Seismic pressures, tectonic plates
Shifting, grinding, tearing
Deep in the earth
Too deep to hear, too deep to see except for
Fault lines
Perhaps a sad tear rolling down
So silently
A fear gripping you awake
On a moonless starless night
An urge to go beyond sensation
Or a plea for help you can neither
Utter nor stifle
So it can only come out in the undertones
Of everything you say
And do
Fault lines, eruptions of needs and desperate hopes
Can lie dormant, hidden for years
Appearing most unplanned and unasked
When the pressures of life
Run too strong and deep
Tearing away the landscaping, revealing forgotten
Forces that cannot forever be denied:
Hope, love, belly laughter,
A child’s defenseless innocence,
Faith that life is safe and good.

*ROBERT T. McLAUGHLIN, Ph.D., chaired Rivier College’s education division in 2008. He oversees professional educator preparation program approval for the NH Dept. of Education. His three children, he enjoys telling them, are usually cute and adorable; with his wife he provides a home for four border collies, who all are cute and adorable. He founded and chaired the International Society for Technology in Education’s interest groups on innovative learning technologies and digital equity, serves on the national commission on technology and the future of teacher education, and is senior fellow for the Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.