

Students, faculty member present papers at national conference

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Alfred University students Denis Eagan and Yaicha Winters, along with Professor of Geology Michele Hluchy, presented papers at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), Oct. 28-31 in Denver, CO. The three presenters collaborated on one paper, "Response of Soil Moisture and PH to the Topical Application of Powdered Limestone" which details a project attempting to alleviate the acid deposition which has severely affected the soils and waters of the Adirondack region of New York State. In order to study the ability of soils to recover, five research sites were selected and three topical applications of powdered limestone were deposited. Hluchy, along with a colleague from Colgate University, had a second paper, "Professional Geoscience Development for All Science Teachers." Findings in this paper concluded that it is "important that the earth science community reach out to all K-13 science teachers, not just earth science teachers, in an effort to build appreciation for the importance of geology to the other scientific disciplines and its role in understanding environmental issues." She and her colleague have been teaching workshops investigating the effects of acid rain on ecosystems in the Adirondack Mountains for science teachers in grades six-12 during the past two years. The conference included various sessions including forensic geology public forums, special sessions on the NASA-funded Deep Phreatic Thermal eXplorer (DEPTHX) project, and photo exhibits. Hluchy is a faculty member in the school of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University. Some of her current teaching interests lie in environmental science, environmental geology, and environmental biogeochemistry. She also has current research in progress on clay mineralogy, the effects of acid precipitation on watersheds, hydrogeology, aqueous geochemistry, soil science, and undergraduate science education. She is working under a \$975,807 grant from the National Science Foundation Cross-Disciplinary Research at Undergraduate Institutions Program, 2005-09, with two Colgate colleagues. Their work is titled "Calcium Depletion in Adirondack Forests Affected by Acid Deposition and its Effect on aquatic and Terrestrial Food Chains." Eagan is a senior environmental studies and geology major. He graduated from the Saint Peter's Preparatory School and he is from Maplewood, NJ. Winters is a senior environmental studies and geology major from Greenwich, NY. She graduated from Cambridge Central School.