The 2014-15 academic year was another exciting one for me. In the fall semester I co-taught an upper-level *Soils and the Environment* course with Pete Ryan. This course had not been offered in 5 years, and Pete and I had been talking about co-teaching a soils class since I arrived at Middlebury. It was great to finally have the chance to combine our backgrounds (Pete in clays, weathering, and soil formation; me in soil geomorphology, soil classification, and pedology). We structured the class as a single 4-hour (usually outdoor) block on Monday afternoons. There were predictable pros and cons to this arrangement, but in the end I think we would do it again – perhaps paired with a single 1-hour “post lab” meeting later in the week.

I also co-taught Dynamic Earth (GEOL 170) with Dave West in the fall, the first time I had taught this course and the first time I had the opportunity to teach with Dave since our Winter Term trip to Hawaii in 2003. It was fun to get into topics that are not included in the spring Environmental Geology intro class I usually teach, and it was also an enjoyable challenge to adapt labs to the seasonal calendar of the fall semester – it took several hours before I felt warm again after our late November lab studying glacial sediments up near Bread Loaf!

In the spring term as an experiment, as a way to address continued enrollment pressure, and as a strategy to partially compensate for Will Amidon’s leave, I taught a larger-than-usual version of Environmental Geology: 42 students, 3 lab sections per week. The number of contact hours for this arrangement was a challenge, but the students were great and the class was quite successful. More than half a dozen students went on to take upper-level Geology courses this fall, which is a particularly high yield from a single intro course.

The summer was also enjoyable and successful. I completed a month of fieldwork in the Rockies, focusing on two separate projects. Sam O’Keefe ’16.5 and Drew Gorin ’16 joined me for a new project studying and sampling an ice cave in the Lost River Range of Idaho. I received funding from the American Philosophical Society for this project, which is designed to determine the age of the ice deposit and to evaluate its potential as a paleoclimate archive. Sam and Luna Wasson ’17 then joined me for work in the Uintas, emptying the dust collectors I deployed in the alpine zone back in 2011. Towards the end of the summer I found out that NSF funded my proposal to continue and expand this dust research, so I and my students have several more years of Uinta work to look forward to!