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Who We Are

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences works closely with our students in one of the largest geoscience departments in the U.S. Our students are engaged in geological disciplines throughout their tenure at the College of Charleston through undergraduate research projects, unique travel courses, and collaborative projects with private companies, public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Our program has a uniquely family-like atmosphere that doesn’t terminate upon graduation. Many alumni stay in touch through our Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.

The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences offers a major, minor, and broad array of topical and interdisciplinary elective courses in the geosciences. Our department also covers a wide range of research areas for undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research. From local to regional to extraterrestrial studies, the research conducted within the department covers a wide range of topics across several research clusters. Our collaborative projects integrate research across programs on campus and with local, state, federal, and international groups.

*earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.* – John Lubbock
The word geology comes from Greek roots meaning earth (geo) and study of (logos). In concurrence with it’s broad meaning, the study of geology has many and varied fields, being defined as the science that deals with the earth’s physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it. The faculty at the College of Charleston specialize in each of the differing studies.

Not sure if you want to study geology? The first intro course offered is Geology 103 (Environmental Geology), followed by Geology 105 (Earth History).

- Climate Change/Environmental Geology
- Coastal Geology and Hazards
- Geochemistry
- Geographic Information Systems/Mapping
- Hydrology/Water Resources
- Marine Geology
- Paleontology
- Planetary Geology

don't take geologists for granite.
Where We Go

WANDERLUST

All B.S. Geology majors are required to take a 4-credit Field Studies course. Courses are offered during Maymester, Summer I, or Summer II. Students have the option to take a Field Studies course based in the U.S. or abroad, depending on their interests.

Students are allowed (and encouraged) to study abroad in addition to Field Studies courses through the College of Charleston’s Study Abroad Office.

Past Field Studies - U.S.
- New Mexico, Utah, & Colorado
- Wyoming

Past Field Studies - Abroad
- Ecuador and Galapagos
- India
- South Africa

a traveler without observation is a bird without wings. -moslih eddin saadi
Why We're Fun

YOU’LL WANT TO SIT WITH US

We’re outdoorsy and have a rocking sense of humor. We love some quality department bonding and have pretty great taste in music. You won’t find faculty and staff wearing Aloha shirts every Friday in any other department.

Field trips are a given for a geology major. Some local trips include Folly Beach and Stono Preserve near Johns Island.

We love a good geology pun (if you can’t already tell). Punny stickers and bookmarks are available for grabs in SSMB 224C.

It’s not always fun and games. Our faculty and staff vs. students bowling match at The Alley is no laughing matter - despite all the laughs. Maybe one day we will convince them to play one our Spotify playlists for the match. Check out our special Virtual Orientation playlist!

Fun-shirt Friday is real and we really love our Hawaiian florals. Seniors receive an Aloha shirt of their very own at our Senior Roast where we "lei" down some good jokes.

Visit our Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to see the fun!

of quartz i love geology!
"EDUCATION IS A GIFT THAT NONE CAN TAKE AWAY"
- AMERICAN PROVERB

Dr. Timothy Callahan
Department Chair

Dr. Adem Ali
Associate Professor

Dr. Barbara Beckingham
Associate Professor

Dr. Erin Beutel
Associate Professor

Dr. John Chadwick
Associate Professor

Dr. Mitchell Colgan
Associate Professor

Dr. Scott Harris
Associate Professor

Robin Humphreys
Instructor and Laboratory Manager

Dr. Steven Jaume'
Associate Professor

College of Charleston
Faculty & Staff

department of geology and environmental geosciences

Instagram: @cofcgeology | Twitter: @cofcgeology
"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH WE CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."
- NELSON MANDELA

Dr. Norman Levine
Professor

Dr. Scott Persons
Assistant Professor & Museum Curator

Dr. Cassandra Runyon
Associate Professor

Dr. Leslie Sautter
Associate Professor

Dr. Theodore Them
Assistant Professor

Dr. Vijay Vulava
Professor

Dr. Robert Boesekencker
Research Associate & Adjunct Instructor

Dr. James Carew
Professor Emeritus & Adjunct Instructor

Claire Chadwick
Adjunct Instructor

College of Charleston
Faculty & Staff

Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Instagram: @cofcgeology | Twitter: @cofcgeology
"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."
- Syndey J. Harris

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

FACULTY & STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

Instagram: @cofcgeology | Twitter: @cofcgeology
"I was happy to be a part of this great department. I can't imagine my education going as well as it did anywhere else and I owe it to the awesome environment you and everyone involved created. It was never a chore to be involved with y'all, I enjoyed every minute of it." - Sam Croft '20

"First of all thank you so much, I really don't know what to say. My future plans at present are to look into volunteer and temporary job positions in fossil preparation, and begin applying for graduate school. Thank you again, I've really enjoyed my time in the Geology Department, and I'll definitely miss everyone as I move forward." - Suzanne Grantham '20

"From the very beginning in 103 I felt like this major was the one for me, but the department is what brought the enthusiasm out of me. The willingness and openness to take students on for research opportunities, even if the student has little to no experience in that section of geology, allowed me to figure out my niche and how I wanted to turn this major into a career. I plan on being a part of the CofC geology family for a long time." - Noah Katz '20
Geology & Environmental Geosciences resident dinos, Roxy Rex and Tri-Sarah-Tops, suited up for a parade across campus (all the way from the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building to Randolph Hall) for a meet and greet with President Hsu.

Students in Dr. Barbara Beckingham’s Water Resources Lab (GEOL 291L) experienced a field trip to The College’s Stono Preserve campus. Stono Preserve is one of multiple locations that Geology & Environmental Geosciences students visit for local fieldwork opportunities.

Geology & Environmental Geosciences May 2020 graduates returned to campus in October 2020 as alumni to participate in The College’s modified commencement ceremony. Pictured left to right: Melissa Stastney ’20, Addie Miller ’20, and Summer Jenkins ’20
GEOLOGY CLUB
BROWN BAG SEMINARS

SENIOR ROAST &
ALOHA SHIRTING

AMPLE LAB SPACE AND
EQUIPMENT

LOCAL FIELD
OPPORTUNITIES

STATE OF THE ART
TECHNOLOGY

EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING

-KATY PERRY
Want to learn more about the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences? Fill out an interest form or email our office manager.

Something For You

VISIT WHEN YOU CAN

We wish we could have introduced ourselves in person and we’re sad we missed you! We hope you found this information packet useful and that you will visit us on the second floor of the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building when it is safe to do so.

When you stop by, mention this online information packet to our Office Manager, Kristen White, in SSMB Suite 224E for some geology swag!

School of Sciences and Mathematics Building, Suite 224E
202 Calhoun St.
whitekl@cofc.edu
843-953-5589

SSMB | CHARLESTON, SC
EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN BUT ALL THE HAPPINESS AND GROWTH OCCURS WHILE YOU'RE CLIMBING IT.

ANDY ROONEY
GEOLOGY
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
GEOSCIENCES

PHOTO CREDIT: MARCUS GARDNER

LIFE CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BACKWARDS. BUT IT MUST BE LIVED FORWARDS.
-SOREN KIERKEGAARD
FILLED WITH INSPIRATION AND INTRIGUE. AN INTENSE VISUAL TREAT!

- THE PHOTOGRAPHY REVIEW

ICONIC SNAPSHOTS
A COMPILATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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