



DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sept. 1, 2009

Geology and Earth Science Education Alumni:

At Western Carolina, we are starting off the new academic year. Though the University has had to tighten its belt like much of the state and country, we are excited about the upcoming year. Why are we excited? High on the list is to invite all of you to first ever Geology alumni reception for Homecoming, Saturday October 17th. We will plan on an open-house reception in the Stillwell Science Building Lobby on Saturday at 1:00 PM. Since its renovation, it is now a beautiful, wonderfully equipped science building. If you haven't been in the building since the renovation, you'll be amazed.

This Homecoming is also special to us for two reasons. First, Dr. Jeff Ryan, one of our Geology Alumni class of 1983, is receiving the WCU Alumni Association Academic and Professional Achievement Award. Jeff is currently the Chair and Professor of Geology at the University of South Florida. Among his career highlights are leadership positions with the Council on Undergraduate Research and the National Science Foundation, being an internationally recognized researcher in geochemistry, maintaining a strong commitment to providing research experiences to students, and continued interaction and support of our program here in Cullowhee. He will receive this prestigious award during halftime of the football game (details below).

Second, it will be an opportunity to celebrate Steve Yurkovich's upcoming retirement after almost 40 years of service at Western Carolina University. I know that Steve had a profound and positive impact on many of you as he has on us. This would be a great chance to see Steve and share your memories as well as filling us all in on your experiences since graduating.

There are lots more things we wish to share with you about our program and alumni. To do this, we will send a newsletter out later this fall. In the meantime, you can check out our web site (geology.wcu.edu) or the newly created WCU Geology Alumni Facebook Group site—even Steve is joining! We'll post Homecoming Geology Reunion updates on the Facebook site as well as correspond with those of you who can join us on October 17th.

Please let us know if you can join us for the Geology Homecoming reunion by October 2nd and if you plan on buying a ticket to attend the football game. You can do this on Facebook, or by emailing Steve (yurkovich@wcu.edu) or calling (828-227-7367). If there is enough interest in attending the football game, we'll see if we can arrange for geology alumni to sit together.

Regards,

Professor of Geology &
Department Head

Football Game: Catamounts vs. The Citadel. Game time is 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.