



20 November 2010

Dear Ore Gangue Alumni

The Department of Geological Sciences is extremely excited by the efforts of the Calgary-based alumni in setting up the Ore Gangue Alumni Fund. The aim of this new fund is to generate enough money to provide bursaries to undergraduate students in Geology and Geophysics for years to come.

Over the last few years the number of undergraduate students in the Department has increased significantly, partly because of the excellent job opportunities for our graduates in the oil and gas, minerals, and environmental industries. In fact, our second year courses, like Mineralogy, Structural Geology, and Sedimentology, typically have enrolments of between 60 and 90 students, similar to the numbers reached in the early 1980's. We are certainly doing our best to meet the demand in labs and lectures. However, the number of bursaries and scholarships has not grown and so we are unable to provide financial support to all deserving students. It would be great to be able to do so, especially since tuition and the cost of living in Saskatoon are increasing. If the goal that has been set by the Alumni Fund Committee can be reached, then the Ore Gangue Alumni Fund will allow us to provide significant support for up to an additional ten undergraduate students in Geology and Geophysics, and allow more of our successful graduates to start their careers in the industry debt-free. Although grade point average will be an important factor in choosing scholarship winners, alumni have also indicated that leadership, enthusiasm, and financial need should be considered. We agree, and will be happy to involve alumni in the final choice of award winners when the fund has reached its goal.

We are very proud of the graduates from the Department, whether you are still directly involved in geosciences or have followed a different career and life path. Please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can keep our alumni database up-to-date, or if you would like to find out more about activities in the Department (<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/geology/>). If you have other ideas for fundraising or sponsorship as well that would help the Department and its students, then please let us know. One way of doing so though will be to support the Ore Gangue Alumni Fund, and so we thank you in advance for anything you can contribute.

All the very best

Jim Merriam
Professor of Geophysics
Department Head

Kevin Ansdell
Professor of Mineral Deposits
Department Head (2003-2010)