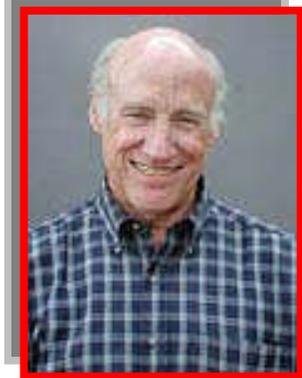




1955

CHS Bio

Mark Holmes
College Professor



After graduating from CHS I headed east to Princeton (along with classmates **Siggins, McDermott, and Martin**) where I majored in geological engineering. After 4 years in the Ivy League I honored my NROTC commitment with 3 years of active duty in the Navy. I was assigned to a rescue/salvage vessel (*USS Current*) in Pearl Harbor, and within two weeks of reporting aboard in the summer of 1960 we were busy salvaging one of the five Japanese midget submarines that had participated in the 7 December attack. The sub was in 80 feet of water off the entrance to Pearl Harbor and had only been recently discovered by Navy divers. A picture from our salvage job was featured in the 2001 Nat'l Geographic booklet "Pearl Harbor" (page 34). The sub was repaired at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard(!) and given back to Japan; it's now a memorial outside their Naval Academy. There followed many more interesting diving and salvage operations, and the experience definitely influenced my decision to go into oceanography. At that time, the Navy was sending officers to post-graduate school at the University of Washington, and so I applied for that program upon my discharge in 1963.

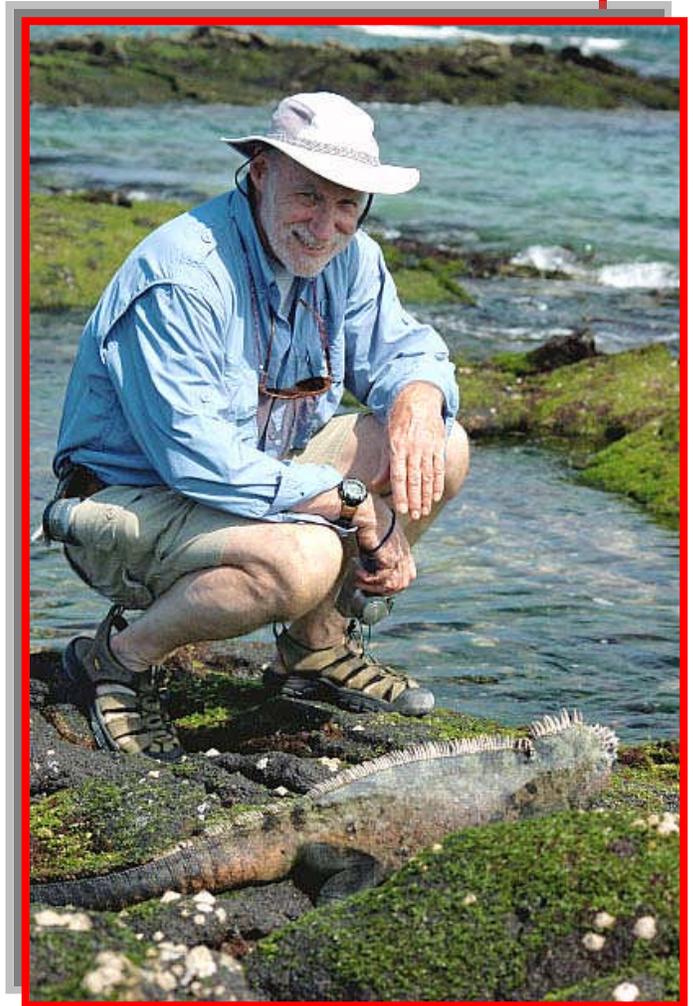
I started grad school in Seattle that summer, and the very next year found me on a Navy ice breaker (*USS Burton Island*) north of Siberia doing research on continental shelf dynamics. This was long before countries established the 200-mile limit; you could go within 15 miles of the Soviet mainland with only a moderate amount of harassment (bomber overflights). I was thoroughly bitten by the Arctic 'bug' and many more cruises followed over the years, to the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas. Both my Masters and PhD dissertations were on aspects of the marine geology and resources of the Arctic continental shelves. This was an incredibly exciting time to be in the field of geological oceanography. The theory of sea floor spreading was still being hotly debated, and I had the opportunity to be involved in some of the early research on the Juan de Fuca ridge spreading center 400 km off Washington and Oregon.

In 1974 I married **Barbara Naugler**, the sister of one of my grad school roommates. Then in August 1975, after a few years as Senior Oceanographer at the UW I joined the US Geological Survey's Branch of Pacific-Arctic Marine Geology. I was part of a small research group here in Seattle dealing with innovative ways of using geophysical data to assess offshore resources (oil and gas), primarily in the Arctic and offshore Alaska. Our son Aaron was born in 1976 and daughter Elizabeth arrived in 1977. That job lasted until 1983, when I

went down to Menlo Park, CA, to assume the duties of Associate Branch Chief (and later acting Branch Chief). The cost of housing in the Bay Area was such that Barbara and the kids remained in Seattle and for three years I commuted every 2-3 weeks back and forth for 3-day weekends. Ugh. But it was a fascinating combination of research and administrative duties and challenges. My research took me from the Arctic (again) to the South Pacific, and involved the use of a wide variety of ships and all three of America's deep-diving research submersibles – *Sea Cliff* and *Turtle* (US Navy), and *Alvin* (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution). In the course of that work studying mid-ocean ridges I became the first civilian ever qualified as co-pilot of *Sea Cliff*. The story about being stuck on the bottom in *Sea Cliff* in 3500 meters of water off the coast of Oregon will have to wait for another time and more space.

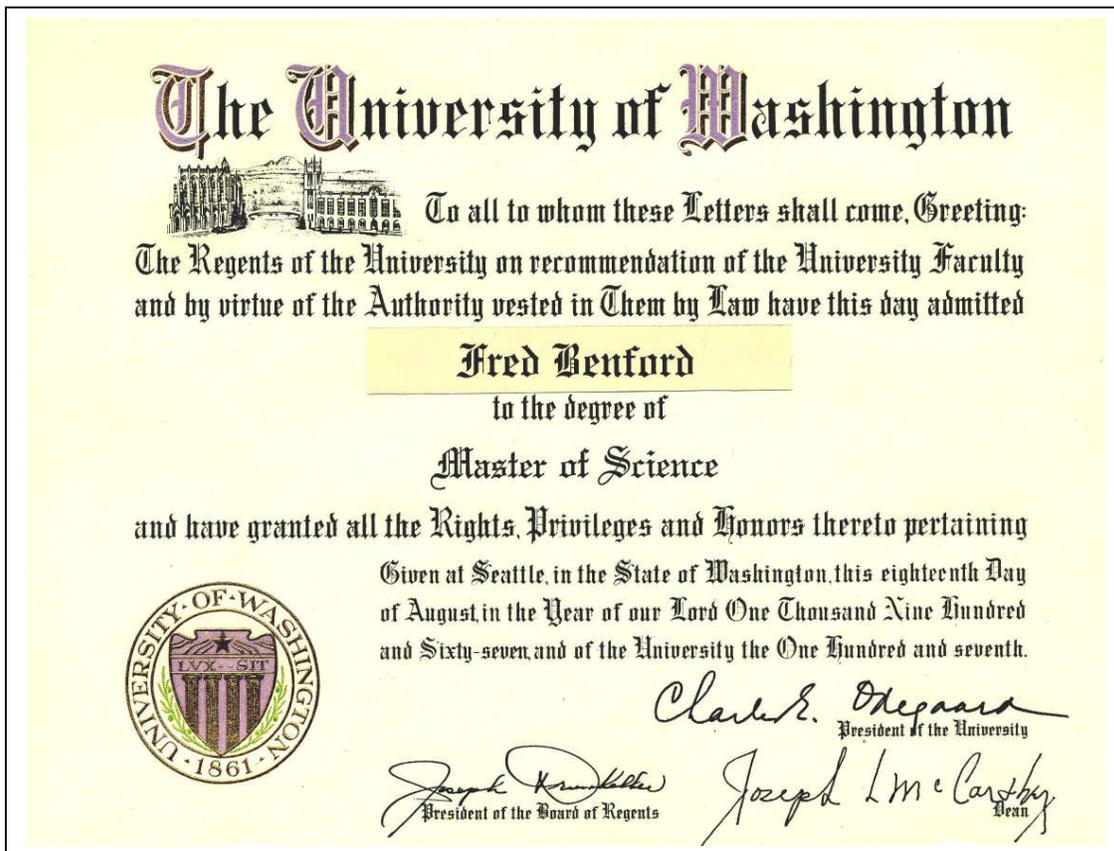
In 1986 I was transferred back to Seattle (whew!) and headed a small research group dealing with detailed mapping of the newly-established Exclusive Economic Zone of the US, with emphasis on the Hawaiian EEZ. I also had an affiliate appointment as Research Professor on the UW faculty and helped teach a variety of courses to our undergraduates. When the mapping work was finished I had over 20 years in Gov't service, and decided to retire in early 1995. That lasted exactly two months, when the Dean of the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences made me an offer I couldn't refuse. That offer was to head a small team to design and oversee the building of what is now the new (as of 2000) Oceanography Research Building, home to our physical and chemical oceanography options. In addition to the 'construction' job I was put in charge of the Capstone (thesis) Course sequence, through which all of our undergraduate majors pass in order to get their degrees.

This is a great challenge, involving going to sea each year with a bunch of very bright students. This past January I took all 20 seniors to the Galapagos where we joined the UW's research vessel *Thomas G. Thompson*. The students spent two weeks conducting their thesis research on a variety of oceanographic phenomena unique to that special place. My own current



research deals with the origin of Puget Sound, and the resulting geologic hazards to the urbanized areas (earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides).

On a personal/family note, I've been blessed with a wonderful wife and great kids. Barbara is a 6th grade teacher in Monroe, WA, about 20 miles from our home in Kenmore. Aaron graduated from Washington State (BS Computer Science and Info Technology) and went right to work with Microsoft; he is now a team leader in the Windows OS group at the Evil Empire. He and his wife Kirsten have a daughter Aubrie (almost 2). Liz went to the UW (BA and MA in Germanics) and after teaching for 2 years at the University of Münster in Germany she moved to Eugene, OR, got an MA in Education, and is now the International Program Counselor at the U of Oregon. I get back to Tulsa every year in November on my way to deer hunting in Missouri at my brother Jim's (CHS 1958) place. Still in Tulsa are **twin Ralph** and youngest brother Barry (Edison 1963?). We enjoy skiing, biking, and sailing, and in fact have a second 'brothers reunion' every summer on the sailboat. I'd love to see any CHS folks coming to/thru the Seattle area. Have a great time at the Reunion. My best to all.



It is great to have friends in higher places. Mark gave me a Masters Degree in Science with a straight "A" average ... even without attending classes. Unfortunately Mark advised that while he hacked into the computer for my degree he found that the University would soon be billing me with \$17,987 in tuition fees.