Letter from the Chair:

Greetings from the Department of Geology. This has been a good year in the department. Major highlights include development of a new field camp, installation of a new electron microscope, revision of the curriculum including the development of an environmental science emphasis in the major, and continuation of a very ambitious undergraduate collaborative research program. Geology students continue to do very well in the student research day awards ceremonies with a first and fourth place finish this year. Students from the department also presented their research on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, AWRA in LaCrosse, Cordilleran Roundup in Vancouver, BC, and both regional and national GSA meetings. We have a lot of students who are submitting abstracts for the GSA in Denver (late October) so if you attend that meeting be sure to stop by and say “Hi!” This past year we were approved for a new position and we tried to hire a petrologist. The search didn’t go quite as planned, so we’ll be going through the whole experience again next year. Probably the most exciting change this year was the development of a new field camp sequence. We split the camp into a winter (3 credit) and summer (3 credit) experience. The winter camp is being offered in southern New Mexico, and it turned out to be a super experience for all of the students who attended. They’re getting ready for the summer field camp as I write this letter. Summer field camp is still being run in Boulder, Montana.

We’re getting ready for a major remodeling in Phillips Hall that will result in the development of a better rock preparation area, a heavy mineral separation laboratory, a new soils lab (shared with geography), and redesigned introductory labs. Other highlights include the development of a new instrumentation suite that can house a laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer. We have a proposal pending at NSF to fund the new equipment and hopefully at this time next year we’ll be reporting our success. This new instrument will allow for trace element determinations on both solid and liquid samples at the low part per billion range and also provide some isotope capabilities in the program. We’re going to be installing new computers in the hydrogeology lab this summer and they have finally agreed to build us a field storage facility off the loading dock for all of the field equipment currently stored in the building. The remodeling should make the building far better for teaching geology. It will take a full two years to complete the project, so if you stop by next year, be prepared for a mess!

This past year the department hosted a joint Tri-State Geological Field Conference and Wisconsin Undergraduate Field Conference for 130 geoscientists from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. The field conference had a nice blend of field stops that really showed the potential for field study in the Eau Claire area. The weather for the entire trip was excellent except for the first stop at Big Falls where it “dumped” for five minutes before the buses unloaded. Big Falls is very slippery when wet and a few students ended up falling in the water.

We sure miss all of our alumni and hope you’ll stop in to see us when you’re in Eau Claire. As always, I’d love to give you a quick tour of the program. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hooper
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Rocky Mountain Field Studies - Summer 1998
by Bradford Burton, Instructor

Bob having just returned from Scotland, I was happy to be able to teach Rocky Mountain Field Studies last spring. With every “T” crossed and “I” dotted in the preparations for the course—four days before departure—I was to learn that our plans needed to be changed. A labor vote at the Homestake Mine in South Dakota, one of the highlights of the trip, threatened to keep us from having a mine tour. It was necessary to leave ahead of schedule and change all of the camping arrangements for the next two weeks. The twenty-four students in the course all helped, and we were on the road two days later! After the raucous start, we had the best mine tour that I’ve ever had, including a visit to the 8000-ft level of the mine where wall-rock temperatures are 135°F. After a tour of the Black Hills, and a climb of Harney Peak, we spent four days on the top of the Bighorn Range in Wyoming, including a hike to Florence Pass, a 22-mile round trip. Bad weather chased us out of the Bighorn Range, and with worsening snow conditions in Yellowstone, we retreated to the Snake River Plain of Idaho. There we dried our tents and bags and explored underground lava tubes and ice caves, then ventured north to the Boulder-Pioneer Mountains of Idaho where we undertook a 6000-vertical-foot climb to the crest of the Boulder Mtns. at 10,458 ft. We did manage to see the geology of Yellowstone on the return trip, and of course, engaged in the mandatory snowball fight on top of the Beartooth Mountains. With a close group of very congenial and interested students/friends, this was the best field geology experience I’ve had.

New Mexico Field Camp inaugurated – Winterim/Spring 1999
by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor

The Department of Geology initiated a major change in the curriculum this past year by introducing a new field camp in New Mexico. Traditionally, field camp was a five-credit intensive field mapping experience held in Boulder, Montana, for five weeks at the end of a student’s senior year. In response to both student comments and pedagogical concerns, the Department decided to split the field camp into two three-credit segments: the first segment is held during the Winterim session in Kingston, New Mexico, and is required by all members of the department in their sophomore or junior year; the second segment is held in Boulder, Montana, and is taken by General Geology emphasis students at the end of the junior or senior year. Prerequisites for the first field camp include MinPet I and SedStrat; the second field camp requires Structural Geology. This new arrangement will permit all students in the department to gain field mapping experience, and provide that experience much earlier in the curriculum, so that skills learned at field camp can be applied in other courses or in research projects. An exciting aspect of the new field camp is that it is completely computerized. The Department acquired 14 high-end laptop computers, digiboards, and printer through a University grant, and we have applied them to the new field camp. Students map and describe features in the field utilizing traditional methods and GPS technology, then digitize their field maps and incorporate them into ArcView, a high-end GIS platform. This new system places UWEC at the cutting edge of field geology instruction in the nation.

The first Field Camp I was held in Kingston, New Mexico in January, 1999. Eighteen students traveled to New Mexico, and stayed in an 1800’s lodge for three weeks. The Black Range Lodge was perfect for our needs, comfortably sleeps eighteen students and three instructors, providing restaurant-style cooking facilities, and a place to set up field camp computers. We had a tremendous time mapping in the Caballo Ranges, and it seems that a good time was had by all. This was the first time the course was taught by Brian Mahoney, Brad Burton, and Paul Myers, and we would like to thank all of the first-time (guinea pig) participants for their enthusiasm and good cheer. The Department would like to extend a special thanks to Paul Myers, who donated his time and travel costs to assist in this inaugural field camp. The success of the field camp would have been impossible without his tremendous assistance!

Colorado Plateau & Grand Canyon Field Trip - Spring Break 1999
by Karen Havholm, Instructor

The focus of this year’s spring break excursion was the geology of Utah, with a little bit of Colorado geology thrown in. Prior to the trip, we studied the geological map of Utah, plotting our itinerary. Each student chose a subject on which they became the expert. Then we headed west, stopping in the Denver area to see the Precambrian-Cambrian unconformity in Red Rocks Park and the overlying Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. Just barely beating a snowstorm that closed the high passes, we arrived at Colorado National Monument on the edge of the Colorado Plateau at dusk. From there we spent nine more days exploring Utah, encountering rocks from every time period except the Archean. Each student made a presentation in the field, filling us in on the geology of a particular time period or area. Luck was with us on the weather and we got through the trip with no injuries! We all had a great time and learned a lot, as evidenced by the synthesis papers students wrote after we returned.
By Carrie Rowe & Tina Pint, Student Co-Presidents

The semester is almost over although it seems like it has just begun!! This year the Geology Club has said goodbye to its past president, Beth Wenell, and new officials have been voted in: Carrie Rowe and Tina Pint as Co-Presidents, Josh Kohn as Secretary and Mel Klinger as Treasurer. It has been a busy semester for us, as most students have been involved with their own research and presented posters at the University’s Research Day Monday, April 26. Before everyone became too busy with their semesters work, we held a profitable bake sale in Phillips Hall thanks to the organizational efforts of Mel Klinger—thanks Mel!! The Geology Club is also having a T-shirt sale sponsoring the American Bolder Rollers Association, thanks to Paul Myers. Still to come this semester is the annual Geology Club spring picnic. In closing, we would like to thank everyone for their support of the Geology Club and congratulate all of our seniors that are graduating this semester. Good luck!

By Katie Thornburg, Student President

Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) News

Sigma Gamma Epsilon has experienced another changing of the guards and is still in the process of re-establishing itself here at UWEC. After a period of inactivity, our new advisor Dr. Brad Burton and former SGE President Mae Willkom have been busy trying to boost membership. Now that Mae has graduated, we are carrying on in her tradition of recruiting.

I am happy to report that the six new members of SGE, Carrie Rowe, Brian Hennings, Shawn Owen, Brian Dwyer, Jean Morrison, and Katie Thornburg are enthusiastic additions to the group. Unfortunately, two of our members will be graduating in May, so it will be back to recruiting once again. I should mention that Mae and Dr. Burton wonderfully maintained the famous initiation ceremony—the night was a hilarious success! Newly inducted members are eagerly anticipating their chance to turn the tables and welcome other new members into the fold!

The majority of our members are highly active in research, so we would like to plan a series of lunch presentations as soon as Student Research Day is done. We are also contemplating raising money through a rock and mineral sale and a bake sale. We would like to be able to take some interesting club fieldtrips and perhaps sponsor some of the members to present their research at SGE functions. SGE has also adopted the area near UWEC Fine Arts building in an effort to keep the campus beautiful and garbage free (an idea sponsored by one of our own Geology majors)! At this point we have plenty of plans and enthusiasm, so things are going well here in UWEC!

Danielson and Haskin presented Geology Excellence Awards

The Department has instituted a Geology Excellence Award to recognize the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 1997-98 winners of the Geology Excellence Award were Thomas Danielson and Michelle Haskin. Tom and Michelle had their names inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed in the department and also were presented plaques for them to keep. It is hoped that this award will encourage student excellence and foster a greater sense of tradition within the department. The plaques were purchased using donations to the Geology Advancement Fund.

Tom is working on his master’s degree in economic geology at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. His field area is in south-central Mexico. Michelle is working on a master’s degree in paleomagnetics at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Congratulations, Tom and Michelle!

UWEC Student presents research on Capital Hill

Carrie Rowe, a senior in the Department of Geology, presented the results of her research at the Council on Undergraduate Research 1999 Poster Session on Capital Hill this April. The Capital Hill presentation is an annual event sponsored by CUR to demonstrate the benefits and accomplishments of collaborative faculty/student research at the undergraduate level to national legislators. Carrie was one of 80 participants chosen out of 280 applicants to present their research at the afternoon poster session in the Hart Senate Building. Carrie presented research she has been conducting with Bob Hooper and Brian Mahoney on heavy metal contamination in the Coeur d’Alene River Valley of northern Idaho. Carrie traveled to Washington with Hooper and Mahoney, and met with Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl and Congressman Ron Kind to discuss undergraduate research opportunities at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In addition to presenting on Capital Hill, Carrie’s poster was one of only nine selected for display at the opening session of the CUR April Dialogue, held in conjunction with the National Science Foundation. Congratulations on a job well done, Carrie!
Wenell wins Sigma Xi Undergraduate Research Grant

Ms. Beth Wenell, senior geology major from Wild Rose, WI, was recently awarded a $700 Sigma Xi research grant for her proposal entitled “Coastal Geomorphologic Response to Climate and Sea-Level Fluctuation, Cape Henry, Virginia.” Beth’s request for funding was one of 467 applications being considered.

Thornburg wins North-Central GSA Undergraduate Research Grant

Ms. Katie Thornburg, sophomore geology major from Spooner, WI, was recently awarded a $300 NC-GSA research grant for her proposal entitled "Clay Mineralogy of Pre-Late Wisconsinan Till Units, Western Wisconsin." This money, in addition to funding from UWEC and the WGNHS, will allow Thornburg to continue her glacial geologic studies. Thornburg conducted field research during summer 1998 with Kent Syverson in Chippewa County, WI, and then spent the 1998-99 school year studying till clay mineralogy under the supervision of Robert Hooper and Kent Syverson. Thornburg's research culminated in a well received poster presentation at the North-Central GSA meeting at the University of Illinois. Four undergraduate research grants were awarded in the section, which extends from Ohio to Minnesota.

Wenell presents to UW Board of Regents, President, and Chancellor

This spring senior Beth Wenell was invited, along with two other UWEC students, to give a presentation on the value of research for undergraduates to the Board of Regents. This is the report we received on her presentations:

"Last Friday Beth Wenell made a presentation to the Board of Regents related to [her] collaborative research at the Kitty Hawk sites. I want to let you know that she did an excellent job and represented the geology department well. She came across as knowledgeable, poised, able to communicate easily, and even humorous. She made a very good impression on the Board, President Lyall, and Chancellor Mash."

- Chris Lind, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Office of University Research

Mahoney organizes Penrose Conference

The Department of Geology is receiving some nationwide scientific attention this year as Brian Mahoney is organizing a Geological Society of America Penrose Conference, to be held in Winthrop, Washington, 21-27 June 1999. The Penrose Conference is one of the most prestigious conferences organized nationwide, and is an invitation-only scientific symposium on a specific topic, with participants from all over the world gathering to discuss and debate the selected topic in an intensive week-long meeting. The topic of the conference is “Terrane Translation along the Western Cordilleran Margin: Constraints on Timing and Displacement”. Eighty participants will gather in Seattle, then field trip over the North Cascades, before arriving in Winthrop, where the formal sessions will be held. The main idea behind the conference is to seclude participants in an appropriate geologic setting, where all efforts will be focussed on resolving the ongoing debate over the timing and magnitude of terrane displacement along the western continental margin.

Mineral Named after UWEC Alumnus

Dr. George Rossman graduated from UWEC in 1966 with a Chemistry and Mathematics double major. He received his Ph.D. in mineralogy at Caltech in 1970 and is now a professor in Caltech’s Dept. of Geological and Planetary Science. Some colleagues recently named a new mineral, rossmanite, in his honor (Selway and others, 1998, American Mineralogist 83:896-900). This is a tremendous honor, and we congratulate Dr. Rossman. We hope that Dr. Rossman names the next mineral he discovers “blugoldite!” Dr. Rossman’s e-mail address is grr@gps.caltech.edu.

To quote the first two sentences of the 1998 American Mineralogist abstract naming the mineral, “Rossmanite is a new tourmaline species from near Rozna, western Moravia, Czech Republic. It forms pale pink columnar crystals about 25 mm long and 5 mm thick, elongated along c with striations parallel to c on the prism faces.”
Tri-State Geological Field Conference Held at UWEC in September

The Geology Department at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire hosted a combined meeting of the 61st Annual Tri-State Geological Field Conference and the University of Wisconsin System Geological Field Conference on Sept. 25-27, 1998. The conference was co-organized by Kent Syverson and Karen Havholm. Approximately 130 professional geologists and geology students from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa attended the conference. Festivities began Friday night with an undergraduate research poster session. Nineteen students from five universities presented the results of original research. The posters by the eleven UWEC students impressed many of the attendees from other universities.

Saturday was the main event—a full-day field trip to sites in western Wisconsin. A major thunderstorm began on Friday night at midnight, and we thought that it would blow through before the 8 a.m. field trip departure time. At 7:30 a.m. it was still pouring outside with severe lightning, and Hooper was at Big Falls flagging items of interest for our first stop of the day. The rain had stopped by 7:45 a.m., and by the time we arrived at Big Falls, a soggy Hooper was standing in sunshine to give his geological overview of Big Falls! The rocks were slippery, but the rain held off during the rest of the day, and we were very thankful! Several faculty (and one geology major, Mae Willkom) led field stops during the day (see list below), and the field trip was a great success. The field trip was followed by a banquet at UWEC and a keynote lecture by Dr. Paul Thomas, Physics & Astronomy Dept., on comet/asteroid collisions with earth.

Sunday we conducted a walking field trip of the UWEC campus area. Hooper gave a tour of facilities in the department, and others talked about the UWEC well nest, Mt. Simon Fm., and geomorphology of the campus area. The weather was sunny and crisp—perfect! The half-day field trip allowed other professional geologists to see the field resources easily accessible during two-hour laboratories at UWEC. Overall, the field conference was a fine opportunity to raise the profile of our geology program in the upper midwest.

Limited copies of the field conference guidebook (92 pages) may be purchased from the UWEC Geology Department. Guidebook field trip stops are in Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties. Contents of the guidebook are listed below. The cost per guidebook is $2.50 if picked up at the UWEC Geology Department or $5.00 if the guidebook is to be mailed. Guidebooks may be obtained by writing a check payable to UWEC Dept. of Geology, #133-688 and sending it to the Geology Department. All orders must be prepaid. Be sure to clearly indicate a mailing address if you wish to have the guidebook sent to you. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Amdahl (amdahl@uwec.edu, 715-836-3732). If you plan to pick up copies at the Geology Dept., please contact Nancy before making the trip to ensure that we have copies available!

GUIDEBOOK OVERVIEW ARTICLES:
Pre-Quaternary History of Western Wisconsin, with an Emphasis on the Cambrian Sandstones. By Karen G. Havholm
Glacial History of Western Wisconsin. By Kent M. Syverson

GUIDEBOOK FIELD TRIP STOP DESCRIPTIONS:
Stop A: Big Falls County Park—Precambrian Amphibolites and Contact Zone with the Cambrian Mt. Simon Formation. By Robert L. Hooper
Stop B: City of Chippewa Falls East Well Field. By John R. Tinker, Jr., and Mae E. Willkom
Stop C: Glacial Geology of the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age National Scientific Reserve Unit, Chippewa County, Wisconsin. By Kent M. Syverson
Stop D: Eau Claire Formation at Tilden Quarry, Wisconsin. By Karen G. Havholm, J. Brian Mahoney, Mark Kiessling
Stop E: Wonewoc and Lone Rock Formations, Colfax, Wisconsin. By Karen G. Havholm, J. Brian Mahoney, Robert L. Hooper, Heather Golding, Steven Jenson, Jeffrey Paddock
Stop F: Mt. Simon Formation at "Little Niagara," University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Campus. By Karen G. Havholm
Stop G: Geomorphology of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Campus Region. By Kent M. Syverson
Stop H: Hydrogeology at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. By John R. Tinker, Jr.
Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects, Spring 1999 Student Research Day
The Seventh Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 26 in the Davies Center on the UWEC campus. This event is held to showcase faculty/student collaborative research occurring on campus. The Geology Department has been very well represented throughout the years, and this year was no exception. All of the students noted below presented posters this year. We are very proud of each student!

Eric Dahl, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Karen Havholm, “Stratigraphic Variability in the Lone Rock Formation, Dunn and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin.” Also presented at the 1999 North-Central GSA meeting, held at the University of Illinois.

Dan Dahlman and Aaron Walczak, along with Brian Mahoney, “Geochemical Distinction of Glaciofluvial Sediments in the Puget Lowland.”

Lisa Kraft, along with John Tinker, Jr., “Minimizing Overlap of Septic System Plumes and Capture Zones of Private Water-Supply Wells in Unsewered Subdivisions.” Also presented at the 1998 National GSA meeting in Toronto, Canada, and at the 1999 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association in LaCrosse, WI.

Thomas McManus, along with Bradford Burton, “Textural transition from plastic to brittle strain, Ruby Mountains, northeast Nevada.”

Jean Morrison, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Petrographic Analysis of the Late Cretaceous Nanaimo Group of the Georgia Basin.”

Tina Pint, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Lori Snyder, “Stratigraphic and Structural Analysis of the Middle Jurassic Hazelton Group, Nechako Plateau, North Facility, WI.”

Carrie Rowe, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Peter Mustand (Simon Fraser University), “Clastic Dikes as Paleoslope Indicators in the Nanaimo Group, Hornby Island, British Columbia.”

Carrie Rowe and Jean Morrison, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Robert Hooper, “Speciation and Transport of the Heavy Metals in the Coeur d’Alene River Valley, Northern Idaho.” Winner of First Place in the Natural and Physical Science division, UWEC Student Research Day. Also presented at the 1999 National Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Michael Schmidt, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Comparative Geochemistry of the Spences Bridge Group and Coeval Volcanic Rocks of South-Central British Columbia.” Winner of Fourth Place in the Natural and Physical Science division, UWEC Student Research Day.

Stephen Sellwood, along with Lori Snyder, “Geochemistry of Two Tertiary Plutons, North-Central British Columbia.” Also presented at the 1999 Annual Round Up in Vancouver, B.C.

Heather Spehle, along with Kent Syverson, “Surficial Glacial Geology of the Albertville Quadrangle, Chippewa County, West-Central Wisconsin.” Also presented at the 1999 North-Central GSA meeting, held at the University of Illinois.

Katie Thornburg, along with Kent Syverson and Robert Hooper, “Clay Mineralogy of Pre-Late Wisconsinan Till Units, West-Central Wisconsin.” Also presented at the 1999 North-Central GSA meeting, held at the University of Illinois.


Beth Wenell, along with Karen Havholm and Harry Jol (Geography Dept.), “Ground Penetrating Radar Study of Dunes and Beach Ridges at Cape Henry, Virginia.”

Beth Wenell, along with Karen Havholm and Harry Jol (Geography Dept.), “History of Active Back-Barrier Coastal Dunes, Northeastern North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia: A Progress Report.” Also presented at the Jockeys Ridge State Park Research Symposium, held in Nags Head, NC., and at the 1998 National GSA meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Beth Wenell, along with Harry Jol (Geography Dept.) and Brady Foust (Geog. Dept.), “Creating a Land Use Land Cover Database for ArcView.”

1 Students who presented posters at professional conferences also are indicated. Student travel to regional and national conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund.
WHAT'S NEW WITH US?
Faculty News

Bradford Burton (E-mail: burtonbr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4982)
Year two! It seems like I've just landed here in Eau Claire and already the second year has gone by. It was an exciting year that began with research projects with five students and conferences in Toronto and Vancouver. At the request of students, Petroleum Geology was offered for the first time in many years and drew twelve students last Fall semester. I also had the pleasure of teaching in the field with Brian Mahoney and Paul Myers at our new field camp in New Mexico during the Winterim. The geology of the area was fascinating and the addition of new computer technology to field projects was a great success. Spring semester brought Structural Geology and the second joint Structure-Earth History field trip to the Ouachita Mountains in Arkansas. This was an exceptionally good trip and was attended by a great group of students. Environmental Geology continues to be a lot of fun to teach and, this year, was attended by a great group of new geology majors. I continue to thoroughly enjoy teaching at UWEC and am looking forward to Field Geology II in Montana this summer, and to the first offering of a new course in Applied Geophysics next fall. I will be spending much of the summer in the field with a UWEC student in north-central Washington, where we will be mapping and sampling for a new project, using thermochronology and structural analysis to determine the age of assembly of that part of the Cordilleran.

Karen Havholm (E-mail: havholkg@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-2945)
I continue to work with the elementary/middle education majors in the Earth Science course. This year I also taught Earth Resources and the spring break Field Excursions class (see above). And these are also the courses I will be teaching next fall — in Scotland! Paul Myers and Bob Hooper had such good experiences in the Wisconsin-in-Scotland program that I decided to try it. My whole family will be able to come along and we are looking forward to many new experiences and lots of travel.

Last summer senior Beth Wenell and I did a reconnaissance project testing whether ground penetrating radar (GPR) would work to delineate the patterns of development in a prograded beach ridge plain with overlying dunes in Cape Henry, Virginia. We met with partial success; Beth determined that we need to try some different equipment combinations to get the level of detail needed to continue the project. She presented her results at the UWEC Student Research Day. She also presented progress reports on the North Carolina coastal dune project at the national GSA meeting in Toronto in October, for the North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation (who partially funded the research) in Nags Head in January, and finally at the UWEC Student Research Day.

On another front, senior Eric Dahl expanded our stratigraphic study of the Lone Rock Formation to the northwest, piecing together composite sections in northern Dunn Co. and in the Hudson area. He put this together with previous work and data from a core taken in the St. Paul area to produce a big-scale regional correlation of the Lone Rock in western Wisconsin. He presented his results at both UWEC Student Research Day and at North-Central GSA in Champaign, Illinois.

Thanks to students Kay Schoenecker and Katie Thornburg, we had a display for the annual Earth Day festivities at American Materials this year. Several students from the Field Excursions class helped staff the booth as well. We hope to make this an annual event.

This year I served as a “Distinguished Speaker” for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. I am not sure how distinguished I was, but it did keep me busy visiting campuses in Monroe, Louisiana, Dallas, Texas, and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Although the travel and multiple presentations at each venue wore me out, I met a lot of people interested in earth science teaching at all levels from K-16, and provided input where I could at each campus. I learned a lot and ate some very good food down south!

The family is well; Merilie is now taller than I am. She is looking forward to moving on to high school next year. Glenn is keeping very busy with his job, volunteer work, running Merilie around to lessons, and various home repair and remodeling jobs. We are all looking forward to the break in the routine that the Scotland adventure promises.
Bob Hooper (E-mail: hooperrl@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4932)

As you probably saw up front, I’m still acting as chair of the department. This job has kept me pretty busy this past year and after spending last Spring in Scotland the Hooper’s were eager to spend more time at home this year. I’m still teaching the Min/Pet sequence and we had some great field trips this year. The field trip to the Porcupines/Mid Continent Rift was very nice since we hit peak color for the maples. The weather was super and the rocks were great. Students had a great time and will always remember this as a fond experience. Our trip to the Black Hills was a little more eventful. The best part of the trip was that we had about 50 students and faculty from UWEC in Keystone, South Dakota on a Thursday night when the Green Bay Packers were playing the Lions! I forget the score but the Lions trounced (at least to my recollection) the Packers and I was able to goat in front of 44 packers fans every time the Lions scored. How sweet it was!!!! However, Keystone may never be the same again! The worst part of the trip was the weather--YUK! I’m used to snow on my field trips but we really got wet and then we got very cold. The wind was blowing about 40 mph and the temp was in the high 20’s. The worst part was that 12-18 inches of snow ruins the exposures. The Bear Lodge Mountains were completely impassible and the students missed seeing some of the coolest rocks. Next year I’m going a week earlier.

My main research now involves working with Brian Mahoney and the Spokane office of the USGS on Pb and Zn contamination along the Coeur d’Alene River in Northern Idaho. This project has kept us very busy. We’re hoping to have two students present at the national GSA on the project. Everything is about the same at home except that my children are both going to be in high-school next year. Matthew will be a sophomore and ostensibly starts to drive next year. Jennifer will be a freshman and is a little scared about going to school with the “big kids”. They both keep Ginger and I busy most of the time. I sure hope some of you stop by and see us either at GSA or when you come to Eau Claire. You’re always welcome.

Recent Publications

J. Brian Mahoney (E-mail: mahonej@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4952)

It is hard to believe that this is the fifth newsletter that I have participated in! The department continues to grow and develop, and I am consistently amazed at the level of energy in the program. I continue to be very active in my research in the Canadian Cordillera, and have been able to incorporate student researchers in all aspects of this research. There is still a tremendous amount to learn about accretionary tectonics, and each field season brings us a series of new challenges! I am also actively involved in heavy metal transport research in the Coeur d’Alene River Valley of Northern Idaho with Bob Hooper, where we are making strides not only in understanding this system, but how to effectively analyze heavy metal contamination by sequential extraction and scanning electron microscopy. I have been lucky enough to work with some very intelligent students over the past few years, and I appreciate the effort it takes to work long hours conducting and publishing research.

Teaching is going very well, and I am spending a significant amount of time incorporating technology into both the classroom and the field. The initiation of field camp was a big event for me, and I was thrilled that it went so smoothly the first time out. My apologies for the many long hours we inflicted on the students!

Spring 1999 will be remembered as a big one for Lori and I. I was granted tenure, effective 1 July 1999, and Lori and I bought a house at the end of May. Who would have thought it? Hope all is well – please stop by and say hello when you are in the area. My best to all.

Recent Publications
Paul Myers, Professor Emeritus (E-mail: myerspe@uwec.edu, home phone: 715/835-3505)

I've researched it - thoroughly: time really DOES accelerate as you grow older! So - it's already time to write another one. That Kent, he's always asking for something. Well, it's been a quiet year in Eau Claire - out here on the Wisconsin Prairie, where all our faculty are good lookin' and all our students are above average. My Department friends keep asking me, "Well, Paul, where are you going next - already?" I keep telling them that I'm writing a book on "Retirement Made Easy," and that I'm taking the research seriously. In April, '98 I accompanied Bob Hooper on field trips in Scotland - just to "help out," you understand. Then, in July I led a "Geosafari" to the Rockies for some friends. The "Big One" came in October-December, when, with a Tennessee lady friend named Welthy Soni, I did a world tour, London-Paris-Bombay-Delhi-Singapore-Hong Kong-Guangzhou-Perth-Sydney-Chrstchurch-Aukland-LA. and a few places in-between. I'd love to show you my "World Trip Photo Album." Why do we do that, anyway? Nobody wants to see someone else's trip photos. For one thing, they're jealous.

The highlight of my year, however, was teaching field geology in New Mexico. Our field headquarters was in a lodge in Kingston, an old mining town - perfect place for a raunchy bunch of "geology-types." Our New Mexico hosts were wonderfully tolerant of our strange schedule and behavior. And the students were super-great! The little ditty (below) that I wrote based on our New Mexico experiences ought to tweek your memory of similar experiences, even get your toe a-tappin'. Go ahead, sing right along.

**CACTUS BLUES**

*(Memories of the New Mexico Mountains)*

*by Paul Myers*

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Look there. Ain't that mountain lovely
Just a-shimmcrin' in the sun?
Aw it's a cinch to climb it.
Grab a beer. Let's have some fun.

Take a look thru this here spy-glass.
What's that funny fuzzy stuff?
Sure looks a lot like high grass!
Can't tell yet. We ain't close enough.

My shoes is fulla prickers'
An' my legs is bleeding' bad.
I wish I'd wore some long pants.
Worst misery I ever had

---

The slope is fulla gullies
And the sun is sinkin' fast
Every godamn plant has thorns,
An' I fear our fate is cast

Charlie, did ya bring a match,
A flashlight or a tent?
God, but I am gettin' cold
Now I know what Johnnie meant.

Sure gettin' tired's standin' 
Can't lie or even sit down.
Got no place to put a hand in. 
Sure wish I'da stayed in town.

---

Hey, Charlie what's that I hear?
A bear or cougar maybe?
Relax ya dunce, it's just a deer,
Or just a sex-starved,wanton lady.

How long is it 'til mornin'?
A couple a hours yet.
Nothin I ain't got a thorn in.
Wont' do this agin, I bet.

---

REFRAIN

Ah got'em in ma levis
An' Ah got 'em in ma shoes.
Stickin' in my knees, and thighs
Lord, Ah got dem cactus blues.

---

Apart from 2-week trips to South America and Hawaii, I haven't done much since January field camp. I did finally clear my junk out of the old office. Although it's now official that I'm really retired, I hope you'll keep in touch! What's that? What happened to ABRA? Call or write me and find out. Rotsa Ruck!  Pablo, the Terrible
Lori Snyder (E-mail: snyderld@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5086)

It's certainly hard to believe that another year has past! I've been keeping busy teaching Physical Geology (Geology 110) and Geology of National Parks (Geology 201). Combined, these courses this year have had an enrollment of 300 students per semester – If this keeps up, I think I may get to see ALL of the students at UW Eau Claire before they graduate. I can't complain too much, though! I really enjoy interacting with such a broad range of students. I have also been involved with two students on their Service Learning Projects in Wisconsin and an Internship Project with a geology major studying abroad in Scotland.

I spent last summer in British Columbia working with scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada and students from UW-Eau Claire. Stephen Sellwood, UWEC undergraduate, conducted investigations on the geology and geochemistry of two granitic batholiths of probable Tertiary age in central British Columbia. His work has resulted in a publication and a professional presentation– Congratulations Stephen! Christina Pint, UWEC undergraduate, worked with myself and Brian Mahoney on structural analysis of Mesozoic rocks in central British Columbia. I spent the last part of the summer in a remote area of northern British Columbia working in some previously unmapped terrain.

Although plans for this summer are currently undecided, I hope to continue working in British Columbia and exposing UWEC students to some great geologic problems.

Recent Publications

Kent Syverson (E-mail: syverskm@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3676)

Greetings to friends and alumni of the Geology Department! I have been at UWEC since fall 1992, so now I am starting to recognize more faces as you return to visit your home department. It is always fun talking to you, and I appreciate e-mail/snail mail news updates as well. I am pleased to see "my" students making their marks in the "real world!"

I have been busy with things at home and school. Nathaniel just turned one year old, and he is a big baby boy. Laura (6 yrs) began kindergarten in fall 1998, so now I walk her to the bus stop every morning before walking/biking to school. Rebecca (4 yrs) is a big talker, so she must have inherited a recessive talking gene from her parents...! Lila has just started to resume a somewhat "normal" life following the birth of Nathaniel. As for travel, not much has been the word! We enjoyed trips to the Syverson family picnic in July (northwestern Minnesota) and the family camping trip to U.P. Michigan in August—our first tent camping with Nathaniel. Our camping trip was an adventure—Nathaniel cried most of the first night, Rebecca came down with a high fever the second night, and the third day Rebecca was vomiting along the shore of Lake Superior. Ah, sweet memories...!

On the school front, I was granted tenure and promoted in July 1998. I continue to teach oceanography, environmental geology, glacial geology, and geomorphology. I spent two months during the summer mapping the glacial geology of western Chippewa County, WI, for the WI Geological and Natural History Survey [WGNHS]. A couple of UWEC geology majors, Katie Thornburg and Heather Spehle, helped me with that project. They presented the results of their research in late April at NC GSA at the University of Illinois. This summer I will spend the second field season (out of three) working in Chippewa County. Eventually this work will result in the publication of a WGNHS Bulletin. Lastly, the final publications from my master's thesis in the Kettle Moraine of southeastern Wisconsin came out (see below).

Probably the stressful activity of the year was co-organizing the Tri-State Geological Field Conference with Karen Havholm. It was a huge relief when the September conference went well and we "passed the reins" for the 1999 conference to the University of Iowa! The Tri-State Conference is described in a separate item in this newsletter.

Hope that you are well! Keep sending us news items and visiting the department!

Recent Publications
John Tinker (E-mail: tinkerjr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

My teaching responsibilities this past year have not changed nor has my enthusiasm for my students and teaching. I do know I am a year older but what the heck. Compared to Olenellus thompsoni (index fossil for the lower Cambrian), one year is not that much. Teaching is still fun and I hope my students learn half of what I do.

Mae Willkom and I presented a poster paper at the 1997 GSA meeting in Salt Lake City on our Crandon Mine research, and Mae presented an oral paper on the same topic at the 1998 Wisconsin Section of AWRA. Mae’s presentation won best student paper award which is quite an honor. Lisa Kraft and I presented a poster paper at the 1998 GSA meeting in Toronto on our research on wellhead protection for private wells in unsewered subdivisions. Lisa answered many questions about our work and our paper was well received. Bill Lazarz and Joshua Miller are finishing the technical work for a wellhead protection plan for the City of Altoona, WI. When completed, our students will have defined the zones of contribution for all cities and villages in Eau Claire County except for the City of Eau Claire which has a private consulting firm working for them.

On a personal note, Christine and I had motorcycle trips to Grand Forks, North Dakota, for a retirement dinner; to Devils Tower in Wyoming; to the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt Park in North Dakota, and to Minneapolis/St Paul and local areas of Wisconsin. The Devils Tower trip included the Black Hills, Nebraska, Iowa, and southern Wisconsin. I again thank Jenna Tobias and her parents for directing me to one dependable and fantastic bike: the Honda Goldwing.

I thank all of our present and former students. Without you, teaching would not be fun. Have a good year and take care of yourself and family.

Ronald Willis, Professor Emeritus (E-mail: willisrp@uwec.edu)

To all the “old” grads… Those who had the good (or bad) fortune to receive the Summer Field Course with me. I’m getting so old now that I have difficulty even remembering what years those were. But I do have the most pleasant memories of those weeks at the Cottonwood Canyon Paleozoic Section and Horseshoe Bend Mesozoic Section, followed by the fabulous Sheep Mountain Structure. You were terrific…no kidding. Thank you, each one, for giving me those rattlesnake summers, with the weekly showers in Lovell…and I understand your preference for the Medicine Wheel Bar while I sat out in the van grading the maps and sections of that week, and planning the next week’s project. Mapping the beautiful structure in the Wind Rivers near South Pass was also a kick and a half…near the U.S. Steel mine…and those summers when we drove over the Beartooth Pass into Yellowstone---stopping to look at the fossil forest---and then into Jackson Hole. Everything becomes even more beautiful in retrospect. Thank you. You were great students… really great! I wish each one of you continued success in your personal and professional lives—and PLEASE, if you get a spare moment now and then, drop me a line and get me up-to-date on where you are and what you are doing. Write to me at 1804 Lehman Street, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, or send me an e-mail. Thanks heaps for the memories…Always, Ron. I don’t carry the “Doc” at all any more…It’s just wonderful to be your peer.

Nancy Amdahl, Program Assistant (E-mail: amdahlnj@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3732)

Another mild winter in Wisconsin—unbelievable! We only had about three good weeks of snowmobiling around here, then after those three weeks we had to head way up north to find trails that were even open. For excitement since last year, my husband and I visited San Diego in November, and then from there we drove to Mesa, Arizona—what an interesting drive! Since I don’t get out a whole lot, it was my first time seeing signs saying “Runaway Truck Route” and “Watch for Falling Rocks,” so that was enough to make for an interesting drive;-)

Anyway, thanks to all of you that have been keeping in touch, and for those that haven’t been…we would sure like to hear from you. Stop in and say “hello” on your next visit to Eau Claire.
THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!
The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below that have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since February 1998.

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During the past year, $2750 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund by a record number of contributors. If UWEC calls you asking for a donation (or if you are looking for a good tax deduction!), please be sure to remember the Geology Advancement Fund! If you work for a geology-related firm, check to see if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments. See coupon below for donating to the Geology Advancement Fund.

As usual, the department is always in dire need for external funding to support activities such as faculty/student field trips, student travel to professional meetings, etc. Therefore, we strongly encourage any support from alumni, whether it be financial, setting up meetings to speak with our geology majors/minors, offering employment to new graduates, or donating equipment. We also extend our appreciation to alumnus, Chad Underwood, who contributed his time and talent this past year by presenting a talk and visiting with our geology students.

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PLEASE HELP US FIND OUR LOST ALUMNI!

We have lost contact with the following geology alumni. If you have any idea where any of the following people might be, please let us know. Thanks!


WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

News from alumni that have been FOUND.

If you would like addresses of these (or other) alumni, please write or e-mail Nancy and she will send them to you.

Lance Bakken (1997). The last we heard from Lance he had accepted a hydrogeologist position with Vierbicher Associates, Inc., a consulting firm in Madison. Initially he was going to be working with another hydrogeologist doing Phase I and II site assessments. lbak@vierbicher.com

Greg Beckstrom (1984). After 14 years in the oil industry and environment consulting, Greg has taken a leap into a new industry. He is working on a new business initiative for an aerospace company called BFGoodrich (Greg says, “No, we’re not in tires nor do we have a blimp.”). This new company is interested in expanding into the energy industry and Greg is involved in leading that activity. Greg seems very happy with his new job opportunity. The Beckstrom family has recently grown—in September 1998 they welcomed the birth of their new son, William Alexander. Greg says that William’s 3½-year-old sister, Anna, has been doing a great job of teaching him the ropes. gregbec@gw.rmtaero.bfg.com

Peter Bement (1995). Pete stopped by to visit us in April. He currently is a drilling specialist offshore in Texas. He has recently visited Brazil and may soon get an opportunity to visit Scotland.

Kirsten Cahow (1997). Kirsten is attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth and hopes to complete her master’s by May 1999. She has been working on a research project in Voyageurs National Park (MN). kcahow@d.umn.edu

Lee Delcore (1997). Lee is currently a Hydrogeologist/Assistant Project Manager at Environmental Innovations, he says, “I’m having a lot of fun and putting all that technical knowledge and the such to good use.” Most of the work that Lee does involves remediation and site assessments in relation to leaky underground storage tank sites, and he has also been involved in some environmental engineering projects as well. Lee also just recently purchased a house in Sturtevant (southeastern Wisconsin). For those of you that remember the little orange truck (the one that the dome light would go on when you’d honk the horn), Lee says, “I had to give up on it.” bismaroon@yahoo.com

Greg Durocher (1982). Greg lives in Anchorage, Alaska. We last heard from Greg in mid-February and at that time he was saying that they were having a real cold winter. He commented, “I DO know that anything above zero feels pretty nice!” gfdurocher@igsdn001.cr.usgs.gov
Kristie Franz (1995). Since last year, Kristie has been transferred from her site operator position at the Terra-Kleen Response Group in Florida to San Diego, CA. She is now planning to return to college to earn her master’s degree. At this point, Kristie is accepted and ready to enroll at the University of Arizona. kfranz@adnc.com

Ken Fredricks (1972). Following graduate school, Ken worked for Mobil for 7.5 years as geophysicist in Dallas, Denver, Libya, and London. From 1981-84, he worked for Sohio in San Francisco as District Geophysicist for North Alaska. From 1984-93, he worked for Conoco as Chief Geophysicist in Egypt and Indonesia. From 1993-97, he worked in Ponca City, OK, and Houston, TX, as Geoscience Technology Transfer Coordinator for Conoco. Since 1997 Greg had been seconded from Conoco to Dubai Petroleum Company as a Senior Geophysical Advisor. Ken and his wife, Eileen, have two daughters, Erin (14) and Danica (8). KEN.J.FREDRICKS@ARE.CONOCO.COM

Heather Golding (1998). After graduation, Heather went directly to the University of New Orleans. In December she started mapping Wingate Wash in Death Valley. Since the study area was so remote, Heather said that they were going to need to rent a pack of horses to transport supplies! Her field work is completed, and she is starting geochemical analyses. goldinhr@mailexcite.com

Chris Goodwin (1995). Chris continues to be happily employed at Ayres Associates in Eau Claire, working primarily with the PECFA program as a hydrogeologist/engineer. Chris’ latest excitement is the change in the number of members in his family. Chris and his wife have a one-year-old son and another addition is expected in early June. goodwinc@ayres-eau.com

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen recently moved to Sheboygan, WI, and has been working with Earth Tech (formerly Rust Environment & Infrastructure) as a geologist. There she has been spending a lot of time investigating an old landfill that has contaminated ten private drinking water wells with TCE. Kristen says, “The landfill is located on top of a moraine, so all of my glacial geology is coming back to haunt me!” Editor’s note—What kind of crack is that?!! She was able to set a 350 foot deep piezometer at the landfill. She admitted that she is lucky that she wasn’t the one that got stuck with the chore of developing it! Kristen was also elected Secretary of the Wisconsin Groundwater Association (WGWA) in fall 1998. Gundy21@aol.com

Doug Hallum (1996). In November 1998, Doug accepted a hydrogeologist position with Stiles Environmental Consultants in Lake Mills, WI.

Dave Hodek (1995). Doug received his master’s degree in Geological Engineering in 1997 from UW-Madison. After a short trip up to the diamond mines near the Arctic Circle in Canada, the mining industry was still depressed, so Dave decided to see what else was out there. In May 1998, Dave decided to change fields and is now working for the Natural Resources Engineering (NRE) Company, a small environmental firm in Duluth, MN, where he is doing hydrogeology and geological engineering work. Because there are only three people involved, Dave says he gets a tremendous amount of responsibility for someone with his limited experience. Dave has been around much of the midwest installing >60 monitoring wells. He is also a site engineer for the largest site with subsurface crude oil in Minnesota. In addition to all of this, Dave has worked for six months on a Minnesota Superfund site doing fracture analysis and helping install monitoring wells at an old radar base, which Dave says “is probably one of the prettiest locations in the country, the Sawtooth mountains along the North Shore of Lake Superior.” The minerals industry may be an option if metal prices increase, but Dave said, “…right now I’m having fun where I am.” nre@cprinternet.com

Mark Holmes (1997). Mark recently defended his master’s thesis at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and graduated in May. Mark also wrote a successful grant proposal to obtain funding for a ground penetrating radar (GPR) system to the College of Science and Engineering at UMD. mholmes1@mailcity.com

Matt Hostak (1989). From 1989 to 1996, Mark worked as a hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin DNR in Eau Claire, Marinette, and Green Bay. After passing the DNR’s engineering exams, Matt transferred to the DNR’s Air Pollution Program in 1996 working as an Environmental Engineer. In August 1997, he transferred to DNR’s Oshkosh office. He recently bought a 130-year-old home, which he is in the process of demolishing/restoring.
Mark Kiessling (1995). Mark completed his master's degree at Idaho State University and recently acquired a Geologist position at Phelps Dodge in Morenci, AZ.

Ric Kopp (1975). Ric is currently a Senior Geologist at Belco Energy Corporation in Denver, CO. He recently has been involved with exploration projects in the Rocky Mountain Region. Rick and his wife, Jacqueline, have three children. Rick Jr. is at Colorado School of Mines in Mechanical Engineering and plays football and baseball at the division II level. Carrie is a senior in high school and plans to enter UWEC in the fall of 1999. Ric visited us in February 1999 when Carrie was in town for orientation. Brenda is a junior in high school and she recently marched in the high school band at the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Dublin, Ireland. RicKopp@compuserve.com

Tim Masterlark (1994). Tim says his past year has been extremely productive, and he has data to back up his claims! Besides the birth of his daughter, Cora, Tim applied for three proposals, all of which were accepted (NASA Fellowship, Van Hise Fellowship, and USGS NEHRP grant). He expects to finish his Ph.D. in December. Tim says, “I’ve assured Trisha (his wife) that I will be finished with school and employed by the next millennium.” He also says, “Graduate school has been a wonderful experience, but all good things must come to an end. Trisha decided to quit her job and stay home full time with Cora. Cora is starting to walk, and Trisha spends most of her time running after her.” master@geology.wisc.edu

Ann Melby Kron (1996). Newlywed Ann just got married in November 1998. When describing how her wedding went she commented, “My husband, Darrin, is over a foot taller than me though, so when the priest said, ‘You may now kiss the bride,’ the best man brought up a stool for me to stand on! So, you can all rest easy knowing that I am still getting teased!” Sarah Weaver and Todd “Pyro” Myse, both UWEC geology alumni, were attendants in Ann’s wedding.

Ann is a Pollution Control Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s Environmental Office. Darrin is in the process of completing his master’s degree in aquatic toxicology from UW-Stevens Point. As part of their honeymoon get-a-way, the two of them visited Norway. Ann commented, “We saw some great glaciers. I highly recommend getting to that part of the world, there’s lots of geology to see there.” This summer, Ann and Darrin are planning a trip to the Appalachians with Pyro, Sarah, and possibly Chad Underwood (UWEC geology alumni) and his wife, Allison. If anyone has any recommendations as to where to visit, Ann would appreciate your advice (via e-mail). ann.kron@dot.state.mn.us

Dave Meyer (1977). Dave continues his 17-year career at Chevron. Presently he is exploring the oil and gas in the deep water Gulf of Mexico. Dave says, “This is a very high-potential, but high-cost venture that has and will continue to yield large major discoveries. The recent world economy downturn and the present oil glut have depressed prices significantly, which has had a major impact on U.S. domestic oil and gas producers. Those companies that can weather the turmoil of 1999 will be well positioned for the new millennium. DMEY@chevron.com

Greg Michael (1996). Greg is a hydrogeologist for the Department of Commerce in Milwaukee, WI. He also continues to be involved with the Petroleum Environmental Clean-up Fund Act (PECFA). Greg informed us that he recently received copies of the published article “Resolving Compositional Variations in Fine-Grained Clastic Sediments: A Comparison of Sr/Nd Isotopic and Mineralogical Sediment Characteristics, Shikoku Basin Philippine Sea,” which was co-authored by Mahoney and Hooper. This article was published in Shales and Mudstones II, 1998, J. Schieber, W. Zimmerle, & P. Sethi (eds). gmichael@commerce.state.wi.us

Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy is the Plant Superintendent at Wisconsin Porcelain Company in Sun Prairie. He has had two promotions in the past six months. Jeremy went from Clay Room Supervisor to Shift Supervisor to Plant Superintendent (which is ALMOST plant manager). Jeremy also said that he is enjoying fatherhood. His daughter, Isabelle, just recently turned one year old. Jeremy says, “She’s great! It’s a lot of fun being a dad.” Shawna, his wife, will finish her degree in December 1999. At that time they hope to move back to the Eau Claire area, assuming that they can find suitable employment. golem_101@hotmail.com
Martin Miller (Visiting Assistant Professor 1994-1997). Martin has been enjoying life (as usual) and teaching at the University of Oregon. However, Martin’s life continues to be full of excitement...Here’s the latest story of Martin’s life (via e-mail received from Martin on 5/18/99): The last couple weeks have been a real pain though—get this, last August some guy was busted for drunken driving and gave them MY NAME! Then in February, 1999, he was re-arrested for 1) driving without a license (my license had been suspended and I never even knew it!), 2) driving uninsured, 3) suspicion of theft, 4) attempting to sell stolen firearms!! Of course, he used my name again! So two weeks ago, when the university wouldn't renew my lost van certification card—because I had no valid driver's license—I found all this stuff out, including the fact that there was actually a warrant out for my arrest. Sure glad I didn't get pulled over for speeding with either the kids in the car or on a field trip! Anyway, it's getting close to being resolved, but I'm pretty sick of the whole thing. Sometimes I wonder if all that really was me and I just put it out of my mind?"

Todd Myse (1996). Todd started toward his master's degree at Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH) in January 1999. Todd is currently living in Fairlee, VT, and this is what he had to say about Vermont, “Boy, it’s just beautiful out here! I can get to a nice, scenic trailhead within about 30 minutes and hike up along a “mountain” stream for a nice 5-6 hour hike leading to panoramic views! Mountain biking trails and kayaking streams are not far away as well. If any of you (alumni or professors) are able to get out to this area, PLEASE look me up and I’ll show you around the area. We could also catch one of the many great bands around the area!” Todd also explained the research work he is doing right now, which involves examining how fluid flows through fractures of different aperture thicknesses. Todd explains, “The aperture thickness of a rock is dependent (or at least I hope so) on the grain size of the rock. I hope to eventually make a correlation between the grain sizes of particular rocks (e.g., slates, granites, dolomites) and predict the preferential flow through these rocks based on the fractures they form. Unfortunately, this research does not have a lot of fieldwork, so I’m stuck in a lab most of the time.” Todd says one of the things he really misses about Eau Claire is The Joynt.  

David Noto (1994). David has been working in the Calculations Department at a Minnesota life insurance company for the past three years.

Jamie Oakley (1995). Immediately after graduation from UWEC, Jamie spent three months working for the National Park Service in Alaska as a Biotechnician. Then he spent two years with ATC Associates in Madison, Chicago, and most recently Seattle, working as a staff hydrogeologist on a wide variety of consulting issues. Jamie recently began working for a company called GeoEngineers out of Tacoma, WA. Jamie says that his experience mostly relates to soil and groundwater petroleum contamination, however, he has spent a great deal of time working on ESA’s and geotechnical soil investigations. Since Jamie has been working at GeoEngineers, he says his work has expanded to include a great deal more geotechnical problems, such as landslides, seismic activity, and groundwater retention/preservation that are more of an issue in the northwest. He is also part of their environmental team, which is currently working on former manufactured gas plants and PCE-contaminated sites. A new resource that GeoEngineers is researching is the upcoming listing of the Chinook salmon to the Endangered Species List. Jamie states, “We will hopefully become a part of the efforts to improve habitat and water quality for the salmon and trout throughout the Pacific Northwest.” joakley@geoengineers.com

Curt Peck (1977). When we heard from Curt in mid-February, this is what he had to share: “In August 1998, I accepted a job offer from Chevron Chemical Company to become an Environmental Project Engineer with oversight responsibility for the environment assessment and remediation activities at two former agricultural chemical formulation plants—one in Iowa and one in France. The Iowa facility has a rinsate pond that contains calcium phosphate solids. Field pilot testing of the solids indicates that it could be applied to the local farmers’ fields as a phosphorus supplement for corn and soy beans, providing about 5-year supply of P2O5 to the soil. This is a good example of recycling and reuse of material that would normally be placed in a landfill. The site in France is in the early stages of site assessment under the direction of the local environmental agency. The challenges of working with the current plant operator, the local agency and international consultants keeps this a high-maintenance project.”

Laura, his wife, is a co-director of Family Life Ministries at their church. Ellen (16) enjoys sports activities, and Whitney (13) enjoys drama and singing activities.

CPEC@chevron.com
Steve Peterson (1997). Steve is currently attending graduate school and TAing at Northern Illinois University. He is anticipating to graduate this August with an MS in Geology. Editor’s note—I saw Steve present the results of his MS research at the North-Central GSA meeting in Champaign-Urbana—fine job, Steve! Steve said that he and his family are all doing well. Their son, Alex, is now 2½ years old, and Steve says, “Looks like he’ll be a smart one—he can already count to 15!!! (How’s that for a proud dad?)” stevep@rochelle.net

Heidi Rantala (1997). Heidi is currently attending graduate school and TAing at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Last summer Heidi spent six weeks working in Alaska. She was hired as a Research Assistant by Anne Hershey, a biology professor. Her main responsibility was collecting insects in streams and lakes and sampling fish in the lakes. Heidi cored nine lakes for her research. She is hoping to use the cores to determine when the fish (lake trout or char) became landlocked in the lakes. At this point, Heidi has been using the cores she collected to determine the paleolimnology of one of the lakes. She said the lake is unique because it has land-locked glacial populations of arctic char and slimy sculpin. The lake has changed outlets in its history and the current outlet has a much steeper gradient than the previous outlet. She said, “Now these fish could NEVER get into the lake from the streams!” She has been using fossil chironomids, grain-size analyses, visual descriptions and mineralogy to determine why this act of “stream piracy” occurred, making this lake inaccessible to fish. Heidi comments, “It doesn’t look like I’ll be heading back to Alaska, but things may change. I have my fingers crossed.” hrantala@d.umn.edu

David Risch (1978). Dave is a Senior Geoscientist at BHP Petroleum in Houston, TX. risch.david.dl@bhp.com.au

Don Schleicher (1985). Don continues his work as the Manager of the Television Services and Distance Education Technologies Division at the UWEC Media Development Center. Dr. Lung Chan, former UWEC geology professor, and his family visited the Schleicher family this past summer. Don said that has been the most excitement they’ve had all year. schleidd@uwec.edu

Mary Schultz (1976). Mary received her master’s degree from Iowa State University and is now an elementary school counselor. Mary lives in Steven Point (Plover) with her husband and three children, Ryan (17), Megan (14), and Daniel (8). This past year Mary received the Kohl Fellowship Award for Excellence in the Education Field. She was selected along with 79 other educators in the state. Mary comments, “This was really a thrill for me.” Keep up the good work, Mary!

Michael Squire (1992). After graduation, Mike worked on environmental geology assessments for a few years in Green Bay. He is now an electrical apprentice in western Wisconsin and living in Menomonie.

Amy Jo Steffen (1998). After graduation, Amy Jo spent the summer in Greece. There she did soil and geomorphology work for an archeological survey to prepare for her master’s research project. She seemed to enjoy her stay in Greece, but when she returned she said, “I am happy to be back where I can speak English to anyone and I can flush toilet paper down the toilet.” Currently Amy is in the Geology Dept. at Vanderbilt University and is TAing geology classes. aj_is_smashing@yahoo.com

Sarah Stratton (1996). Sarah is one of our non-geology major friends, but she was enrolled in several geology courses and she also had an environmental science minor. After graduation from UWEC, Sarah went to Iowa State University to receive her master’s degree in Water Resources specializing in GIS applications. Sarah is now a Water Resources Scientist with Barr Engineering in Minneapolis, MN. sstratton@barr.com

Jenna Tobias (1996). Jenna recently moved to Oshkosh, WI, after she accepted a full-time position with the DNR in the NE Region in the Remediation & Redevelopment Bureau in the Oshkosh Service Center. This position is more diverse than past jobs. She expects to work with spill response, new brownfields sites, as well as LUST/LAST and spills remediation sites. Jenna was very enthusiastic about her new job in the last message we received. She states, “The job is fantastic. It’s personally rewarding and I’m protecting/remediating the environment all in one full swoop.” Jenna is also heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity in Oshkosh. She says she spends every Saturday helping to build houses. She is also on the family selection committee and on the board of directors for the Habitat for Humanity in Oshkosh. TobiaJ@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us
Chad Underwood (1996). Chad recently accepted a hydrogeologist position with Montgomery Watson in Madison. Currently he is pursuing a M.S. in Geological Engineering at UW-Madison, and he hopes to finish soon. For the past couple of years Chad has been working on fractures in the dolomite aquifer of Door County, WI. He has presented at the Society of Sedimentary Geology Research Conference in Door County, and at the AGU fall meeting in San Francisco. He spent last summer in New Orleans working for Shell Offshore doing fault trap analyses on oil and gas reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. chad@geology.wisc.edu

Kristin Weaver (1996). Kristin is completing her master’s degree at the University of Southern California. She is currently writing a paper and her thesis (The Geomorphology and Paleoearthquake of the Raymond Fault, Los Angeles County, California) which she plans to finish by this May. Kristin recently helped the California Science Center create a program aimed at showing middle and high school students what geologists and geophysicists do to study faults and earthquakes. For this project she designed a life-sized geologic cross section/trench wall across a fictional active fault, which included examples of multiple earthquake ruptures, differentstratigraphic and structural relationships and other educational examples of Quaternary geology on an active margin. Kristin states, “This was fun and rewarding for me, and I hope to do more outreach and educational projects in the future.” After graduation, Kristin will be an intern with Exxon Exploration Company in Houston. weaverkd@earth.usc.edu.

Sarah Weaver (1996). After a year at Hamline Law School in St. Paul, MN, Sarah decided she wanted a bigger selection of environmental law classes and that she was tired of the “city life.” Sarah states, “So, I decided to go for the other extreme and transferred to Vermont Law School (VLS) in South Royalton, VT. VLS has several environmental law classes, and Sarah says, “South Royalton is by no means a city – we’re talking a post office, a bank, and a bar.” However, she is enjoying Vermont. The last we heard from Sarah she was anxiously awaiting Ann Melby’s visit in April, and a camping trip along the Appalachian Trail this summer. weaversj@juno.com
Alumni Questionnaire

Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Address (If different than the mailing label we used.)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address? ____________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone ____________________________

Year of Graduation from UWEC ____________________________

Major(s) ____________________________

Present job/title ____________________________

Advanced Degrees? ____________________________

News for next department newsletter (NOTE: If you send us news and then something major in your life/job changes by next March, feel free to get in touch with us so we can update your news item. Our newsletter goes out every May.)
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Send to:
Department of Geology
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

OR
Phone: (715) 836-3732

OR
Fax: (715) 836-5627

OR
E-mail: SYVERSKM@uwec.edu or AMDAHLNJ@uwec.edu
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