

OCGC SEMINAR

An Alaskan Perspective on the Evolution of the Arctic

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Abstract

The circum-Arctic remains one of the last geological frontiers on Earth. Despite being characterized by abundant resources, our understanding of this region is still hampered by reconnaissance-level geological mapping, uncertainty in the kinematics for the Mesozoic opening of the Arctic Ocean, and the truncation of fundamental geological features, such as Mesoproterozoic–Cenozoic orogenic belts and sedimentary basins. Each of these tectonic features have distinct stratigraphic, structural, and magmatic signatures that not only provide constraints on paleogeographic reconstructions of Laurentia, Siberia, and Baltica, but also constrain the origins and displacement histories of terranes now dispersed throughout the North American Cordillera. Here, I will review new data from pre-Mississippian rocks exposed throughout the northeastern Brooks Range of Alaska and Yukon to elucidate the Neoproterozoic–Mesozoic evolution of northern North America.

Dr. Justin Strauss is a Sedimentary Geologist and Stratigrapher. He was born and raised in Ojai, CA, before moving to Colorado College to receive his BA in Geology in 2006. After spending four years working in various labs and teaching high school, he enrolled in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University to work with Professor Francis Macdonald. He received his PhD from Harvard in 2015 and then went on to a short post-doc at Stanford University with Professor Erik Sperling. Justin started as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences in Dartmouth College in 2016 and has been largely focused on examining circum-Arctic tectonics and Neoproterozoic–early Paleozoic Earth history.



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