Letter from the Chair:

I hope the new millennium finds all of our geology alumni and friends in good health. The department continues to move along. We just recently wrapped up our two-year search for a petrologist. The department is proud to welcome Dr. Phillip Hunger (see more information about Dr. Hunger in the next section). Therefore, by next fall we will have eight full-time faculty and staff in the program. While the department is somewhat larger than you may remember, we’re still a small department at heart. In addition to our new hire, the other big news this year is that the Phillips Hall is being remodeled. All of the same science departments are occupying half the space. To say things are cramped would be an understatement. The remodeling should take about two and a half years. They promise the end results will make it worth the pain. When finished we should end up with high-quality electronic lecture halls, a new research lab and much improved facilities for rock grinding and thin-section preparation. The lower-division labs (P-201 and P-203) also should be more user-friendly.

Faculty-student collaborative research continues to be a prominent activity in the program. We had a number of students present their findings at the National GSA in Denver and also took a van of students. When combined with the strong show of alumni, UWEC was very well represented. We had a reunion of sorts at one of the local restaurants and occupied an outdoor patio (temps in the 60’s). We had a good time and it was nice to see old friends. Let’s do it again next year in Reno! Our students also are presenting at North-Central GSA, AWRA, and other professional forums.

Department equipment continues to improve. We have a new hydrogeology/geophysics computer laboratory, and consequently, the geology students probably have some of the best computer access on campus. With better computers comes the expectation that the students will be able to work on more complex problems. In addition, Brad Burton was able to secure two high-end seismic processing computers for teaching and research and the associated software was donated by GeoGraphix, a Landmark Company.

Please stop by the department whenever you’re passing through. We love to talk to the alumni and friends.

Sincerely,

Bob
**DEPARTMENT NEWS**

**Department Welcomes New Petrologist**

The Department of Geology is very excited about the new hire of Dr. Phillip D. Ihinger, a petrologist that will be joining us this August. Dr. Ihinger has been an assistant professor at Yale University. Although he has lived in Connecticut for several years and all of his degrees were obtained while living in California (bachelor’s degree at Pomona College, master’s and Ph.D. at Caltech), Dr. Ihinger seems quite excited about moving to the Midwest. In fact, Dr. Ihinger grew up in Minnesota and still has immediate family living in Minneapolis. Dr. Ihinger has had extensive experience teaching introductory courses in mineralogy, petrology, optical petrography, thermodynamics (geochemistry), and global change. His research expertise lies primarily with the fields of igneous and metamorphic petrology, and experimental and analytical geochemistry. Dr. Ihinger is known for his extensive theoretical and laboratory work on hotspot evolution. He says his research is motivated by traveling to field areas and sampling the rocks in their tectonic context, which has included extensive field trips to Hawaii, the Massif Central, the Philippines, South Africa, and Namibia. Dr. Ihinger will mainly be teaching Mineralogy/Petrology II, Earth Resources, and introductory-level courses as needed by the department (probably Physical Geology). Dr. Ihinger’s wife, Dr. Patricia Turner, also will be joining us at UWEC in the History Department. Her specialty is French history. Please join us in welcoming Drs. Ihinger and Turner to UWEC!

**Rocky Mountain Field Studies - Summer 1999**

*by Robert Hooper, Instructor*

This past year Rocky Mountain Field Studies was a resounding success. Lori Snyder agreed to serve as a volunteer teaching assistant for the course and she contributed greatly to the experience. Twenty-four students and the two faculty made for full vans, but that’s what it takes to pay for the travel costs. We visited the same haunts (Yellowstone, Teton, Bighorns and Black Hills) and had reasonable weather. Yes, it rained and/or snowed almost every day… but… we had acceptable weather on the long hikes and great weather on the day we went to the “Top of the Tetons.” It may have been a mild winter in the midwest, but it wasn’t mild in the northwest. Dunraven Pass (between Tower Junction and Canyon Village-YNP) was closed all of June because of avalanche danger. That meant we couldn’t stay in the northeastern part of Yellowstone without traveling several hours every day to get to the field sites. Instead we stayed in the Mammoth area and had a great time. We saw much snow, but most of the rocks were pretty well exposed. We continue to make yearly pilgrimages to the hospital in Jackson, but this time it was Lori (and not I) who needed the surgery! Knowing that Geol 303 was in town, the hospital staff kept one of the operating tables open! This year, Lori embedded a rock chip in her thumbnail, which is much worse than it sounds. Overall, the trip continues to be a huge success. Students quickly realize that geology is a wonderful and exciting field of study or else quickly figure that geology is best left to individuals who love standing around a fire to thaw body parts and dry boots after spending hours on a near-vertical death march! Throw in a few cacti and Geol 303 would be a perfect primer for field camp in New Mexico!

**Spring Break Trip 2000 – Costa Rica**

*by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor*

Mahoney and Snyder led eight students, one alumnus (Dale Kern), and a U.S. Geological Survey scientist (Ralph Haugerud) on a 10-day trip across the Central American volcanic arc in Costa Rica for Geology 343 this spring. Costa Rica is a spectacular place, with active volcanoes, hot springs, ongoing tectonic uplift, an amazingly diverse biosphere (.001% of the world’s land area contains 5% of its biodiversity) and a wonderful culture all combining to create the perfect place to tour an active volcanic arc system. Geology, biology and Costa Rican culture all combined into a tremendous experience. We started in the high volcanic systems of the main Costa Rican arc, visiting Vulcan Irazu, Poas, and Arenal. A day was spent hiking around fresh lava flows, listening to the rumbles of Vulcan Arenal, the most active volcano in the western hemisphere. Hiking in the Monteverde Cloud Forest, a thick rainforest on the western flanks of the arc, exposed us to the biodiversity of the region. We traversed across the forearc basin to the southwestern tip of the Nicoya Peninsula where we stayed at the San Miguel Biological Station. Three days were spent examining deformed forearc sediments, investigating active methane vents offshore, snorkeling on rocky reefs, and watching enormous manta rays leap out of the ocean. The trip back to San Jose took us back through thick successions of forearc sediments and impressed us with the amazingly steep topography that has developed on the arc system. Our accommodations were excellent, and our only disappointment was having to leave so soon! The trip was tremendous, and was a great experience for all. Pura Vida!
New Mexico Field Camp – Winterim/Spring 2000  
by Bradford Burton, Instructor

Last January saw the second offering of our new high-tech field camp in the mountains of New Mexico. Following on the success of the previous year, we only made minor changes to the delivery of the course. With Bob Hooper as the assisting instructor, we found some rocks that "weren't there last year" or at least had escaped notice. Bob's keen eyes for petrology helped improve the projects, and his enthusiasm for habanjero pepper sauce helped improve the dinner fare. The major change to this year's offering was to include a final project in a complex plutonic-volcanic-sedimentary terrane on the western flank of the beautiful, but rugged Organ Mountains, complete with a contact-metamorphic halo and a skarn mineralized zone. We also found that Cholla, Ocotilla Fishhook Cactus, and Lechugilla grow in abundance on the western flank of the range—most of the 16 students developed fond memories, affection, and terms of endearment now set aside only for those mapping experiences!

Geology Club News  
by Melissa Klinger (klingemm@uwec.edu), Student President

The end is near, but not for the Geology Club. This year's elected officers are President Melissa Klinger, Vice President Carrie Rowe, Treasurer Josh Kohn, and Secretary Sara Gordee. We have been quite active this year.

The Geology Club presented a poster at UWEC Career Day in October containing general information about the major and some of the field trips/classes in which we participate. We had a bake sale in November to raise money, and it was quite profitable. We also sold UWEC Geology T-shirts for the first time in many years. A ski trip in January was planned at Indianhead, MI, but fell through because the majority of the students were at field camp in New Mexico. A trip will be rescheduled for next December. The Geology Club has adopted the area behind Phillips Hall to keep our part of campus clean and beautiful. The Geology Club also participated in the campus Earth Day Fair on April 18th and at the annual American Materials Earth Day celebration on April 29th. In closing, we would like to say congratulations to all the parting seniors and thanks for all the participation in the Geology Club! Good luck!

Wenell and Willkom presented Geology Excellence Awards

The Department has instituted a Geology Excellence Award to recognize the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 1998-99 winners of the Geology Excellence Award were Beth Wenell and Mae Willkom. Beth and Mae had their names inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed in the department and also were presented plaques for them to keep. This award encourages student excellence and fosters a greater sense of tradition within the department. The plaques were purchased using donations to the Geology Advancement Fund.

Beth is now a Program Assistant at the Center for Management Education (Graduate Department) at North Park University. Mae works part-time at the DNR here in Eau Claire as a hydrogeologist, and this semester she is also enrolled in a graduate-level independent project with Dr. Tinker. Congratulations, Beth & Mae!

Former winners of the Geology Excellence Awards include:
1997-98: Thomas Danielson and Michelle Haskin
1996-97: Sarah Weaver and Mark Holmes
1995-96: Kristin Weaver and Chad Underwood

Undergraduate Receives “Geologist-in-the-Park” GSA Internship

Stephanie Larsen, a senior Geology major with the Environmental Science emphasis, has received one of the ten GSA “Geologist-in-the-Park” internships. This GSA sponsored program places students at different national parks. Steph has been placed at Oregon Caves National Monument in southwestern Oregon. She will be working mostly in Resource Management, but she will also be conducting nature walks, public presentations, etc. Steph has also been informed that they may give her the opportunity to do some research for them because they have over 200 thin sections that haven’t been examined. Stephanie joked, "I might actually use Min/Pet III!"
Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects,

Spring 2000 Student Research Day

The Eighth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 17-18 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!


Lauren Buchholz and Sarah Tietz, along with Bradford Burton, “Computer GIS-based Geologic Map of the Harrison Pass and Franklin Lake 7.5 Minute Quadrangles, Nevada.”

Justin Humenik, along with Bradford Burton, “Computer-Based Mapping Geochemical Data for Mineral Deposit Exploration, Northern Mongolia.”

Joc Hyzer, along with Kent Syverson, “Glacial Geology of the Huron and Colburn 7.5’ Quadrangles, East-Central Chippewa County.” Also presented at the 2000 North-Central Section Geological Society of American Annual Meeting, held in Indianapolis, IN.

April D. Johnson, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Testing Large Scale Terrane Translation: Geochemical Provenance Analysis of the Cretaceous Jackass Mountain Group, Methow Terrane, southern British Columbia.”

Melissa Klinger, along with J. Brian Mahoney and David L. Kimbrough (San Diego State University), “Geochemical Provenance Analysis of Conglomerate Clasts from Valle Group Cretaceous Forearc Basin Strata, Baja California.”

Joshua D. Kohn and Karl Beaster, along with Karen Havholm, “Wind or Water? Paleoenvironment of the Proterozoic Hinckley Sandstone, Northeastern Minnesota.” Received first place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category. Also presented at the 46th Annual Institute on Lake Superior Geology meeting, held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, in May 2000, and also received first place at their poster session.

Bjorn Lysne, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Provenance of the Rosario Formation and Late Cretaceous Basin Evolution in San Diego, CA.”

Tyler W. Mace and Tim R. Cummings, along with Kent Syverson, “Computer Database to Analyze Glacial Till Samples in Western Wisconsin.” Also presented at the 2000 North-Central Section Geological Society of American Annual Meeting, held in Indianapolis, IN.


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

Carrie Rowe and Jean Morrison, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Robert Hooper, “Heavy Metal Partitioning and Transport in the Coeur d'Alene River Valley, Coeur d’ Alene Idaho.” Also presented at the 1999 National Council on Undergraduate Research Meeting, held in Washington, DC.

Jared Schmidt and Sarah Tietz, along with Bradford Burton, “Structural Analysis of the Vinegar Fault Zone, North-Central Washington.”

Michael Schmidt, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Comparative Geochemistry of the Spences Bridge Group and Coeval Volcanic Rocks: Potential Constraints on Large-Scale Translation.”

Michael J. Schmidt and Isaac J. Vandergon, along with Lori Snyder and J. Brian Mahoney, “Structural and Geochemical Characterization of Tertiary Mafic Dikes in the Coast Belt and Western Bowser Basin, Nass River Area, British Columbia.”

Katie Thornburg, along with Robert L. Hooper and Kent M. Syverson, “Clay Mineralogy of Pre-Late Wisconsinan Till, Western Wisconsin.” Also presented at the 2000 North-Central Section Geological Society of American Annual Meeting, held in Indianapolis, IN.

Sarah Tietz and Jared Schmidt, along with Bradford Burton, “Structural and tectonic history of the Passyten Fault Zone, Northcentral Washington.

1 Students who presented posters at professional conferences are also indicated. Student travel to regional and national conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund.
Bradford Burton (E-mail: burtonbr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4982)

Last spring began with the Penrose Conference in Washington State, where I presented the first new results from apatite fission track studies in the Okanogan Range Batholith. The conference was followed by a busy summer including field programs in Washington, Montana, and Idaho with students. In the fall, Harry Jol (Geography) and I landed a new corporate partnership with GeoGraphix which provided a $200,000 computer hardware/software package for seismic data interpretation and subsurface mapping. UWEC is the only mid-western university to offer undergraduate instruction in this technology, which is state-of-the-art in the petroleum industry. Other work continued on the Washington project this year, with Jared Schmidt and Sarah Tietz completing two separate projects on the kinematics of the Pasayten Fault Zone and the uplift history of the Okanogan Range. Sarah also kept busy with Lauren Bucholz compiling two 7.5° Quadrangle maps in ArcView for publication with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. With USGS support for a new project in Nevada, I will be leaving in a few days to begin mapping Tertiary volcanics in the Carlin-Piñon Range with two other students.

Karen Havholm (E-mail: havholkg@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-2945)

This has been an exciting year for the Havholm-Reynolds family! After moving Merilie into her newly remodeled room the day before, we departed Wisconsin in early August en route to Europe and the Wisconsin-in-Scotland program. The first stop was Iceland, where we saw the original geysir (named “Geysir”), walked in the rift, basked in geothermal pools, and touched a glacier. We learned a few days later that while we were at the glacier a volcano had just become active under it. For better or worse we missed the potential outburst flood (jökulhlaup) but saw evidence of past such events. What an incredible landscape! But what an incredibly expensive country—everything seemed to be about three times as expensive as we were used to.

From there we took our belongings to Dalkeith, near Edinburgh, picked up the car we had bought and set off to tour Wales. Then we went across the channel to France for a couple of days before heading up via Liverpool and the Beatles Museum back to what was to be our home for the next few months. The W.I.S. program was a wonderful experience. We had a good group of students and colleagues from the five participating UW institutions. I got to teach introductory geology following the footsteps of James Hutton, and teaching Earth Resources gave me the excuse to visit all sorts of power plants, factories, mines, quarries, and landfills. Although challenging to learn a lot in such a short period of time, it was also fascinating. Merilie attended a Scottish public school and found a great ice rink and world class figure skating coaches. Glenn, as usual, kept us organized, as well as telecommuting part-time to his office in Wisconsin. We made many day-trips to Edinburgh and surrounding regions, and some weekend trips to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The 2-week break in October found us in Cyprus where we floated in the Mediterranean, ate and drank way too much, and visited with high school friends, some of whom I had not seen since 1972! After the program was over in December we spent a week in London, a week in Tunisia, and a week back in the Scottish Highlands, where we saw in the Millennium by joining in a half-mile long “Strip the Willow,” a Scottish country dance.

Now we are all trying to readjust to the pace of life here. Merilie is learning her way around Memorial High School, Glenn is catching up at work, and Spring Semester is already racing by. Seniors Josh Kohn and Karl Beaster have been analyzing the data they collected on the Proterozoic Hinckley Sandstone to try to refine our understanding of its environment of deposition. They presented their results at this year’s Institute of Lake Superior Geology and won a best poster award. Elementary Education major and science minor Karen Anthony is working on putting together a teacher resource on building stone of Eau Claire. She spent a lot of time last summer researching the histories of various buildings in town constructed with building stone. She plans to present her results at the Northwestern Wisconsin Education Association conference in October.

I traveled some this spring for the speakers program of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (Idaho) and as a facilitator for a workshop on teaching geoscience to pre-service teachers (California). I have to say I have not been anxious to travel anywhere. We had a great time in Europe but “there’s no place like home!”
Bob Hooper (E-mail: hooperrl@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4932)

This past year has been very busy. I taught Rocky Mountain Field Studies and spent the rest of the summer on the Coeur d’Alene research project working with students to constrain the particulate speciation of Pb and Zn in mine tailings dumped in the Coeur d’Alene fluvial system. Every time we think we have it figured out we find some new phase or relationship that makes the system more complex. Two students gave papers on the project at the national GSA in Denver, CO, and they did a splendid job.

This past fall I filled in for the petrologist we didn’t hire last year. Someone had to teach the courses that were on the books so I ended up teaching double duty. Let’s just say it kept me out of trouble. I’m still offering (requiring) two extended field trips into the Mineralogy/Petrology course, one to the UP and the other to the Black Hills. This year the weather was almost ideal for both trips. The sun was shining on the rocks even though the temperatures were not what I would describe as moderate. Indeed, one night the five-gallon water jugs froze solid despite my best effort to hide them from the cold by storing them inside the van. Imagine what happened to the beverages in the trailer (oops!).

Over the winter break I helped Brad Burton teach field camp in New Mexico. I know I learned a lot from the experience. Not much has changed on the home front. Matthew is now 16 years old and just obtained a license to drive! Jennifer is a freshman in high school and Ginger is still with the Wisconsin DNR. I hope this newsletter finds all well at your house. Cheers!

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

This has been a hectic, yet rewarding year, to say the least. The highlight of the year was organizing a highly successful Penrose Conference on large-scale terrane translation along the Cordilleran margin. The Penrose Conference is the most prestigious conference held in the geological sciences, and is designed as an invitation-only symposium to discuss an outstanding problem in the earth sciences. I have been deeply involved in a multidisciplinary investigation of terrane translation in British Columbia for several years, and organization of this conference was an outgrowth of that research. Over 70 scientists from five countries assembled in the eastern Cascades of Washington for a five-day conference that explored all aspects of the controversy. The meeting was a great success, and faculty (JBM, Brad Burton), student (Mike Schmidt) and alumni (Michelle Haskin (SFU), Tom Danielson (UBC), Mark Kiessling (ISU)) research from the Department of Geology was featured.

The University awarded me tenure this year, so I guess I must be doing something right. My research continues in Cordilleran (British Columbia and Baja Mexico) sedimentation and tectonics, and I am in the write-up stage of my terrane translation investigation. Bob Hooper and I continue to actively explore heavy metal contamination in the Coeur d’Alene district of northern Idaho, and are seeking an ICP-MS system to help with those analyses. I am also working with students on geochemical characterization of glacial and non-glacial sediments in the Puget Lowland, as part of a major Seattle Mapping Project initiative. Needless to say, teaching and research are keeping me rather busy. I am looking forward to this summer, when I will be in the Pacific Northwest writing up the results of our research with several colleagues. In all this bustle, Lori and I managed to buy an 1886 house in the Third Ward, which we thoroughly enjoy. Hope all is well with everyone.

Selected Publications:


Pint, C.D., Anderson, R.G., and Mahoney, J.B., 2000, Stratigraphy and structures within the Lower to Middle Jurassic Hazelton Group, Takysie Lake and Marilla map areas, central British Columbia; in Current Research, Part A; Geological Survey of Canada, Paper 00-1A.

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

Travel and adventure dominated my schedule in 1999, beginning with Geology Field camp in the Caballos Mountains, N.M. in collaboration with Brian Mahoney and Brad Burton. It was great to be back with students in a fabulous field setting. On a February tour of Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, and Chile, I boated into the spray of Iguasu Falls on the Paraná River on the Brazil-Argentina border. The falls cascade into a deep rift cutting basaltic lava flows. With my Tennessee lady friend, Welthy Soni, I ventured in March to Maui and Kauai, Hawaii, hiking Haleakala caldera, helicoptering Maui’s rainforest and coastline, searching for whales aboard a fast sailboat, and snorkeling the dying reefs. In late April, a German friend and I hiked the Grand Canyon, Zion, Canyon de Chelly, and other beautiful...
places. I spent the summer helping teach Field Geology in Montana and fixing houses in Eau Claire and Tennessee. Then, in September and October, I visited friends in Japan, and on a 2-week rail pass, toured the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido. I spent the Christmas holidays in snowy Vermont with Welthy's family. It'd be hard-pressed to duplicate last year's activity level. Now that I'm fully retired from the Geology Department, I will have more time to spend with you, so call, write, e-mail, or just drop by my place at 1620 Babcock Street in Eau Claire.

Lori Snyder (E-mail: snyderld@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5086)

Yet another year has past in the Department of Geology and life certainly doesn't seem to slow down. I'm still keeping busy teaching high-enrollment sections of Geology 110 (Physical Geology) and Geology 201 (Geology of National Parks), mainly to non-geology types. I like to think that some of these reluctant students find a secret affection for geology that they never realized they had! The highlight of my teaching year was a Freshman Year Experience section of Geology 106 (Earth Science for Education Majors). There were 12 freshman education students in the course and we all had a terrific experience. The small size and intense interaction made for a very close classroom community and an intellectually stimulating learning environment.

I participated in Geology 303 (Rocky Mountain Field Studies) taught by Bob Hooper at the beginning of last summer. Although the weather was a bit chilly and sometimes wet, the course was very successful and enjoyable. The rest of the summer was spent in west-central British Columbia working in some previously unmapped terrain and, with student Mike Schmidt, investigating Tertiary mafic dikes that are abundant in the area. Mike's project focused on the structure and geochemistry of these dikes. This summer, I think I'm going to spend more time in Eau Claire. Brian and I bought a house and I'm looking forward to doing some landscaping and interior decorating.

Recent Publications:

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

Year #8 has flown by in Eau Claire, Wisconsin! Nathaniel (2 yrs), Rebecca (4.5 yrs), and Laura (7 yrs, 1st grade) are growing and healthy. Lila continues to be busy with kids and church activities. Our "big" family trip this year followed the Laura Ingalls Wilder trail to Pepin, WI, Walnut Grove, MN, and DeSmet, SD. We read the entire "Little House" book series to the girls prior to the trip, so it was a vacation that both kids and parents enjoyed (unlike our previous trip to U.P., Michigan...)! We waded in Plum Creek (no leech encounters, for those of you who are "Little House" insiders!), visited a sod house on a native tall-grass prairie, rode in a covered wagon at the Ingalls' homestead in DeSmet, and had some adventures with prairie winds while tent camping.

I presented a lecture at my undergraduate geology department (Univ. Minnesota-Duluth) in December, and by some strange coincidence my talk coincided with the UMD-North Dakota hockey series...! Lila and I attended one of the hockey games--my first UMD game since Feb. 1993 (how times change...)! I also had the opportunity to lead a western Wisconsin glacial geology fall field trip for my former Ph.D. advisor, Dr. David Mickelson, and his Madison graduate students. For a couple of days I felt like I was back in graduate school!

I continue to enjoy teaching oceanography, geomorphology, and environmental geology in the department.
Oceanography remains an inspirational class for some students--one oceanography student during fall semester dyed his hair blue because he was enjoying class so much (seriously!). Last spring Katie Thornburg and Heather Spehle presented the results of glacial geology research at North-Central GSA in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. I completed the second summer mapping the glacial geology of Chippewa County, WI, for the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey [WGNHS]. One day a TV crew came to the drilling site, and we made the 10 p.m. and morning news! Much progress was made last summer, and I am preparing for my last summer field season in Chippewa County. This spring three students presented research results at North-Central GSA in Indianapolis (Katie Thornburg on clay mineralogy, Tyler Mace on a till database, and Joel Hyzer on the glacial geology of eastern Chippewa County).

I will be on sabbatical during fall semester 2000 to write a manuscript summarizing the results of my Chippewa County research for publication as a WGNHS Bulletin. In addition, I hope to visit Montreal to present a paper and visit Maine to build research connections with the Maine Geological Survey.

Please keep news items coming, and please visit us when you are in the area!
John Tinker (E-mail: tinkerjr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

I want to say a warm hello to all alumni and former faculty. I hope your work is enjoyable, your family is in good health, and you are taking time to enjoy life. Please keep in touch. It is good to hear about your new jobs, progress at graduate school, and your other activities.

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

Hey, all you old guys and gals. There’s no denying you’re getting up there in years…and how do you suppose that makes me feel???: When you get my age, you’ll be pretty darned happy to just make the rocking chair go back and forth. But Thorie and I did manage to take a trip out west through Nevada (my old stomping ground when I was mapping the Basin and Range for Richfield Oil) and it felt great to see that geology again. Lots of terrific memories. I recalled the time another Richfield geologist and I staked a barite claim on a deposit we found just east of Eureka. We did the required development using pick and shovel during our time off, and later found out that barite was worth a very few dollars per ton DELIVERED IN LOS ANGELES…so much for the fortune of young geologist. Needless to say---but I’ll say it anyway---we discontinued the pick and shovel work. Anyway, to get back to the main narrative, after driving through central Nevada, we enjoyed the beauty of Lake Tahoe and then turned south through the hills of California through vineyards, etc., which was beautiful. Finally reaching the Big Sur region of the coast south of Monterey…then back through Yosemite (where I picked up a beautiful gray granite specimen that now occupies a prominent spot in our backyard). After an overnight in Tonopah we stopped to examine an outcrop of volcanic rock and pick up a hand specimen and urinate in the nearest gully---and lo and behold there, just a few feet away, was a lovely (although broken) chert arrow point…so it was a productive trip. Just like the old days of field mapping around Cottonwood Canyon and Sheep Mountain in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Oh, the memories! Hey—I’m thinking of you, and wishing each and every one a most happy and productive time during the next 1000 years. Warmest regards, Ron.

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

As always, my travel adventures are totally lame compared to these other (ha-hum) BUMS! Oh well, I always figure someone has to stay here to hold the fort down, right?!? Yeah, whatever. Unfortunately, I don’t remember even getting out of Wisconsin this year, except to go shopping in the Cities (MN). I’m working on it though! Every week I’m checking out those Preview Travel airline specials…I just need to decide where I want to go. My husband and I are a tad bit tied up lately, because we are “attempting” to build a 4-unit townhouse this spring. We hired a contractor to build one for us a few years ago and he made it look so simple, and we thought, “Heck, we can do this!” Wow—it sure is a lot of work! Other than being totally freaked that we have people moving in within a few weeks, and we have tons of things missing (oh, like door knobs, carpet, running water, etc.), life is good. In fact, we almost got in a full four weeks of snowmobiling this winter (ha!)—hey, that’s one more week than last winter. Unreal!

Well, thanks to all of you that have been doing such a great job with keeping in touch with us--keep it up! Please stop by and visit us on your next trip to or through Eau Claire. Take care!

NEEDED: Your Help!

Students often come to us stating that they are interested in majoring in geology, BUT they do not know what types of jobs they will get once they graduate and sometimes they are afraid that their parents will not approve. Maybe you were in that position at one time? If so, maybe you can help us! The Department of Geology would like to create a brochure for perspective geology undergraduate majors which would explain to students and parents the value of a degree in geology. The best source of information for this brochure would be actual comments from former geology graduates. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate it if you could send us (amdahlnj@uwec.edu or snail mail) a short story or statement that may answer some of these types of questions that students and their parents may have about geology, such as: Are you satisfied with your choice you made to major in geology? What types of jobs can a student with a degree in geology expect to find? How has your decision to major in geology affected you personal life? Also, please include whether we may use your comments and/or name to personalize the brochure. If you would ever be willing to talk to a perspective student about life in the “real world” of geology, please indicate that as well and supply a phone number. We look forward to hearing what you have to say! Thank you!
THANK$ FOR YOUR DONATION$!

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below that have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since March 1999.

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During the past year, $1700 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund by eight alumni and four matching 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 the detachable slip 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.

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LOST & FOUND

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!

Steven Bohm, 1976  Jeffrey Jarocki, 1979  Lance Preuss, 1987
Joseph Hinke, 1992  Karen McAdam, 1984  Kathryn Shaw, 1979
Daniel Hlavaty, 1984  John McBride, 1984

1998/1999 GRADUATES!

Summer 1998
Lisa Sobczak, Environmental Geol

Fall 1998
Scott Galetka, Hydrogeology
Birch Hansen, Geol minor w/Computer Sci major
William Lazarz, Environmental Geol
Aaron Walczak, General Geol
Mae Willkom, Hydrogeology

Spring 1999
Bryce Bartelma, Environmental Geol
Dan Dahlman, Environ & E.S. Geol w/Geog minor
Brian Dwyer, Geol minor w/Psychology major
Scott Eades, Environ & E.S. Geol w/Geog minor
William Haight, Environmental Geol
Lisa Kraft, Geol minor w/Biology major
Joshua Miller, Environmental Geol
Thomas McManus, Hydro w/Physics minor
Stephen Sellwood, Hydrogeology
Erik Tomlinson, Hydrogeology
Anthony Viavattine, General Geol w/Geog minor
Beth Wenell, Hydrogeology

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

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

Everett Anderson (1997). Everett is a GIS Technician at Northern States Power (NSP). His latest excitement is that he just got married (mid-March) in Lake Tahoe, CA. Everett and Cara, his wife, met when they were working together at RPS (now known as FedEx Ground). Everett had worked for RPS shortly after graduation, and Cara had been working there part-time in addition to working at the DNR. Cara is now a Human Resource Coordinator at Milliken Millwords, a small window and door manufacturer. Everett said when he started at NSP he also worked with Scott Galetka, a 1998 UWEC Geology Graduate, but Scott has since left for a job with the zoning department in Merrill, WI. Everett.W.Anderson@nspco.com

Lance Bakken (1997). Lance is a geologist with RMT, an environmental engineering firm in Madison, WI. The majority of his work is ground-water monitoring at various sites throughout the Midwest, but mainly in Wisconsin. Lance.Bakken@rmtinc.com
Michelle (Barnes) Peterson (1992). After graduation Michelle attended Portland State University to obtain her master's degree in geology, which she successfully completed in 1995. She has now been working as an environmental consultant at AGRA Earth & Environmental, Inc. Michelle says, "It's been a pretty interesting job. While I haven't gotten to use much of the geology I learned in school, I have learned to appreciate the new skills I have developed. I spent much of my first few years at AGRA doing Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, so I got really good at researching historical facts and reviewing environmental cleanup files. You would not believe some of the stuff that has gone on in the past!!" Most recently, Michelle has been involved in some projects where detailed sampling plans for lots of different types of contaminants (PCBs, metals, and chlorinated hydrocarbons) have been prepared for field exploration. She commented, "I have gotten to see some really interesting sample collection techniques, and on occasion, I get to employ some of my geology in figuring out what's going on the subsurface." In 1995 Michelle married a fellow geologist that she met while attending graduate school. In 1997 they bought a house about 40 miles southwest of Portland (Carlton, OR). When describing their family, Michelle says, "We have two cats: a black male named Magnum (after the mineral Magnetite) and a gray female named Sylvie (after the mineral sylvanite)." Mpeterson@agraus.com

Greg Beckstrom (1984). After a couple of years with BFGoodrich Aerospace, Greg has taken the plunge into self-employment. Greg explains, "I am leveraging my technical and business backgrounds and am now working as an independent consultant. I provide a range of services including project management, strategic planning and business development. My current clients include a large Canadian-based environmental engineering firm and a small Denver-based energy technology company. On a personal note, Greg and his wife, Julia (BBA in MIS @ UWEC in 1985), plan to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary this summer at a dude ranch near West Yellowstone. Greg says, "That way I can get my geology fix for the year." Greg and Julia also have two children, Anna (4 1/2) and William (1 1/2), which Greg claims, "...they continue to make everyday life interesting and rewarding." Greg and his family continue to reside in Minneapolis, MN. greg.beckstrom@asd.bfg.com

Peter Bement (1995). Pete recently was promoted to Logging While Drilling Field Engineer at Pathfinder Energy Services. The last time we heard from Pete he had just returned from a hiking trip in Arkansas and Colorado. He had visited the Rocky Mountain National Park and hiked to Flattop Mountain. He joked, "The weather was awesome. The Hooper weather curse doesn't follow grads, nice to know." He is now planning for a 14-day trip to Washington, Oregon, and California. Pete says, "My original idea was to make it a trip to celebrate 20 years since the Mount St. Helens eruption, but then I decided to make it a Volcanic Tour of the Northwest." bementpj@dellnet.com

Bill Blaser (1997). Bill is a hydrogeologist at Layne GeoSciences in Pewaukee, WI. Bill was recently in the area doing field work in Stanley to determine if the City of Stanley could handle adding another sand and gravel well to their distribution system in preparation of the opening of the new prison. Bblaser101@aol.com

Cathy Davis Gray (1982). Cathy is a Student Services Coordinator at UW-Madison's Department of Plant Pathology. cdgray@facstaff.wisc.edu

Joseph Drapeau (1985). After graduation, Joe worked as a construction inspector/driller assistant/field geologist for Giles Engineering Associates until 1988. From there he went to work with Braun Intertec Corporation in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and LaCrosse until 1999, where he worked mostly as a hydrogeologist/professional geologist/project manager. In late 1999, Joe joined Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. in Madison, WI, (http://www.lbgweb.com) as a senior hydrogeologist. Here he has the opportunity to do more aspects of the larger projects, which offer the opportunity to do more science rather than applied economics (where "the cheapest $$ wins" stated Joe). The new job has allowed Joe the opportunities in modeling natural attenuation, contaminant transport, and ground water. Joe commented, "Computers have truly changed the drudgery of card punch entry and main frame dumps of modeling programs like in the old days at UWEC." jdrapeau@lbgmad.com
Ken Fredricks (1972). Ken is a Senior Geophysical Advisor for Dubai Petroleum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Ken’s news item contained a reminiscence of Field Camp back in 1970, which read:

It’s been thirty years now, and when I reflect on it it was perhaps these few weeks that had more impact on my future than any other. I’m referring to UWEC’s Geology Department Field Mapping Course. There was, of course, adventure. The rattlesnakes, the camping, the canned peaches and canned spam. There was the fun. The fossil hunting from South Dakota to Nevada and meeting up with Dr. Myers and his students from Michigan to climb around the Tetons. But there was something much more than that, something very intangible, that happened during that summer.

I think it started the first day when we went to K-Mart and bought stick-on letters saying “Geology Department” and stuck them on both sides of (what was then) the Wisconsin State-EC van. The following weeks brought geology to life for most of us as we industriously became exposed to Brunton compasses, alidades, and world-class geological exposures. I don’t really know if it was the pride of accomplishment and belonging, a love of geology blooming, or the superlative example set by Doc Willis. Most likely it was a combination of all three, but something changed my life for the better that summer and I’ve been hooked on Earth Sciences ever since. Thanks Doc!

E-mail: Ken.J. Fredricks@are.conoco.com

Christopher Elvrum (1992). Chris is a Water Supply Planner at the Metropolitan Council in St. Paul, MN. He just recently moved back to the Twin Cities from Milwaukee, WI, where he had been working in the environmental consulting business for the past 4.5 years. Chris says, “I am currently looking for a house and enjoying being back in Minnesota. christopher.elvrum@metc.state.mn.us

Kristie Franz (1995). After working for a soil remediation company in San Diego, CA, for a couple years, Kristie decided to go back to school to earn a Master’s degree. She is currently in her first year of studies at the University of Arizona in the Hydrogeology and Water Resources Department, and claims that her experience has been pretty good thus far. Kristie commented, “I am enjoying the challenges and also the opportunities to explore a different part of the country." Although, Kristie is enjoying grad school, she has many other goals...Right now she is training for a seven-day bike tour of southern Utah, which she will be taking this summer. She will be touring with Terri Hogue, another UWEC alumna. kristie@hwr.arizona.edu

Ken Fredricks (1972). Ken is a Senior Geophysical Advisor for Dubai Petroleum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Ken’s news item contained a little reminiscence of Field Camp back in 1970, which read:

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E-mail: Ken.J. Fredricks@are.conoco.com

Scott Galetka (1998). Scott just recently started a new job with the Land Information Office at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Merrill, WI. Prior to this position, Scott had been working with Everett Anderson at NSP. Scott says, “The majority of the work I do is creating and printing maps for different agencies and the public.” One of the current projects that Scott has been involved in is keeping the address maps updated for the Fire Department and the Hospitals. Scott said he also works with the County Surveyor locating Section corners with survey equipment and using G.P.S. (Trimble) to collect the section corner points to download into Arc View/Arc Info to complete a parcel map of the county. Scott comments, “G.I.S. is a hot field, and if you have a strong science and computer science background, it makes you more marketable.” Sgaletka@Co.lincoln.wi.us

Chris Goodwin (1995). Chris continues to work as an Environmental Engineer at Ayres Associates on PECFA, Agchem and wetland projects. He and his family live in Eau Claire, and just recently bought a new house. Chris says that they have already built an addition for their recent “family growth”, also known as baby Carter (10 months) and Calvin (24 months). goodwinc@ayres-eau.com
Harrison Griffin (1996). Harry sends his greetings from the "Great Land." He is in Anchorage, Alaska, and is working on reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands in such remote places as the Red Devil and Kolmakof mercury mines, located on the Kuskokwim River around Aniak. Harry says, "We haven’t had any snow to speak of through February, and now, through March. None in sight either." Harry spends much of his time hiking around one of the many trails running through the 730-acre Campbell Tract Facilities, which is located in his backyard. One of the highlights that Harry mentioned was "The Great Alaskan Beer and Barley Wine Festival 2000," in which the big winner was the Sierra Nevada’s Bigfoot Barley Wine. Harry also encourages all former classmates to get in touch. harrygee@yahoo.com

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen is a Geologist at Earth Tech, Inc. in Sheboygan, WI. Kristen has been keeping herself busy with work and travel in the Midwest with landfill investigations and expansions, site assessments, and remediation at a plating facility. She has also recently completed training to become an ISO 14001 Lead Auditor for environmental management systems (EMS). EMS is used mostly in manufacturing facilities to reduce operating costs and environmental harm—which Kristen says is "...a win-win situation for the company and the environment." She thinks this will be an interesting change of pace from site investigations. Kristen has also kept active with the Wisconsin Groundwater Association (WGWA), and is now secretary for them. Kristen commented, "When I’m not busy with work or WGWA, I’m driving around here, there, and everywhere visiting friends in my first brand-new car (a bright red ’99 Pontiac Grand Prix GT coupe—I love it!)." KRISTEN_GUNDERSON@earthtech.com

Michelle Haskin (1998). Michelle is in the second year of her M.S. thesis at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her thesis is entitled, "Stratigraphic Affinity and Tectono-Stratigraphic Significance of Late Albian-Cenomanian Volcanic Rocks in the Churn Creek - Empire Valley Area, South-Central British Columbia." Michelle explains, "It deals with Cretaceous paleographic reconstruction of portions of what is presently the south-western 1/3 of the Canadian Cordillera, i.e. the mountainous area of western Canada. More specifically, my work has applications to the Baja/British Columbia hypothesis. This is a debate grounded in generally conflicting geologic and geophysical (primarily paleomagnetic) data. Paleomagnetic data suggests that this area in British Columbia was roughly at the latitude of Baja California in the Cretaceous. Conversely, geologic evidence points to a more northerly latitude, perhaps what is now Washington or Oregon, for the same landmasses during the same time period. This is obviously a problem and hopefully my work will help to clarify this debate." Michelle has been working on different geologic/geophysical techniques, such as paleomagnetics and geochemistry. Michelle states, "This project has largely been conceived by Brian Mahoney and his colleagues in Canada. I am still closely tied to UWEC as the geochemistry portion of this thesis is in conjunction with Brian Mahoney and Mike Schmidt’s (May 2000 UWEC graduate) Spences Bridge study, which also deals with paleographic reconstructions of western Canada and Mahoney’s impact on the Baja/British Columbia debate." On a personal note, Michelle says that she has been enjoying life in British Columbia and the excitement of working with many different scientists and learning about various geological mediums. Michelle says, "I’ve learned that working on a thesis, like any large project, is not so much about the end product (although that’s pretty important) but about what you pick up along the way. My stint at UWEC was a good experience and prepared me to move on in geology. To all of you rock types, good luck with all of your studies." lhaskin@sfu.ca

Brian Hennings (1999). After graduation last summer, Brian went to Idaho State University to work toward his master’s. When describing life in Pocatello, Brian commented "I am starting to like it here, there is no humidity and no mosquitoes!" He also says his only news for the newsletter is this: "Dirt on J Brian Mahoney and/or Brad Burton may be purchased at the modest price of 50 cents word." Hernbria@isu.edu

Mark Holmes (1997). After graduation, Mark went on to the University of Minnesota-Duluth to obtain his master’s degree, which he successfully completed in May 1999. Mark is Vice President of Operations at Hemisphere Field Services, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN, which operates six remote field offices (including Italy). Mark is also currently seeking funds to support his Ph.D. research in North Carolina (through Univ. Minnesota).
Mark states, "Based on lake and estuarine sediment cores, I would like to reconstruct the catastrophic hurricane and flood frequency history for the last 7500 years. This study would evaluate microfossils and clastic sediment analyses to determine energies and evolutionary processes occurring (if any at all) in this dynamic environment." On a personal note, Mark also became engaged last year. mholmes1@mailcity.com

Mark Jirsa (1976). Mark recently published an article in the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences (January 1, 2000 issue, volume 37) entitled "The Midway sequence: a Timiskaming-type, pull-apart basin deposit in the western Wawa subprovince, Minnesota." jirsa001@maroon.tc.umn.edu Editor's note: Mark is working at the Minnesota Geological Survey.

Tony Jones (1992). After graduation, Tony moved to Missoula, MT. In August 1994, he moved to Rhinelander, WI, where he received an Associate’s Degree in Land Surveying. In 1996 he graduated from Nicolet Area Technical College and landed a job with Woolpert, a large engineering firm in Dayton, OH. He worked there as a survey crew chief coordinating survey jobs all over the country and utilizing GPS technology. Tony says, "The money was good but it was too far from my sweetie (who I met in Rhinelander) and my family." In June 1998, Tony got a job as a land surveyor for Becher-Hoppe Associates in Wausau, WI, which is where he is still currently employed. In October 1999, Tony tied the knot with his sweetie, Nancy. "We received our first Christmas present on Christmas Eve, 1999 at 9:00. A 5 lb. 10 oz. baby girl. She has blonde hair and blue eyes, just like her old man," Mark proudly admitted. The Jones family resides in Rhinelander, WI. tjnnb@newnorth.net

Dale Kerner (1996). Besides working toward his master’s degree in geology at Boise State University, Dale is a Field Technician at Brown and Caldwell Environmental Consulting. He also does a little teaching at Boise State. When asked about his expected graduation date, Dale commented, "...in May 2000 or die trying." In addition to all of this, Dale also recently added a little more excitement to his life...Dale is the proud father of a 12-month-old baby girl named Lauren Grace Kerner (4/16/99). Dale proudly commented, "She happens to be the cutest little creature on the planet. She is her dadd y’s pride and joy. She’s moving around pretty well now, and I’m pleased to see that she makes her way for any rock in sight when she’s out of the fetters of her dad’s loving arms. Who says lithophily is not hereditary?" dkerner@trex.boisestate.edu

Mark Kiessling (1995). Mark is a Geologist at Phelps Dodge Morenci, Inc. in Morenci, AZ. mkiessling@phelpsdodge.com

Ric Kopp (1975). Ric is a Senior Geologist at the Rocky Mountain Division of Belco Energy Corp. Ric says, "Y2K will be an eventful year for the Kopp family. Son Rick will graduate with a BS-Mechanical Engineering Degree from the Colorado School of Mines and will start work for Anderson Consulting, pays better than geology. Daughter Carrie will receive her Child Care Management Degree and Certification from Arapahoe Community College-Denver. She is currently Assistant Manager of Pre-school Day-care Center in Parker, CO. Daughter Brenda will graduate from Ponderosa H.S. in Parker and is evaluating scholarship offers from 3 Colorado schools and Washington State. Wife Jacqueline, UWEC 1971-75, will have the fortunate/unfortunate celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary. Myself, I continue to handle the Exploration activities for Belco in the Rocky Mountain region, and have recently gotten involved in drilling projects in Alaska. As a 1-man division competing with the Eastern Division, which has 12 Explorationists, I had a good 1999 and should have a better 2000. Continue exploration activities and field work in the Big Horn Basin and have returned to Cottonwood Creek (UWEC Field Camp) several times. RicKopp@compuserve.com

Lisa Kraft (1999). Lisa is a master’s degree candidate at Michigan Technological University in Environmental Policy. She is also on ski patrol again at Mount Ripley, which is right across the portage. In addition, she is a Copper Country AmeriCorps Member at the GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach located on the MTU campus. Lisa commented, "Currently graduate school is a lot more difficult than I expected. However, I am enjoying myself and the classes for the most part. “ At work, Lisa organizes several outreach programs for K-12 students. They offer family science and math classes in the evenings, where 15-25 college students visit the
local elementary schools and teach short programs on different science/math topics. Lisa exclaimed, "The kids love it!" While enjoying this working experience, it has also helped Lisa determine her thesis concentration. She says, "I have decided that my thesis project will revolve around the lack of environmental education in our high schools. My goal is to make it easier for teachers to incorporate environmental education into their classes." Lisa also has a new addition to her family, Stuck, her new kitten. She claims Spike, her other cat, was lonely.

Shanna Laube (1990). Shanna has been working for the State of Wisconsin for the past 9.5 years. She was first with the DNR, and then in 1996 she transferred to the Department of Commerce. She continues to work as a Hydrogeologist for the Department of Commerce, working with underground storage tank cleanups. Shanna lives in Butternut, WI, with her 6½ year old son, Alex. Shanna commented, "I would really like to have a Geology Club reunion sometime and would help to organize it. I would really like to hear from some of my old classmates and find out what they have been up to. So if any of you read this, please contact me!"

Luis Arturo Estrada Letona (1988). Luis is a Senior Geologist/Consultant and Founder for GEOPETROL, a private Guatemalan Consultant Company. Luis states, "The company has three major fields of expertise: Environment, Energy, and Geotechnics. If anybody is interested in having a good time and (eventually) visiting a real earth lab (volcanic chains, active volcanoes, all kinds of rocks, plate boundaries, and so) do not hesitate to contact me, we can put together something." geopetro@infovia.com.gt

Timothy Masterlark (1994). Tim plans to complete his Ph.D. this summer at UW-Madison. He has already accepted a post-doc research fellow appointment for this fall, which will consist of a collaborative project between the University of Wisconsin and Caltech. Tim also published his first paper, which appeared in the December issue of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. When describing his research, Tim commented, "I also began conducting collaborative research projects involving mechanical analyses of orthopedic surgical techniques with finite element models. These analyses investigate the mechanics associated with the complicated geometry and loading regimes of bone and cartilage systems. Now that's Diversity!"

Ann (Melby) Kron (1996). Ann just recently moved to Helena, MT, to start a new job as a Solid and Hazardous Waste Specialist at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Ann's main job will be conducting compliance inspections on anything coming from an autobody shop and going to a mine. Ann is excited about the recent move. She comments, "We are about 2½ hours from Yellowstone, and 3 hours from Glacier. It will definitely be an adventure." In addition to relocating, Ann and Darrin have added more excitement to their lives...Ann proudly announced, "We also got a puppy, named Summit, when we moved out here. We're having a lot of fun hiking and playing with him. He is so cute! We have pictures of Helena and our puppy on our website if you want to look. The address is http://homestead.juno.com/akron/juno.com/adkron/index.html." adkron@juno.com

Kristine Mercer (1997). Since graduation, Kris has been working as a Hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin DNR in Eau Claire. Kris performs project management of contaminated sites discovered by the Department of Transportation during road construction projects in the West Central Region. She also does site screening assessments of waste registry sites to determine CERCLIS eligibility. On a personal note, during the past two years Kris has been blessed with two new grandchildren (making four total). The proud grandmother commented, "Smiling, cheerful Cayzie (1 yr.) completed son Aaron's family and busy, happy Annika (14 mo.) began daughter Anissa's family. I am thoroughly enjoying being a grandma! We continue to spend weekends at 'the lake' in warmer weather and a new camper has made more room for our expanding family!" MerceK@mail101.dnr.state.wi.us
Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy continues his position as Plant Superintendent at Wisconsin Porcelain, where he supervises multiple departments. Jeremy says he focuses on a lot of clay issues, since the clay mixing operation is his main responsibility. He works with raw materials, formulations, contamination, etc. Jeremy and his family now reside in Marshall (actually closer to Deerfield), WI. Jeremy says, "We managed to snag an old, HUGE farmhouse in the stix. We're settling into an 'old people' routine. I can't believe I'm almost 30. Didn't we just get back from Field Camp." His wife, Shawna, graduated from UW-Whitewater in December with a BS in Biology. She is now working as a veterinary technician. miller_zoo@email.msn.com

Joshua Miller (1999). Josh is a site supervisor at Handex, a company in Illinois that deals mostly with USTs and landfill jobs. He also works with former classmate, Bill Lazars (1998). Josh says, So far we have done everything we've learned in hydro classes--I guess it did relate." Although their company's largest client is Mobil, Josh and Bill work for the Shell Oil group. "Last week I was on a UST pull and an over excavation job that took two weeks. We removed 5 tanks and 5,000 tons of contaminated soil," Josh explained. jmiller@handexmail.com

Martin Miller (Visiting Assistant Professor 1994-1997). Martin and his family continue to reside in Eugene, Oregon, where Martin is a Researcher and a Courtesy Assistant Professor at the University of Oregon. Martin joked, "Although Julie and I still love living in Eugene, I haven't yet gotten a nose ring—but I did paint my toenails purple last fall and tried to show them to Brian Mahoney at the GSA meeting in Denver—but he was too embarrassed to see." Martin claims he "greatly" misses the UWEC geology department, and says, "I'll never forget being able to walk down the hallway and casually drop in on folks when things weren't overly frantic. At U of Oregon, our offices are so far apart that I usually CALL people on the telephone first to make sure they're in!" Martin and his wife Julie have two children, Lindsay (Age 6) and Meg (Age 2). He and his family have shared several family trips within the past year, such as the Oregon Coast, Cascades, and the desert. Martin also adventured on another great trip to Kyrgyzstan last summer for a research project. One of the latest excitement in Martin's life is the fact that he will be graduating his first master's student this semester. Martin has also interacted a fair amount with Heather Golding, a former UWEC geology student, in the Death Valley area. The geology faculty also had a chance to visit with Martin at the 1999 GSA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, last October. His expertise, intriguing personality, and contagious smile are still greatly missed within the department! millerm@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Irvin Mossberger (1994). After graduation, Irvin worked for MJ Environmental, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, in Marquette, MI. When he first started, he worked with Brian Novotny, a 1994 UWEC Geology grad, whom Irvin described as "The Thinker of the Group." After nine months, Irvin transferred to the Duluth office. In 1997, he began working for Twin Ports Testing in Superior (Irvin's hometown), doing work at the local refinery. He also married Maria in 1997. Maria is from Bulgaria, where she and Irvin visited in 1998. Irvin said, "We hope to go back this summer. It's a great place!" Irvin is also secretary of the Superior Curling Club, and he says, "In the winter I have been curling my fool butt off." Irvin also encourages all former classmates to look him up if you happen to be in town. igmossberger@hotmail.com

Todd Myse (1996). Todd continues to work toward his master's degree at Dartmouth University. Todd presented his preliminary results of his thesis at the 1999 GSA meeting. The title was "Do Pump Tests in Fractured Media Accurately Reflect Fracture Permeabilities under Natural Conditions?" He says "I am testing fractures within different rocks (e.g., granite, slate, dolomite) to ascertain what velocities of water should be used to achieve an accurate permeability within the aquifer." Last September Todd had the opportunity to T.A. a course similar to UWEC's Rocky Mountain Field Studies. They visited the Tetons/Yellowstone, Dinosaur National Monument, Arches, and the Grand Canyon. Although the course had many similarities to the UWEC course, they did a few things differently. Todd remarked, "We stayed in motels the whole time except in G.C. That was weird! I'm used to camping with Eau Claire classes." Todd also proudly stated, "Our section was the only section, however, where we went to the park each night to cook meals on stove, etc. All the other sections ate in restaurants. It was a lot of work—gettin' breakfast ready, keeping up on the maintenance of the vans,
grocery shopping, TAin' itself—but absolutely no complaints from this guy! How can you when you are surrounded by such beauty?" Todd plans to TA this same course again this summer. For entertainment, Todd is still hiking, biking, playing with water activities, and trying to catch any of the bands in the area. Todd says, "I am still testing out the many brew pubs out here (but, like I said last time, I still miss the Joynt!"

He also encourages former classmates to look him up if you are ever in the area. Todd.A.Myse@Dartmouth.EDU

**Jamie Oakley (1995).** Jamie is a Geologist/Environmental Consultant at GeoEngineers in Tacoma, WA. He has been working throughout Washington and Alaska on projects ranging from the petroleum monitoring and remediation in groundwater, offshore sediment sampling for waterway dredging operations, and geotechnical construction monitoring for soil nail walls and fill placement for building pads. Jamie commented, "The rains have been light this year, which has prevented the landslide activity and workload that we had last year."

joakley@geoengineers.com

**Paul Overlien (1994).** Paul is now the Branch Manager of Envirogen's Onalaska office. He also just recently moved to Holmen, WI, and commented, "This should be the last move for a while—I finally broke down and bought a house." overlien@etrademail.com

**Curt Peck (1977).** Curt is a Senior Environmental Project Manager for Chevron Environmental Management Company in California. Curt commented, "I joined Chevron Environmental Management Company prior to the Chevron Chemical company's move to Houston in August and I will miss out on the turmoil associated with the recently announced Chevron/Phillips Chemical company joint venture. Curt is currently managing 3 RCRA projects for former AgChem facilities and oilfield restoration activities on the oilfield production side. On a personal note, Curt says, "Our 2 teenage daughters (14 & 17) and their activities keep us busy. CPEC@chevron.com"

**Steve Peterson (1997).** Steve expects to complete his master's at Northern Illinois University this May. He has also been working as a hydrogeologist/modeler on regional simulations of the Platte River and the local High Plains Aquifer System. Otherwise, Steve says, "Nothing much new besides finishing grad school and moving to Nebraska to take an exciting job opportunity. Our son Alex is keeping us laughing, and is busy getting ready to be a big brother, as we are now expecting another addition to our family. Hope everyone is doing well, and feel free to drop in if you are ever in the middle of nowhere (oops, I mean Nebraska)." speterson@cnppid.com

**Tina Pint (1999).** Tina just recently notified us that she has been accepted to attend UW-Madison, where she will be working with Dr. Mary Anderson in the Dept. of Geology and Geophysics. tinapint@mailcity.com

**Heidi Rantala (1997).** Heidi graduated from UWEC with a double major in Geology and Biology. After graduation, she attended the University of MN-Duluth to obtain her master's degree in limnology. She recently took a job at the University of Iowa as a limnologist. Heidi says, "I'm mostly a field person, but I also do some insect/fish work." She is now searching for Ph.D. programs. She says, "Wisconsin, U. of Washington, and Minnesota are looking good right now. I'd like to get into a limnology program!" hmrantala@hotmail.com

**Connie Roman (honorary alumna of 1995).** Connie currently lives in Plover, WI, and is a student at UW-Stevens Point, along with being a full-time mother of two, Ryan (6) and Gabrielle (4). Connie says, "Ryan (6) says he wants to be a geologist when he grows up. I think he'll be a politician since he already says what he thinks people want to hear. Gabrielle (4), will be starting school next year and she is already stressed. She insists that she needs to be able to read before she can start kindergarten." Connie.J.Roman@uwsp.edu

**Don Schleicher (1985).** Don continues his work at UWEC's Media Development Center, as Manager of the Television Services and Distance Education Technologies Division. The latest excitement is Don's life has been the addition of his newborn daughter, Katie, who was born on March 27th. Don proudly admits, "She's a real
sweetie - even though she doesn't let anyone sleep." Don and his family also recently made a trip to San Francisco to visit some Chinese relatives. schleidd@uwec.edu

Lisa (Sobczak) Robinson (1998). After graduating, Lisa moved to Bloomington, MN. In November 1998, Lisa and her new fiance, Matt, moved to Longmonth, CO, where Matt was transferred for his job with Seagate, the world's largest manufacturer of disk drives. Upon arriving Colorado, Lisa obtained a position with the Geo-tech Department of Terracon Consultants, where she runs their soils laboratory and does field work. Last August, Lisa and Matt got married in New Berlin, WI, Lisa's hometown. By April 1999 they had bought their house in Loveland, CO. For their honeymoon, they traveled to Cozomel and did some scuba diving, which included cavern and reef dives. They also toured Mayan ruins. As far as life in Colorado, Lisa says, "I am really enjoying Colorado, we try to get out as much as we can. Skiing has been incredible lately. We went to Steamboat for X-mas, and it was 50 degrees. We try to go somewhere new each weekend to explore the state." LisaARobinson@excite.com

Amy Jo Steffen (1998). After graduation, Amy Jo went on to graduate school at Vanderbilt University, but has since decided to take a break. She admitted, "I wasn't putting 110% into it as there were other things in my life that were taking my time and energy. So I've decided to hold off for a couple more years." Therefore, Amy Jo spent part of last summer doing some landscaping, and she is also currently working at Kinko's as their "Digital Output Coordinator (or computer manager)." The exciting addition to Amy Jo's life has been the sport of rugby. She joined the Nashville Women's Rugby Football Club about a year ago, and as Amy stated, "I instantly fell in love with the sport and have been a devoted team member since!" Playing rugby has also allowed Amy Jo to travel to many places, such as New Orleans, Knoxville, Huntsville, St. Louis, Louisville, Washington DC, Cape Cod, and Pelee Island, Ontario. aj_is_smashing@yahoo.com

Paul Stoelting (1967). Paul graduated with a major in Geography and a minor in Geology, and attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to obtain his MS and Ph.D. Paul is now a professor at UW-LaCrosse's Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. stoeltin@mail.uwlax.edu

Chad Stuber (1998). Chad has been busy building log homes. He resides in Shelton, WA, but spends much of his time in Alaska. Since the building season in Alaska is so limited, the buyers have their extravagant log homes built in Washington and then they pay to have the homes deconstructed, shipped, and re-built in Alaska. Chad says, "Sometimes it cost as much as $40,000-45,000 just for shipping." Burny27@aol.com

Matt Taylor (1993). Matt is a hydrogeologist at Cedar Corporation in Menomonie, WI. matt@cedarcorp.com

Erik Tomlinson (1999). Erik just recently accepted an entry-level geologist position with Earth Tech in Plymouth, MN. Erik says, "There will be a lot of field work involved (in mid-April we will be going out to the Badlands for clean-up at the bombing range) and, thanks to field camp, I will be one of two people in the office who is familiar with ArcView and will be using it regularly."

Chad Underwood (1996). After completing his master's in geological engineering at UW-Madison last May, Chad worked for Montgomery Watson in Madison for six months, where he spent much of his time working on federal TERC (Total Environmental Restoration Contract) projects. This work involved visiting old air force bases and army ammunition plants throughout the midwest. This work primed Chad for his current position with Olin Corporation, the operating contractor of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Baraboo, WI. Chad says, "I am working with a group of people involved with environmental restoration and demolition. So far there has been a lot of variety in the work that I am doing and the experience has been great thus far. I have particularly enjoyed learning how to use the GPS system that they have recently implemented." underwood_chad@yahoo.com
Mark Vinall (1990). After graduation, Mark worked several years in the consulting industry. Mark then accepted a job with Superior Services as general manager of the Seven Mile Creek Landfill in Eau Claire County. MWVINALL@superioserv.com Editor’s note: He is now giving tours for UWEC geology field trips at the landfill and doing a fine job!

Kristin Weaver (1996). After graduation, Kristin obtained a M.S. in Earth Sciences at the University of Southern California. She continues to live in California and works as a Staff Geologist at William Lettis and Associates in Valencia, CA. This company specializes in Quaternary geological projects, including active fault studies, landslides, and earthquake hazards. Kristin says that she frequently gets opportunities to collaborate with engineers and other scientists throughout the world. She described, "For example, during the recent Hector Mine M7.1 earthquake investigation I joined my work colleagues and went to the 29 Palms Marine Base to document slip along the rupture with the USGS and other volunteers. One day my group was transported to a mountaionous region using a marine helicopter that flew us along most of the break! That was amazing and I took rolls of photographs!" Kristin joked, "I never thought I would be rooting for more earthquakes!" She also encourages all former classmates to look her up if you happen to be visiting L.A. weaver@lettis.com

Sarah Weaver (1996). Sarah graduated from Vermont Law School on May 20th. She says that the standing third-year law school joke is that "it only takes 3 years of law school and tens of thousands of dollars of debt to figure out you don’t want to be a lawyer." Therefore, she will be taking a breather in Boulder, CO, for the summer to recover from burn-out before looking for a "real" job in the fall. SWEAVER@vermontlaw.edu

Beth Wenell (1999). Graduation was quickly followed by a move to Manson, IA, to spend the summer working at Twin Lakes Christian Center, the Covenant Church camp that serves Iowa. Beth’s husband, Dave, served as the Program Director, and Beth served as the Craft Instructor. Beth commented, "We learned lots about camps. We made many life-long friends and discovered that we are open to camping ministry for a lifetime. After camp, Beth and Dave moved to Chicago, IL. They live close to North Park University, where Beth works as a Program Assistant at the Center for Management Education (Graduate Department) and Dave is in the seminary. bwenell@northpark.edu

Mae Willkom (1999). After graduating, Mae was quickly snatched up by the local DNR Office, where she is now working as a part-time hydrogeologist. Mae said, "Up until recently, I spent a lot of time reviewing case files for closure, but my focus now is on Brownfields Outreach. I will be spending a lot of time giving presentations to local government officials and lenders to let them know what liability exemptions and financial incentives the DNR offers for redeveloping contaminated, often tax-delinquent, properties." Mae also has enrolled in a 2-credit graduate-level independent project this semester, which she has been working on with Dr. Tinker. This large project involves Tinker’s three-year grant from the DNR entitled "Groundwater Modeling of Eau Claire County." On a sad note, Mae’s mother recently died after an extended illness. wifkome@ecol.net

Edwin Zalewski (1994). The last we heard from Edwin, which was last summer, he was working for J.J. Keller and Associates, a company that publishes safety manuals, safety supplies, and software related to safety in the workplace. He had just recently left Robert E. Lee and Associates. He says "Since I left [Robert E. Lee & Associates], my blood pressure has dropped 30 points (really!)." zalewskiej@hotmail.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 April/May.)

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"The Newsletter is greatly appreciated as a way to keep track of 'Old Friends' and UWEC-GEO Activities."
Ric Kopp, 1975 UWEC Geology Graduate