**Soils and Geomorphology Laboratory**

Today you will dig a soil pit, observe the horizons, and make a log of what you see (feel free to use the template we supply on the class website). If you are on campus, you should work in a small group (no more than three people) and dig the pit using a shovel from Delehanty Hall. I will set these out on the first floor near the rock room (NW corner) along with some tape measures and rulers and tarps as well as trowels for cleaning up the walls of the pit. **Please bring them back promptly so others can use them.**

To dig a soil pit, mark a square about 75 cm on a side on the ground. Make sure to preserve two sides undisturbed, that is, don’t pile soil there or step on them. Spread the tarp out next to the soil pit adjacent to one of the two sides you will disturb. Remove the sod or topsoil and set it aside. Then, start digging. Try your best to cut vertical faces on the pit walls. You should soon get through the dark A and O horizons and into the reddish B horizon. When you get through the reddened B horizon and into the parent material (C horizon, usually grey) go 10-20 cm and then stop digging.

Best to dig in a **flat** area in the woods behind Delehanty Hall and please fill in your pit when done. You could also dig in Centennial Woods. Try to practice “no trace” soil pitting. Other places on campus are likely too disturbed by construction to be useful. If you are off campus, find an undisturbed area (field or woods) to dig your pit.

**Your assignment:**

Create a webpage entitled, *Soil Pit* and post it by Friday midnight.

On that page, include:

1. a map showing the location of your pit

2. photographs of your soil pit

3. a log of your pit showing the different horizons that were present (such as A, O, B, C). For each horizon, describe: color, texture, root content, thickness, and the processes that helped to form that horizon. Feel free to use the template we supply on the class webpage.

4. if you worked with others, list their names.

Include a one paragraph interpretation of the history of your soil considering whether it was natural or disturbed by humans.