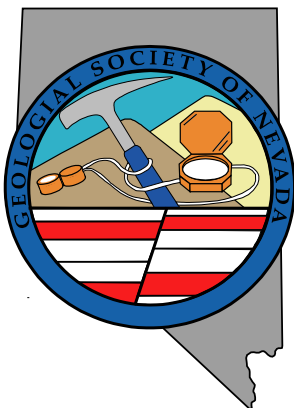

Geological Society of Nevada

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER

GSN Newsletter

January, 2002



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NEWSLETTER

John Van Hoesen
UNLV Dept of Geoscience

Lost Afghanistan

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2002

SPEAKER: Dr. Nick Saines

LOCATION: Room 101
Lilly Fong Geoscience building

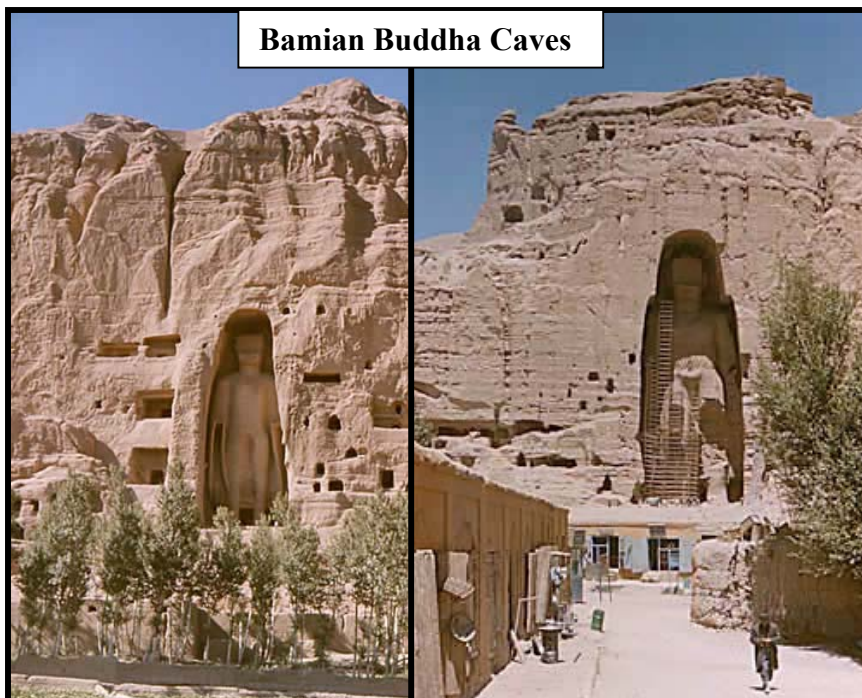
TIME: 5:30 p.m. Social hour
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Announcements:

Visit the website for up to date information!

<http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Geoscience/GSN/gsnsc.htm>

Bamian Buddha Caves



Pictures courtesy of: <http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~iany/photos/photos.htm>

GSN – January, 2002

Lost Afghanistan

Dr. Nick Saines – Consulting Hydrogeologist

Abstract (GSN- Las Vegas meeting on January 24, 2002)

In the 1970s Nick was working for Harza Engineering Company in Chicago as an engineering geologist. Harza got a contract for raising the height of Kajakai Dam on the Helmand River (the dam described in *Caravans* by James Mitchener). Nick was sent to Afghanistan to work on the geologic mapping of the spillway and to evaluate the potential rim seepage at the proposed new reservoir level. He made two trips to Afghanistan in the late 1970s, after the overthrow of King Mohammed Zahir Shah in 1973, and before the pro-Soviet coup in 1978 and the subsequent Soviet invasion. In addition to the damsite engineering geology we will take a little tour of Afghanistan before the twenty years of war that ravished the country - Kabul, Kandahar, and especially Bamian. Bamian is the secluded Shangri-La-like valley in the Hindu Kush Mountains where giant statues of Buddha were carved in the red sandstone almost two thousand years ago. This was Afghanistan's most famous archaeological site and tourist attraction. The statues were partially destroyed by fanatics 11 centuries ago and completely destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, in spite of worldwide protest. Lost Afghanistan, indeed.



Picture courtesy of: <http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~iany/photos/photos.htm>

Dr. Nick Saines

Consulting Hydrogeologist

Dr. Nick Saines is a consulting hydrogeologist and instructor in the Department of Geoscience. He came here in 1989 from Chicago to work on the Yucca Mountain Project. He was also with OHM Remediation Services for four years and with GeoTek for two years. Before coming to Las Vegas he spent five years in the 80s in the Sultanate of Oman on groundwater exploration and development. In the 70s with Harza Engineering Company in Chicago Nick worked on dams and reservoirs and groundwater projects in the U.S., Iran, Afghanistan, Jordan, Guyana, and Malaysia. Nick received his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Massachusetts in 1973.

Announcements

Future Speakers:

January 24: Nick Saines – “Lost Afghanistan”.

February 28: Rod Metcalf – “Plutons as magma chambers, processes and products”.

March 21: Cathy Snelson

April 25: UNLV Graduate Student Presentations

May 23: Maxwell Blanchard (tentative)

Look! Its a *NEW* GSN web site!

<http://www.gsnv.org>

<http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Geoscience/GSN/gsnsc.htm>

If you know of anyone that would like to become a member or if you need to renew your membership in the Geological Society of Nevada, a membership application is attached or can be accessed online.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

NAME: _____ POSITION/TITLE: _____

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Do you want to be listed in the membership directory as being available for consulting? Yes No

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- 1) I would prefer to receive the GSN Newsletter via email in lieu of a hard copy
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Regular Membership Dues \$30.00 \$ _____

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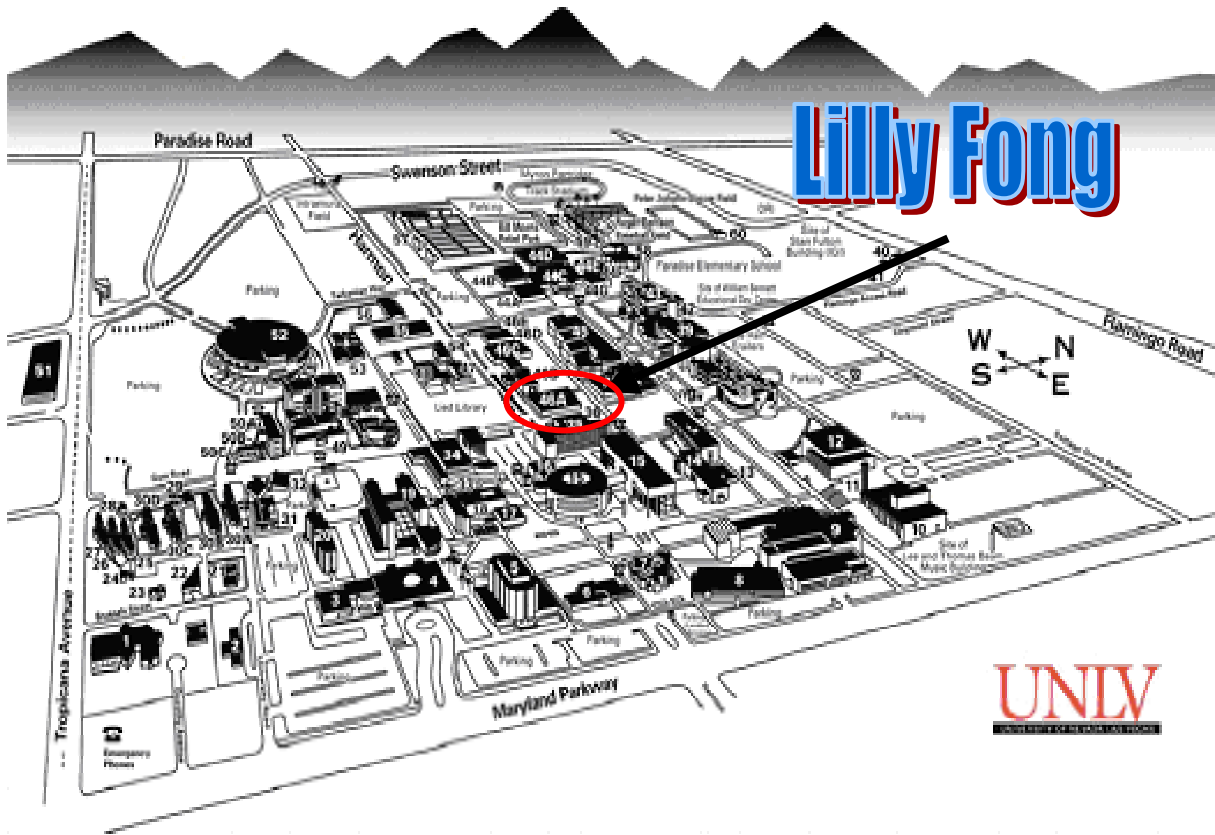
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Publication and mailing of this newsletter has been contributed by The UNLV Department of Geoscience.

Come visit us online at http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Geoscience/1st_page.html or <http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Sciences/Geoscience/GSN/gsnsc.htm>



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