



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, MURRAY GINGRAS

Celebrating Our Calgary Alumni Community

On October 23, the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences hosted an alumni gathering in downtown Calgary, bringing together nearly 100 graduates working in geoscience. The evening was held in a relaxed pub setting and provided a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate our shared history.

The event drew graduates spanning more than five decades, including Les Eliuk (Class of 1967), whose distinguished career in carbonate geology has left an enduring legacy in Calgary's petroleum industry.

It was particularly heartening to see many alumni from the 1990s, including several of my own peers from the Classes of 1994 and 1995, most of whom have remained active in industry. One of those, Astrid Arts (BSc '95, MSc '99), served as our on-the-ground ambassador and played a key role in organizing the event. Her efforts were greatly appreciated.

Our thanks also go to Kathleen Shippett and Amy Sochatsky from Development in the Faculty of Science for their outstanding support in coordinating the evening and engaging with alumni. Their work helped establish a sense of community and pride.

John-Paul Zonneveld joined us to introduce the Stelck Chair and speak about the importance of continued alumni engagement.

The evening was filled with laughter, stories, and reflection. Many of my former graduate peers from the late 1990s were there, as well as professionals who completed their degrees in the 2000s and 2010s, many of whom I taught in field school or petroleum geology. It was gratifying to see how strong and enduring the University of Alberta's Calgary community remains.

Events like this remind us that our department's strength lies not only in our research and teaching but in the remarkable network of graduates who continue to shape their professions. This applies across all of our programs (Geoscience, Planning, and Integrated Energy Geoscience) each of which has cultivated a strong alumni community. Going forward, we see alumni engagement as central to keeping our programs vibrant and supported, helping us grow endowments for field schools, teaching initiatives, and scholarships.



Eas Alumni. Left to right, John Horner (BSc 94), Glen McIntosh (BSc 94), Jason Walmsley (back, BSc 95), Keith Gordon (front, BSc 94), Murray Gingras (BSc 94, PhD 99), Clark Dahmer (BSc 94), Astrid Arts (BSc 95, MSc 98), Indraneel Raychaudhuri (MSc 93), Lorraine Stratkotter (BSc 95), and David Bechtel (BSc 88, MSc 96).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, MURRAY GINGRAS CONT'D...

I left Calgary feeling very proud of our department's legacy and optimistic about its future. Our alumni are our greatest ambassadors, and gatherings like this reaffirm the sense of connection that makes our community so special.

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT (HSE) COMMITTEE

Safety Moments

Looking for a way to elevate your safety culture? Hold a Safety moment at your next research group meeting. A [safety moment](#) is a 5 minute presentation on a safety item where a topic is introduced and provides an opportunity for groups to discuss solutions or areas of improvement as it relates to that topic. It is a great way to bring safety into a lab meeting. HSE has gathered some inspiration documents if you wanted to present on an already developed topic ([Safety Moments- Other resources](#)). The [Safety moments library](#) links relevant topics to each month. This November is "Fall Prevention Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Movember, and includes National Home Fire Safety Week and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence".

Safety Break

The SHSEC Safety Break will be hosted in the Psychology Department on **November 25th at BSB P-210 from 9:30-11:00am**. Bring your Safety related issues to discuss with members of the committee, and leave with a safety resource! Please [RSVP here](#) for coffee/tea numbers.



WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Lunchtime Activities

Thank you to those who attended Puzzle Club last month!

If you would like to host a lunchtime activity in the department, Sarah Woodland (swoodlan@ualberta.ca) can help facilitate.



Winter Gear Drive

We are collecting donations for our annual Winter Gear Drive. If you have any jackets, hats, boots, warm clothing, etc that you no longer use, feel free to bring them to ESB 1-26 to give them a second life!

EAS WINTER GEAR DRIVE



DONATE ITEMS HERE

FACULTY AND STAFF EVENTS, RESOURCES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

APEGA Rock & Fossil Clinic Success

Thank you to all the staff and students that volunteered their time and expertise to lead tours of our Paleontology Museum, Mineralogy Museum, and Geoscience Garden, and to Rebecca Funk and Marilyn Huff for leading the Rock and Fossil Identification room with some help from the Edmonton Geological Society. More than 650 members of the public came through, including almost 300 kindergarten - grade 12 students, who were eager to learn about the geosciences.



Save the Date: EAS Holiday Potluck

The department will be holding it's annual Holiday Potluck on **Thursday December 18th**. The RSVP form and food sign-up sheet will be sent out soon!

Canada's Path to 2030: Government and Youth in Action

Join Mercedes Morin, Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Unit at Employment and Social Development Canada, and SDSN Canada for an engaging session on how Canada and young leaders are advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through insights from the Government of Canada and a dynamic youth panel hosted by Ali Epp, this event will explore national progress toward the 2030 Agenda, the importance of collaboration, and how youth are shaping a more equitable and sustainable future. You will gain practical insights, hear inspiring stories, and discover ways to contribute to Canada's SDG efforts. Register [here](#).

November 5, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:00pm (MDT) Zoom



Would you like to introduce yourself to the department? Or maybe there is someone you'd like to recommend? Contact Sasha Wilson (sawilson@ualberta.ca) for more information.

New Postdoctoral Scholars (formerly Postdoctoral Fellows) Collective Agreement

****Important: Implications for your grant budgets**

The Postdoctoral Fellows Association of the University of Alberta (PDFA) and the University have ratified a new Collective Agreement, effective **September 30, 2025**. The agreement includes:

- **A salary increase retroactive to January 1, 2025**
- **Annual increases from 2026 through 2028**

Please review the [PDFA renewal presentation](#) and [summary pdf](#) for details so that you can plan and adjust your grant budgets accordingly.

Finance – Project Holder Delegations

Certain PeopleSoft approvals for Research Project Holders may be delegated, including:

- Designated **SupplyNet users** with automatic approval for requisitions up to **\$500 CAD**, where delegation is provided by the Project Holder
- **Temporary proxies** for expense claim approvals
- **Delegations** allowing an individual to approve another supervisor's direct reports' time

Please ensure all delegates and proxies have the appropriate knowledge to meet budget owner responsibilities. More information on delegations can be found [here](#).

STUDENT EVENTS, RESOURCES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLAS Holiday Party

Save the date for the ATLAS Holiday Party! It will be held on **Friday, December 12th** at the University Club.



ATLAS Pub Social

Join ATLAS for a Pub Social Night at [RATT](#) on **November 21st**, any time after 5pm!



University of Alberta AAPG Student Chapter is Active Again

We're pleased to announce that the AAPG Student Chapter at the University of Alberta is active again. Officially recognized by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the chapter provides students with valuable opportunities for professional growth, networking, and engagement within the geoscience community.

The AAPG Student Chapter promotes geoscience education, career development, and collaboration among students interested in petroleum geology and related disciplines. Membership offers access to guest lectures, workshops, networking events, and potential funding for conferences and field trips. Joining is free and easy - visit [AAPG Student Membership](#) to become a member today.

AAPG Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 School Year:

President: Akash Nair (nair6@ualberta.ca)

Vice President: Jair Zampieri (ezampier@ualberta.ca)

Secretary: Muhammad Nawaz (mnawaz@ualberta.ca)

Treasurer: Yelena Cartagena (ycartage@ualberta.ca)

Faculty Advisors: Nicholas Harris & Murray Gingras

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund - Indigenous Grants

The Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF) supports the development and deployment of clean energy and transportation infrastructure that is necessary to enable the development and expansion of critical minerals projects in Canada.

The CMIF Indigenous Grants stream was established to provide Indigenous groups impacted by these critical minerals infrastructure projects with the resources necessary to actively engage on, participate in and benefit from critical minerals development.

Learn more [here](#).

Dust control generated by interaction between underground and open pit mines

Codelco operates both open pit and underground mines. This is the case of Chuquicamata, the world's largest open-pit mine, with approximate dimensions of 5 km in length, 3 km in width, and 1 km in depth. The deposit is located 15 kilometers north of Calama, at an elevation of 2,870 meters, in the Antofagasta Region of Chile.

To continue exploiting the deposit, the ore extraction method was changed from open-pit to underground mining using the block caving method. This approach defined four production levels, all located below the lowest level of the current open-pit operation. The Block Caving configuration uses drilling and blasting for the displacement of rock blocks, allowing the breaking or collapse of the rock mass under the open pit mine and ore extraction.

As a result of the interaction between the open-pit and underground mines (blasting, subsidence), dust emissions (suspended particulate matter) increase. This is mainly due to vibrations and displacements in the pit slopes and walls caused by underground mining operations, with portions of the slopes occasionally sliding down toward the bottom of the mine.

Learn more [here](#).

Be sure to check out the [database](#) for the full list of funding opportunities.

Call for Submissions

If you would like to submit an event or information to be included in next month's issue, please email s.hemrick@ualberta.ca by **November 25, 2025**.



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