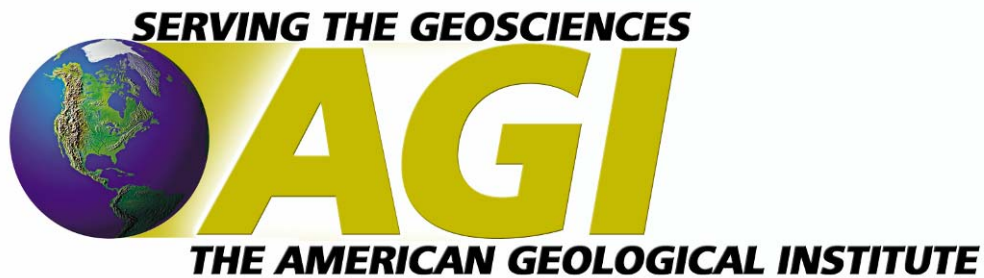


Status Report on Geoscience Summer Field Camps



Report by the American Geological Institute, Geoscience Workforce
<http://www.agiweb.org>

Report by Margaret Anne Baker
Report GW-06-003

Field camp has traditionally served as a central part of undergraduate geoscience curricula, but this tradition appears to be disappearing. There are several reasons for the decline in the number of departments offering traditional summer field camp experiences, including the rising costs of liability insurance for colleges and universities to run such programs and the changing face of geoscience departments in smaller schools that are combining forces with geography and environmental science programs. Also, summer field camps increase the overall budget of the department in its cost that it must cover to support students and that its costs for faculty summer salaries. Regardless, the number of geoscience departments offering summer field camps has decreased by more than half over the last twenty years.

Concerns about the decreasing number of summer field camps led to a Forum on “Does Need Exist for a National Center for Geoscience Education in the Field?” in August 2006. Participants from academia, industry, and professional societies attended a three-day forum at Indiana University’s Judson Mean Geologic Field Station in Montana. The attendees agreed that field experience is an important and unique component of geoscience education and that it provides a hands-on approach to education that should be encouraged as an integral part of professional training.

In preparation for this forum, the American Geological Institute (AGI) performed a census of geoscience departments in the United States to identify schools that have offered geoscience field camps in the past two years. According to this search, there are currently 103 schools that offer summer field camps. This number marks a 60%

decrease in the number of departments offering traditional summer field courses. The 1985 Directory of Geoscience Departments (DGD) listed 259 schools as offering summer field camps, and the 1995 DGD listed 257 schools as offering summer field camps. The current number of schools offering summer field camps represents less than 15% of the 695 schools listed in the 2006 DGD in the United States. In 1985 and 1995 close to 35% of schools offered summer field courses for geoscience students.

A majority of the existing field camp programs are open to outside enrollment and are designed as upper-level programs for undergraduate geoscience students. The cost for attending these summer courses is on average more than \$2000 for tuition, with additional costs for transportation to the camp location and required field equipment. Most of the programs run 4-8 weeks and provide 4-8 credits that can be transferred to the student’s home university. Two multi-institution field consortiums were identified that have pooled their resources to provide a more traditional field camp experience – the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group and a group of schools from Virginia and North Carolina. There are several programs that have partnered with another local program to design and teach field camp. This past summer 66 programs offered field camps. The majority of these programs are traditional mapping-based geology field camps, but an increasing number of programs are being offered in environmental science, hydrology, and geophysics.

Despite the decrease in summer field camp options, a majority of the Bachelors of Science degrees in geology/earth science require field experiences as part of the core

curriculum. Many departments are allowing for field experiences other than formal field camps to be used to fulfill this requirement. An increasing number of schools are offering semester field courses that combine field experience with written course work, while others allow field-based research projects to serve as field courses. Many departments offer a wide range of field trips and short weekend field experiences to introduce students to field techniques, instead of the summer course.

It is unclear, at this point, how many undergraduate departments offer field options other than traditional 4-8 week summer field camp. Adding to the reduction in field camps being offered is that fact that fewer graduate programs are now requiring field camp as prerequisites for acceptance to graduate school. The combination of decreased demand from graduate programs and the high costs of summer field courses, has led many students in departments that do not require a field camp for graduation from attending these programs. To gain more information on geoscience education in the field, AGI will be undertaking a survey of geoscience departments to determine the number of departments, both undergraduate and graduate, that require students to take a summer field course and to investigate the range of field-based experiences currently being offered by geoscience departments.

Schools with Summer Field Camps

Albion College

<http://www.albion.edu/geology/fieldcmp.htm>
Beth Lincoln Blincoln@albion.edu

Arizona State University

Tom Sharp tom.sharp@asu.edu

Ball State University

<http://www.bsu.edu/csh/geology/dept/fchome.htm>
Rick Fluegeman rfluegem@bsu.edu

Boise State University

<http://earth.boisestate.edu/summercamp/>
Claude Spinosa cspinosa@boisestate.edu

Boston University

<http://www.bu.edu/es/fieldcamp/>
Offers a joint field camp in Ireland with James Madison University

Bowling Green State University

<http://geology.bgsu.edu/Fieldcamp/>
Kurt Panter kpanter@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Brigham Young University, Idaho

<http://www.byui.edu/travelprograms/NatSciExpedition/>
Dan Moore moored@byui.edu

California State University, East Bay

<http://www.sci.csueastbay.edu/geology/field.html>
Luther Strayer lstrayer@csuhayward.edu

California State University, Long Beach

<http://seis.natsci.csulb.edu/deptweb/fieldcamp.html>
Tom Kelty tkelty@csulb.edu

Central Washington University

<http://www.geology.cwu.edu/dept/courses/g489/>
Alex Glass glassa@geology.cwu.edu

Clemson University

<http://www.ces.clemson.edu/hydro/FieldCamp/index.html>
Larry Murdoch lmurdoch@clemson.edu
This is a hydrology based field camp

Colorado School of Mines

<http://www.mines.edu/academic/geology/courses/gegn316/index.html>
Greg Holden gholden@mines.edu
Offers a geophysical based field camp in addition to a traditional geology field camp

Concord University

<http://faculty.concord.edu/allenj/geol304.html>
J.L. Allen allenj@concord.edu

Cornell University

http://www.geo.cornell.edu/geology/classes/eas417/eas417_2004.html
Suzanne Mahlburg Kay smk16@cornell.edu

East Carolina University

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper *harpers@mail.ecu.edu*
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

Eastern Illinois University

<http://www.eiu.edu/%7Egeoscience/field.html>
Craig A. Chesner cfcac@eiu.edu

Elizabeth City State University

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/index.html>
Stephen Harper *harpers@mail.ecu.edu*
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

Emporia State College

<http://academic.emporia.edu/aberjame/field/geology.htm>
James Aber aberjame@emporia.edu

Florida State University

<http://www.gly.fsu.edu/fldcamp.html>
James Tull tull@gly.fsu.edu

Fort Hays State University

<http://www.fhsu.edu/geo/geology/fieldcamp/>
Kenneth Neuhauser kneuhaus@tiger.fhsu.edu

George Mason University

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper *harpers@mail.ecu.edu*
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

Georgia State University

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~geohab/pages/geol4009/geol4120-4121.htm>
Hassan A. Babaie hbabaie@gsu.edu

Idaho State University

<http://geology.isu.edu/FieldCamp/>
Paul K. Link linkpaul@isu.edu

Illinois State University

http://www.geo.ilstu.edu/geology/field_experiences/geology_field_camp.shtml
David Malone dhmalon@ilstu.edu

Indiana University, Bloomington

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iugfs/>
Bruce Douglas douglasb@indiana.edu

Iowa State University of Science & Technology

http://www.geosciences.unl.edu/geology_field_camp/index.htm
Carl E. Jacobson cejac@iastate.edu
Offers a field camp joint with University of Nebraska-Lincoln

James Madison University

<http://www.jmu.edu/geology/fieldcourse/>
Steven Whitmeyer whitmesj@jmu.edu
Offers a field camp joint with Boston University

Kent State University

<http://dept.kent.edu/geology/courses/fieldcamp.html>
Daniel Holm dholm@kent.edu

Lehigh University

<http://www.lehigh.edu/~fjp3/fieldcamp/index.html>
Frank Pazzaglia fjp3@lehigh.edu
Offers an environmental science based field camp in addition to a traditional field camp

Louisiana State University

<http://www.geol.lsu.edu/FieldCamp/index.html>
Marty Horn horn@geol.lsu.edu

Mesa State College

<http://www.mesastate.edu/snsn/geology/academics/field/field.htm>
Verner Johnson vjohnson@mesastate.edu

Miami University-Ohio

<http://casnov1.cas.muohio.edu/igl/fieldgeology/>
William Hart hartwk@muohio.edu

Michigan State University

<http://www.d.umn.edu/%7Epmorton/fieldcamppage/frontpagefieldcamp.html>
Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu
Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

Montana State University

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwes/programs/fieldcamp.htm>
David Lageson lageson@montana.edu
Offers a paleontology field camp in addition to a traditional geology field camp

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

<http://www.ees.nmt.edu/Geol/classes/camp/camp.html>
David B. Johnson djohnson@nmt.edu

North Carolina State University

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper harpers@mail.ecu.edu
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

North Dakota State University

<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/instruct/ashworth/webpages/g450/lb/>
Allan Ashworth allan.ashworth@ndsu.nodak.edu

Northern Illinois University

<http://jove.geol.niu.edu/courses/fieldcamp/fieldcamp.html>
Mark P. Fischer mfischer@niu.edu

Northern Kentucky University

<http://geology.nku.edu/geology/Colorado.htm>
John Rockaway rockawayj@nku.edu

Ohio State University

http://www.geology.ohio-state.edu/courses_field_trips.php
Terry Wilson twilson@mps.ohio-state.edu

Oklahoma State University

<http://geology.okstate.edu/field.html>
Jim Puckette jpuckette@okstate.edu

Oregon State University

<http://www.geo.oregonstate.edu/classes/fcamp/>
John Dilles dillesj@geo.oregonstate.edu

Pennsylvania State University, University Park

<http://www.geosc.psu.edu/prospective/fieldcamp.php>
Carolyn Clark cclark@geosc.psu.edu

Salem State College

<http://w3.salemstate.edu/~psablock/>
Peter Sablock peter.sablock@salemstate.edu

San Jose State University

http://www.geosun.sjsu.edu/fieldcamp/fldcmp_06.htm
Jonathan Miller jsmiller@email.sjsu.edu

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

<http://www.sdsmt.edu/es/geology/bhnsfs.htm>
Colin J. Paterson Colin.Paterson@sdsmt.edu

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

<http://www.science.siu.edu/geology/courses/geol454/index.html>
Richard Fifarek fifarek@geo.siu.edu

Southern Oregon University

<http://www.sou.edu/Geology/FieldCamp/index.htm>
Jad D'Allure dallura@sou.edu

Southern Utah University

<http://www.suu.edu/sci/physci/fieldcamp/>
Frederick Lohrengel lohrengel@suu.edu

Stephen F. Austin State University

<http://www.geology.sfasu.edu/fieldcamp.html>
R. LaRell Nielson rnielson@sfasu.edu

SUNY, Albany

<http://www.albany.edu/geosciences/geo400de.html>
William S. F. Kidd wkidd@atmos.albany.edu

SUNY, Buffalo

<http://www.geology.buffalo.edu/fieldwork/fieldCamp.shtml>
Charles E. Mitchell fieldcmp@geology.buffalo.edu

SUNY, Cortland

<http://web.cortland.edu/gleasong/fdcamp.html>
Gayle Gleason gleasong@cortland.edu

SUNY, Oswego

<http://www.oswego.edu/~dvalenti/osunyfc.html>
David W. Valentino dvalenti@oswego.edu

Texas A&M University

<http://geoweb.tamu.edu/RProspective/undergrads/field.html>
Michael Heaney heaney@geo.tamu.edu

University of Akron

<http://www3.uakron.edu/geology/fcamp/fldcamp.html>
LaVerne M. Friberg lfriber1@uakron.edu

University of Alabama

http://www.geo.ua.edu/field_camp.php
Harold Stowell hstowell@geo.ua.edu

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

http://www.uaf.edu/geology/FieldCamp/fieldcamp_index.html
Bill Witte fnwkw@uaf.edu

University of Arizona

<http://www.geo.arizona.edu/academics/fieldcamp.htm>
Peter Decelles decelles@geo.arizona.edu
Offers a hydrology based field camp in addition to a traditional geology field camp

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

<http://geosciences.uark.edu/141.htm>
Doy L. Zachry dzachry@uark.edu

University of Florida

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/jmeert/gly4790.htm>
Joseph Meert jmeert@ufl.edu

University of Georgia

<http://www.gly.uga.edu/mroden/fieldSchool/index.html>
Mike Roden mroden@gly.uga.edu
Offers a field camp joint with the University of South Carolina

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcamppage/fragmentpagefieldcamp.html>
Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu
Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

University of Iowa

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcamppage/fragmentpagefieldcamp.html>
Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu
Ingrid Ukstins Peate ingrid-peate@uiowa.edu
Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

University of Kansas

<http://www.geo.ku.edu/~geology/fieldActivities/fieldCamp.html>
J. Douglas Walker jdwalker@ku.edu

University of Kentucky

<http://www.uky.edu/AS/Geology/dus/fieldcamp.htm>
Dave Moecher moker@uky.edu

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

<http://geology.louisiana.edu/classes/fieldcamp/index.shtml>
Timothy Duex tduex@louisiana.edu

University of Memphis

http://des.memphis.edu/t_fieldcamp.htm
Dan Larsen dlarsen@memphis.edu

University of Michigan

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/geo/undergrad/campdavis/>
Joel Blum jdblum@umich.edu

University of Minnesota, Duluth

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcamppage/fragmentpagefieldcamp.html>
Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu
Tim Demko tdemko@umn.edu
Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

<http://www.geo.umn.edu/orgs/camp/allcamps.html>
James Stout jstout@umn.edu
Offers a hydrology based field camp in addition to a traditional geology field camp

University of Missouri, Columbia

<http://www.missouri.edu/fieldcamp/>
Robert Bauer bauerR@missouri.edu

University of Missouri, Rolla

<http://gse.UMR.edu/fieldcamp05.html>
Robert C. Laudon rlaudon@umr.edu

University of Montana

http://www2.umt.edu/Geology/faculty/hendrix/g429/g429_2006.htm
James Sears jwsears@selway.umt.edu

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

http://www.geosciences.unl.edu/geology_field_camp/index.htm
Mary Anne Holmes mholmes2@unl.edu
Offers a field camp joint with Iowa State University

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

<http://geoscience.unlv.edu/fieldcamp.htm>
Eugene I. Smith gsmith@cmail.nevada.edu

University of Nevada, Reno

<http://www.mines.unr.edu/fieldcamp/>
Richard Schweickert richschw@unr.edu

University of New Mexico

<http://epswww.unm.edu/field/home.htm>

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper harpers@mail.ecu.edu
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

University of North Carolina, Charlotte

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper harpers@mail.ecu.edu
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>
Stephen Harper harpers@mail.ecu.edu
Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

University of North Dakota

<http://www.sdsmt.edu/es/geology/bhnsfs.htm>

University of Oklahoma

http://geology.ou.edu/field_exp.html
tdewers@ou.edu

University of Oregon

<http://uoregon.edu/%7Emillerm/fcamp.html>
Maril Miller millerm@darkwing.uoregon.edu

University of Pennsylvania

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/%7eybra/>
Yvette Bordeaux bordeaux@sas.upenn.edu

University of South Alabama

<http://www.usouthal.edu/geography/allison/FieldCourseInfo.htm>
David T. Allison dallison@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

University of South Carolina

<http://www.geol.sc.edu/courses/GeologyFieldCamp/index.htm>
Matt Kohn mjk@geol.sc.edu
Offers a field camp joint with University of Georgia

University of Texas, Arlington

<http://www.uta.edu/ees/fieldcamp2005.htm>
Merlynd K. Nestell nestell@uta.edu
Offers a field camp joint with the University of Texas-Dallas

University of Texas at Austin

<http://www.geo.utexas.edu/courses/660/>
Mark Helper helper@mail.utexas.edu

University of Texas, Dallas

<http://www.utdallas.edu/geosciences/undergraduates/camp.html>
Mohamed Abdelsalam abdels@utdallas.edu
Offers a field camp joint with the University of Texas-Arlington

University of Texas, El Paso

<http://www.geo.utep.edu/pub/ladewig/SYLLABUS/4665%20Field%20Camp.pdf>
William Cornell cornell@geo.utep.edu

University of Washington

<http://courses.washington.edu/ess400/>
Stewart McCallum mccallum@u.washington.edu

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

<http://www.uwec.edu/geology/fieldExperiences/geo1470a.htm>
Brian Mahoney mahonej@uwec.edu

University of Wisconsin, Madison

[http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcampaage/fro
ntpagefieldcamp.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcampaage/fro
ntpagefieldcamp.html)

Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu

Charles Byers cwbyers@geology.wisc.edu

Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

Wright State University

[http://www.wright.edu/geology/fieldcamp/fieldcam
p_home.html](http://www.wright.edu/geology/fieldcamp/fieldcam
p_home.html)

William Slattery william.slattery@wright.edu

University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

http://www.uwosh.edu/faculty_staff/paulsen/FC_02.htm

Tim Paulsen paulsen@uwosh.edu

University of Wyoming

<http://www.gg.uwyo.edu/fieldcamp/GE4717.htm>

Erin Campbell-Stone erincs@uwyo.edu

West Virginia University

<http://www.geo.wvu.edu/~kammer/geol404.htm>

Thomas Krammer tkammer@wvu.edu

Western Carolina University

<http://people.uncw.edu/smithms/INDEX.HTML>

Stephen Harper harpers@mail.ecu.edu

Part of the North Carolina & Virginia Field Camp Group

Western Illinois University

<http://www.wiu.edu/geology/field.htm>

Peter Calengas PL-Calengas@wiu.edu

Western Kentucky University

[http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcampaage/fro
ntpagefieldcamp.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/~pmorton/fieldcampaage/fro
ntpagefieldcamp.html)

Philip Brown pbrown@geology.wisc.edu

Andrew H. Wulff andrew.wulff@wku.edu

Part of the Wasatch-Uinta Field Camp Group

Western Michigan University

[http://www.geology.wmich.edu/Academic/Field_Co
urses.htm](http://www.geology.wmich.edu/Academic/Field_Co
urses.htm)

Michael Durham michael.c.durham@wmich.edu

Offers a hydrology and a biogeochemistry based field camp in addition to a traditional geology field camp

Wheaton College

<http://www.wheaton.edu/BlackHills/>

Jeffrey Greenberg Jeffrey.K.Greenberg@wheaton.edu

Wichita State University

[http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=geoscience&p=/fieldca
mp/index](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=geoscience&p=/fieldca
mp/index)

John Gries john.gries@wichita.edu