

Igneous rock, metamorphic rock . . . and bingo

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Three geoscientists from SCSU are presenting their research work at the 39th annual meeting of the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America Thursday and Friday, May 19-20. Approximately 800 geoscientists are expected to be in attendance.



Assistant Professor Kate Pound will give a 45-minute presentation on "Rock and Mineral 'Bingo,' Applying and Assessing Student Rock and Mineral Knowledge and Identification Skills." The game she developed, based on knowledge and identification skills rather than luck, comes in the form of a kit for students. Each kit holds 13 mineral, seven igneous rock, three sedimentary rock and five metamorphic rock samples, a small magnifying glass, a streak plate and a tempered steel nail.

Pound also developed eight groups of questions that encompass introductory through more advanced levels of learning. The bingo cards are composed of nine squares (questions) each. The exercise can be adapted for any collection, including soils and local rock samples.

During his presentation, Associate Professor Alfred Pekarek will discuss how the kit developed by Pound can be used for large auditorium classes rather than labs. The four exercises he developed include comparing the strength of quartzite and marble as building materials and questions designed to help students focus on the geological context of the rocks they're identifying.

Then, for the benefit of the geoscientists themselves, SCSU student Roderick Bovee will present a "geochemical analysis of the East-Central Batholith." He will spell out how several different igneous elements of the bedrock of Southeastern Stearns County developed.

Pound and Pekarek teach in the SCSU Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; Bovee is a senior who is graduating this spring.

- Marge Proell