and continue to celebrate the following accomplishments.

- The X-Ray Diffraction machine has been moved to the new Lab Science Commons, part of a two-lab suite designed for geochemistry research. Photo at right.
- The Kittrell Hall GIS Lab received twenty-four new computers and software updates over the summer.
- Fall and spring field trips last year included trips to the Big South Fork, Smoky Mountain National Park, and Reelfoot Lake. Students presented research at GSA, TNGIC, TAS, and the TN Water Resources Symposium.

On a personal note, it's been great to return to conferences and field work. I look forward to all of the opportunities of the 2022-2023 academic year, and I hope to see many of you at our Rock Lodge Homecoming Celebration.

Chair Luna (bottom left) with students at the Planetary Geologic Mapping Workshop, Flagstaff, Arizona, June 2022.



Faculty and Staff Updates: Welcome Mr. Philip Roberson (left) and Dr. Gourab Bhattacharya (right)

Mr. Roberson, a 2015 alumnus of Tennessee Tech, returns this year as the new Earth Sciences Lab Manager. Mr. Roberson received his M.S. from Murray State University in 2018 and previously served as Lab Manager at Austin Peay State University.

Dr. Bhattacharya joins the department as an Assistant Professor in Mineralogy and Igneous/Metamorphic Petrology this fall. He received his Ph.D. in May, 2020, from the University of Alabama, and he worked last year as an Instructor in the Department of Earth Sciences at TTU.

End of an Era: Dr. H. Wayne Leimer Retires after 50 Years of Service to TTU



If the 'Leimerian' was a geologic time period, there would be a new contact at the top!

Dr. H. Wayne Leimer retired with 50 years of service in the summer of 2021. TTU President Philip Oldham recognized Dr. Leimer at the July 2021 Board of Trustees meeting (bottom photo) and at the December 2021 commencement (top photo). We congratulate Dr. Leimer on his legacy of hard work, perseverance, commitment, dedication, and lifetime career achievement!

To hear Dr. Leimer's farewell address to the TTU Board of Trustees, visit the link below (begins ~16 min mark).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY96iF3oSPA>

Retirement Celebration: Faculty, students, alumni, and friends will gather at the 2022 Rock Lodge Homecoming event to celebrate the career and legacy of Dr. H. Wayne Leimer. Please join us! Details are available on the last page of this newsletter. Bring your stories, photos, memories, and anecdotes about mineralogy, economic geology, field trips, research, Butterfinger candy bars, and the only soda for Geoconclave winners: Mr. Pibb.



Student and Faculty Highlights



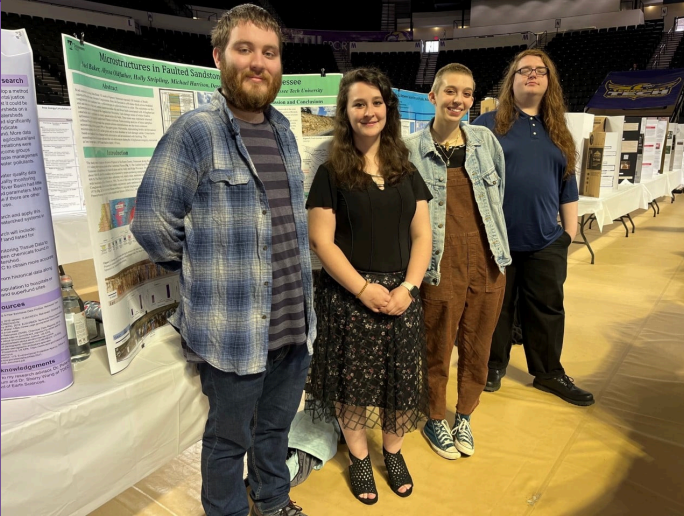
April, 2022: Students celebrate department scholarships at the annual Earth Sciences Spring Picnic. Fourteen college and department scholarships were awarded for Fall, 2022.



April, 2022: GeoClub President Sydney Beltran presents Dr. Joseph Asante with the 2021-2022 Outstanding Earth Sciences Faculty of the Year Award.



March, 2022: Earth science students attend career workshops and mentor luncheons at the Southeastern GSA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.



April, 2022: Earth science students present senior thesis research at TTU Undergraduate Research Day. This annual event is held each spring.



February, 2022: Dr. Peter Li celebrates as Derryberry Hall gets a new bell tower. We're excited to hear new tunes from the renovated bell tower chimes!



November, 2021: Students learn to use a hand-held gamma ray spectrometer on outcrops of the Mississippian Fort Payne Formation, Celina, Tennessee.



October, 2021: Sedimentation/stratigraphy and paleoclimate students measure a section of sandstone and coal on the Angel Falls Trail, Big South Fork, Tennessee.



April, 2022: Dr. Michel (behind the camera) and Dr. Bhattacharya show students metamorphic geology of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Keep in Touch!

The TTU Department of Earth Sciences is on Social Media!

Join our **Facebook Group for Alumni** at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1683669121845992>

And, follow our **Facebook Department Page** for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/tntech.earthsciences>

If you or someone you know is not on our email list, please let us know at alumrecords@tntech.edu.

Want to support TTU Earth Sciences? Our giving page is below. Every donation to the Earth Sciences Department expands opportunities for students in the classroom and in the field. Thank you!

<https://www.tntech.edu/cas/earth/giving.php>

In Memoriam

Dr. Walter Lee “Pete” Helton passed away on January 14, 2021 in Cookeville, TN. Pete was a founding member of the Department of Earth Sciences, and he served as chairperson from 1967 to 1993. After retirement, he traveled the world on mission trips and as a visiting professor and scholar.



To remember Pete, please consider making a donation to the Helton Scholarship, part of the Tennessee Tech Earth Science Alumni Scholarship Endowment.

<https://www.tntech.edu/cas/earth/giving.php>

Alumni Jason Robert Gentry passed away on January 19, 2022. Jason graduated with his degree in geosciences in May of 2021 and was a graduate student at Texas A&M at the time of his passing. Jason represented the very best of our students: kind, intelligent, hard-working, and disciplined.



March, 2022: Earth Science students and faculty at the 2022 Southeastern Section Geological Society of America Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.



April, 2022: Students celebrate induction into the Theta Omega Chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the Earth Sciences Honor Society established in 1918.

Join us for the 2022 Rock Lodge Homecoming Celebration!

Date: Saturday, November 5th, 2022
Time: 9am to 1pm

Please join us on Homecoming weekend for an open house in Kittrell Hall, the longtime home of the TTU Earth Sciences Department. Breakfast, beverages, and brunch snacks provided. Come visit us in the morning and stay for the parade on Dixie Avenue (starts at 10am) and the afternoon football game. All friends and families welcome!

Alumni Quiz Question: Did you notice anything missing from the porch of Kittrell Hall on the first page of this newsletter? Our rock garden has moved to behind the building and now features picnic tables and an outdoor grill for students.

Location: Kittrell Hall, a.k.a. the “Rock Lodge”, Tennessee Tech

