

SIU
Southern
Illinois
University
CARBONDALE

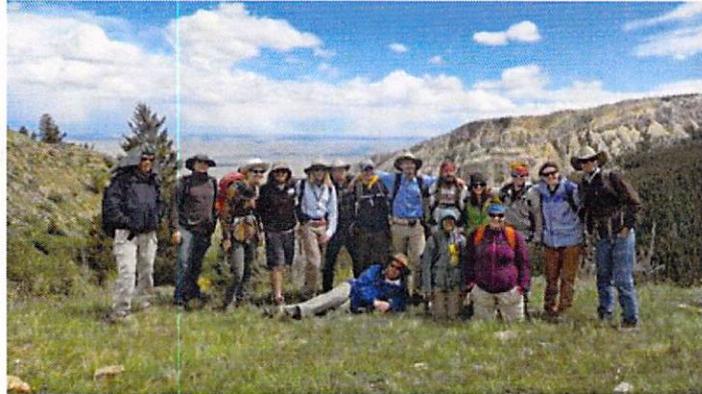
WHAT DOES A GEOLOGIST DO?

IT'S ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE ROCKS!

Geologists investigate the chemical, physical, and evolutionary nature and history of the Earth. While they're at it, they contribute to the resolution of such global problems such as environmental pollution, climate change, adequate reserves of non-renewable energy sources, groundwater resources and their protection, and the discovery and development of industrially critical ore deposits.



WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT GEOLOGY AT SIU?



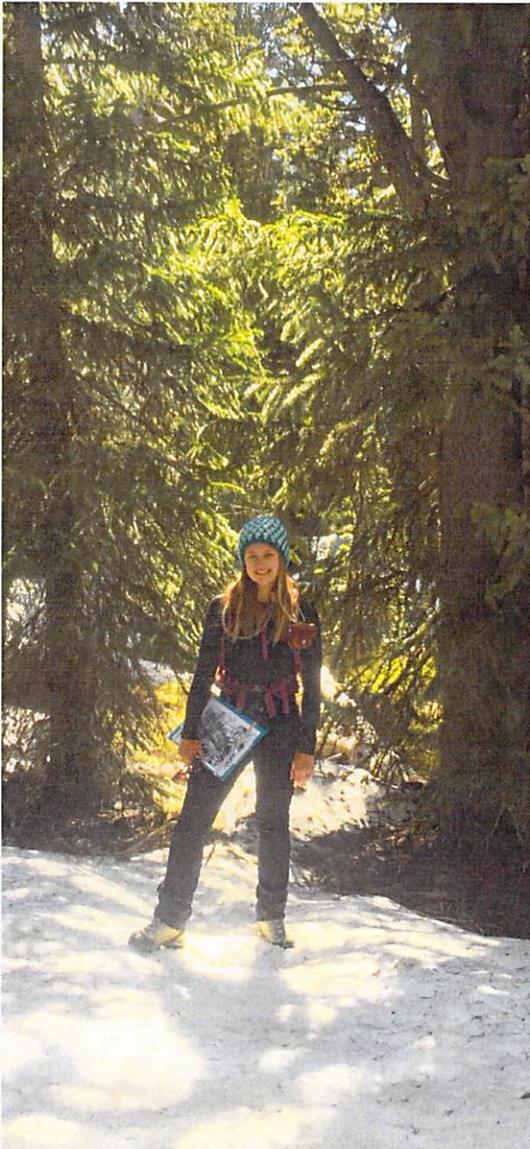
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY IS IN A GREAT GEOLOGIC LOCATION!

In this program, we regularly visit sites nearby to study late Paleozoic sedimentary rocks of the Illinois Basin, carbonate rocks of the Missouri Ozark Plateau, and the St. Francis Mountains in Missouri. We travel to nearby Giant City, Inspiration Point, Devil's Backbone, and Millstone Bluff to study different environments and collect specimens!

Our class field trips take us to exciting locations including: North Carolina to study in the Appalachians, Death Valley in California, Tennessee for fossil hunting, and a 6 week field course that takes us to Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming! When we travel we see:

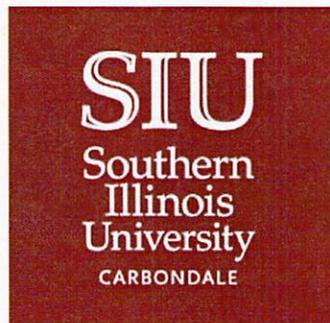
- o Oil, gas, and coal deposits in southern Illinois and Kentucky
- o Fluorite and calcite deposits in southern Illinois
- o Quaternary till, loess, lake, and terrace deposits in fluvial systems

Student Testimonial

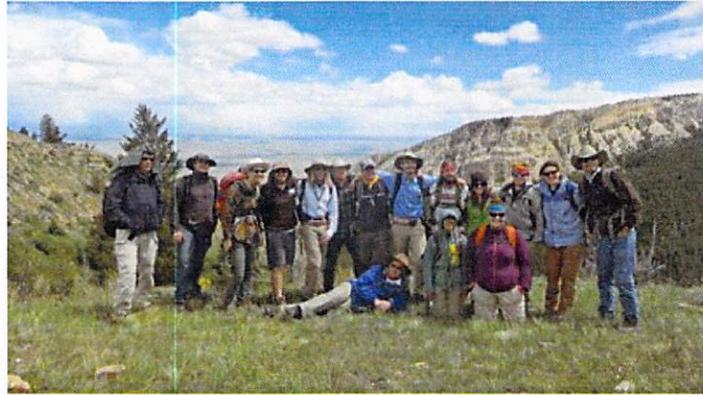


Kailey Seaman, Undergraduate Research,
Department of Geology, Carbondale, Illinois

“The Department of Geology has not only given me the tools I needed to become a professional geologist, but the passion to crave more understanding of the world around me. My research with Dr. Sue Rimmer in the field of organic petrology started my sophomore year of my bachelor’s degree, when I was introduced to the fluorescence of liptinite macerals in relation to maturation of coals and organic-rich shales. My eyes lit up when I saw how these particular macerals glow under the UV light of a microscope, and I immediately wanted to know more. This is when Dr. Rimmer graciously took me under her wing, and this started a fire that couldn’t be put out. After two more years of research in my Junior and Senior year I went on to pursue my Master’s Degree with Dr. Rimmer in organic petrology. After analyzing the difference in fluorescence parameters with increasing maturation between liptinite macerals, I still have many unanswered questions about how their intensities and wavelengths change. My goal for the next year is to answer how and why these parameters change between liptinite macerals in the Illinois Basin. What started as a class project, turned into research that I will pursue for the remainder of my professional career because I love it so much.”



WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT GEOLOGY AT SIU?



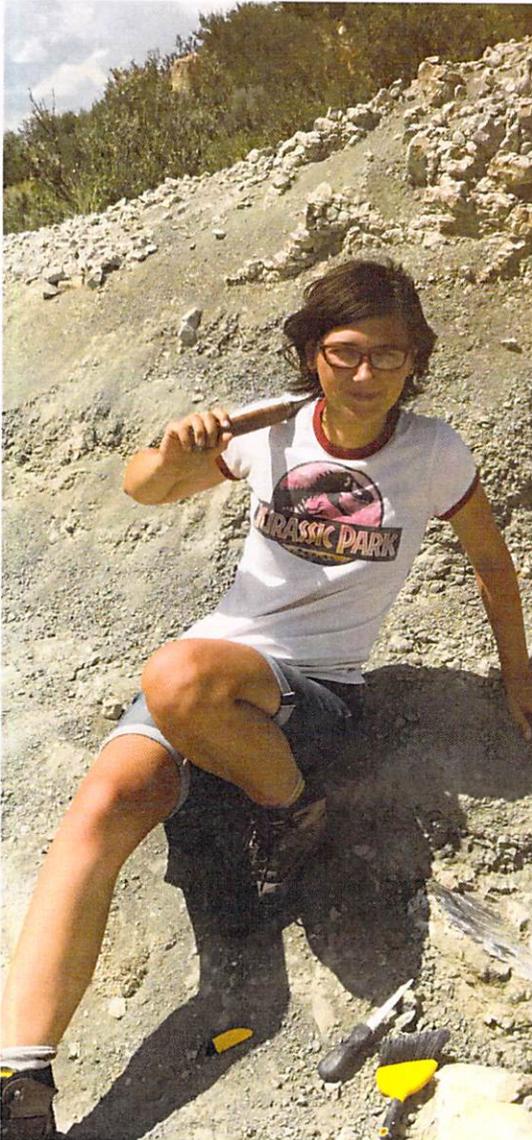
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- o Fluorite and calcite deposits in southern Illinois
- o Quaternary till, loess, lake, and terrace deposits in fluvial systems

Student Testimonial



Alexandra Apgar, Undergraduate Research,
Department of Geology, Carbondale, Illinois

“The Department of Geology has not only fueled my passion for a professional career in paleontology, but provided me the means and the knowledge to excel while doing so. My love of all things prehistoric started when I was a child, and stayed with me all throughout school. However, I'd never been afforded the opportunity to learn more about the subject until I began attending Southern Illinois University. Thanks to the guidance of professors such as Dr. Henson, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Ishman, and Joe Devera, I gained valuable information about my career and learned to be a leader among my peers. I recently assisted Zach Seaman, a graduate student with his research utilizing Ground Penetrating Radar. He helped me understand how I might use similar technology for my own research. My hard work earned me an internship position at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center the summer before my junior year. For three months, I received hands-on training in field excavation, fossil preparation, and public relations, while also conducting field research with Zach and Dr. Henson. My goal for the coming year is to analyze the field data to determine if ground penetrating radar can aid in the discovery of subsurface fossils and bone beds. As a child, all I ever wanted was to study the dinosaurs I loved - and now, thanks to Southern, that dream is quickly becoming a reality.”

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