

March, 2017

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends of UA Geosciences 195D, A Sense of Place:

Greetings from the University of Arizona. Paul Sheppard here, Associate Professor in the UA Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. One of the courses I've taught here is Geosciences 195D, otherwise known as "A Sense of Place (SOP)." I'm contacting you because records indicate you took SOP. If that's not true, please disregard this letter.

If the records are correct and you did take SOP, surely you recall it as a course composed primarily of field-based instruction. SOP takes four all-day field trips out and about Tucson to see and learn geology, ecology, and cultural history of this place.

I'm pleased to announce that this year is the 25th anniversary of SOP. Doing the math, with four trips each year, this year's April trip will be the 100th trip all-time for the course. One hundred trips. Considering all the ways field trips might be cancelled, e.g., bad weather, illnesses, conflicts with Wildcat basketball, it's remarkable that SOP has never missed a trip. Quite the dedication on the part of students and instructors alike.

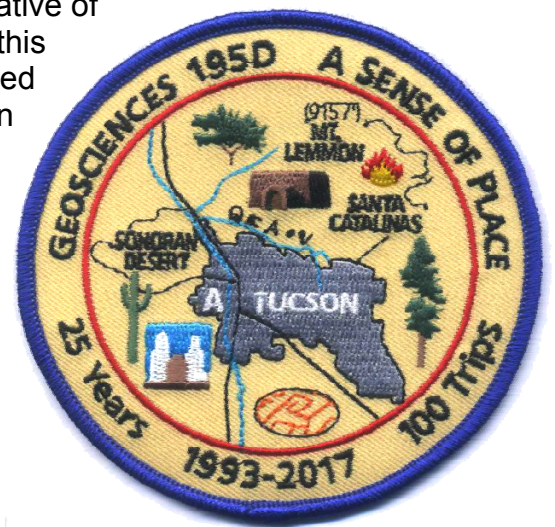
This milestone calls for a celebration, and you're invited, either to attend in person or to participate from a distance if you can't otherwise be here. This year's Trip 4, the trip that goes up and down the Santa Catalina Mountains to see taffy-like metamorphic gneiss rocks and different forest ecosystems at different elevations, will be April 22. That evening, a banquet will be held to celebrate the 100th trip all-time. Please attend and let's reacquaint ourselves with one another and reminisce over learning about Tucson in a truly effective way, by seeing it firsthand on field trips. A few presentations will be made to acknowledge and thank folks who were especially instrumental in SOP becoming a course and then enduring for 25 years and unflinchingly taking four trips every year. The course's founding professor, Dr. Bob Butler, is invited and hopefully will be able to attend. Images can be displayed during dinner, so send jpegs if you have any. To conclude the evening, we'll squeeze together and take a big group photo.

To commemorate this occasion, a patch has been made. What a beauty, if we do say so ourselves! And highly representative of the course: 21 elements of the course are embedded in this patch. Can you identify them all? Anyone ever associated with SOP is welcome to have this patch. It can't be given away for free, but we expect the price will be considered well worth it to have this exclusive memento of Sense of Place.

Logistical details about the banquet and obtaining a patch are on page 2 of this letter. Please join us on April 22 for dinner and honoring 25 years and 100 trips in SOP. We look forward to seeing and/or hearing from you again.

Yours in field-based education,

Paul R Sheppard



25th Anniversary (100th Trip) SOP Banquet

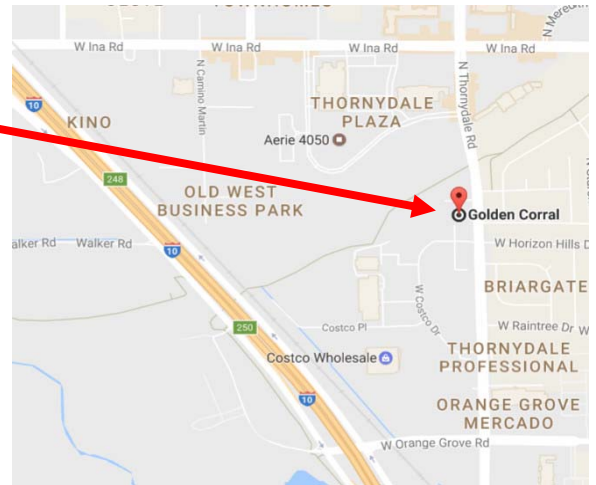
Date: April 22, 2017

Place: Golden Corral Buffet, 6865 N. Thornydale Rd. (south of W. Ina Rd., north of W. Orange Grove Rd., on the west side of N. Thornydale Rd.). See map (there's always maps in SOP).

Time: Begin at 6:30 PM. The restaurant closes at 9:00 PM.

Price: You pay your own way into the restaurant. This is a buffet place, so one price gets you in and you can select exactly what and how much food you wish to eat, including dessert (for example, the famous chocolate volcano of death). Dinner costs \$11.59 per adult, plus extra for a beverage (sorry, alcohol is not served here), and don't forget tax. Also, even though it's a buffet (you serve yourself), there still is a service and cook staff at this restaurant, and it's customary to leave the usual gratuity.

RSVP: We need to know about how many people to expect, so, yes or no, please go online to RSVP: <http://25-100SOP.rsvpify.com>.



Get the Patch

If you're attending the banquet on April 22, patches will be available for purchase at that time. Price is \$5.00 per patch.

If you're unable to attend the banquet on April 22 but would like to have a patch, please send Paul a check for \$5.50 per patch (covers postage back to you) via regular mail, with your address obviously included somewhere. My address:

Paul Sheppard
UA Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
407 Bannister Tree-Ring Building
1215 E. Lowell St.
Tucson, AZ 85721

Provide a Statement

Whether you're attending the banquet or not, you're invited to provide a statement of sentiments about your experience in Geosciences 195D, A Sense of Place. Include the year you took the course, and a photo if you'd like. Send by hardcopy to the address above, or by pdf to my email: sheppard@ltr.arizona.edu. Statements will be kept in a scrapbook dedicated to preserving the history of this course.

Course Website

The online syllabus for Geos. 195D, A Sense of Place, still exists, and it now has information about this celebration planned for April 22. Check here for updates on the banquet plans: <http://www.ltr.arizona.edu/~sheppard/sop/>.