Greetings from the Department Chair

Dear Alumni:

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by. I certainly hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. This year the Department welcomes a new staff member, Phil Ihinger, who will be teaching Min/Pet II and Earth Resources in addition to lower-division courses. This brings us to eight full-time instructors in the department, a solid number for a university our size. Phil's specialty is experimental mineralogy and petrology, and we're in the process of developing a new lab for collaborative research in this sub-discipline. Phil is a great addition to the program and very easy to talk to. Stop by and introduce yourself the next time you're in EC.

As you will hear later in the newsletter, much of my time and energy has been devoted to the remodeling project for Phillips Hall. This should result in some improvements and with any luck only minimal harm to the educational spaces. It takes constant diligence to make sure the academic needs are considered in the plans. Next time you stop in, the building won't look much different. Most of the changes involve heating/ventilation/AC, plumbing, and electrical work. The remodeling did result in allocation of an additional undergraduate collaborative research space on 4th floor to support mineral separations and wet chemistry. All of the analytical equipment is currently boxed-up and unavailable for student research. Despite the loss of equipment for the year, the students are still heavily involved in collaborative research activities and continue to be among the top student researchers at UWEC. By next winter we should be back in the building with all of the equipment functioning.

Our students continue to present their research results at regional, national, and international meetings and we have had pretty good success at linking up with some of the alumni at these meetings. We have had large contingents of faculty, students and alumni at the National GSA the past few years. This year the meeting is in Boston in early November. If you have any plans to attend this meeting, send us a quick e-mail and we'll plan an informal alumni night.

As budgets in the State of Wisconsin get tighter, please consider donating to the Geology Advancement Fund. We have been helping student researchers attend meetings to present results from their collaborative research projects. This is an opportunity that means a great deal to these young scientists. Your help will ensure continued departmental support for this activity. My thanks to those who have been contributing to this fund—you are making a difference!

As always, we encourage you to stop by the department when passing through town or to search us out at geology meetings. We love to hear from our alumni, so please keep in touch. Have a great year!

Bob Hooper,
(Yup, Still serving as Chair)

Morrison & Rowe presented Geology Excellence Awards

The "Excellence in Geology Award" recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 1999-2000 winners of the Geology Excellence Award were Jean Morrison (Loyal, WI; B.S., May 2000) and Carrie Rowe (Middleton, WI; B.S., May 2000). Jean and Carrie 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 Geology Advancement Fund donations.

Jean and Carrie both decided to continue on to graduate school. Jean is attending the Colorado School of Mines in Environmental and Science Engineering. Carrie is studying sedimentology at the University of Calgary. Congratulations, Jean and Carrie!

See page 2 for the list of former Excellence in Geology award winners.
Fire Destroys the Camaraderie

If you've ever attended UWEC, then you are probably familiar with The Camaraderie, or "The Cam," which was located on the corner of Water Street and 5th Avenue. Because of its friendly and relaxing atmosphere, the Camaraderie was a popular hangout for students, faculty, and the general public. Unfortunately, a fire completely destroyed the establishment on Sunday, January 7, 2001. The front section of the building was all that remained of the Camaraderie, which has since been demolished.

According to The Spectator, the exact cause of the fire is not known, but the fire inspector told them that the fire may have been started by a problem with an exhaust fan or by an old neon beverage sign. The owners told The Spectator that they plan to rebuild if possible, but they have many building codes and financial issues that need to be dealt with before they rebuild. Three students lived in the apartments above the Camaraderie, and according to The Spectator, they were all home during the fire but luckily they all escaped the burning building unharmed.

Campus News Available On Internet

If you are interested in keeping up on the latest news around Eau Claire and the UWEC campus, here are some options that are available to you:

* The Spectator, the UWEC student newspaper, is now available online at http://www.spectatornews.com.
* The UW-Eau Claire Alumni Office just introduced an electronic newsletter called e-View. The newsletter will be sent the first week of each month to alumni and friends of the university for whom the university has e-mail addresses. The newsletter will include campus news and information about upcoming alumni events, special events, and more. Alumni and friends who want to be added to the mailing list should send their e-mail address to alumni@uwec.edu or call (715) 836-3266. Please include the following in your message: name, e-mail and home addresses, telephone number, and date of birth.
* The Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire's daily newspaper, is also available online at http://www.cvol.net.

Phillips Hall Under Construction

Phillips Hall residents are experiencing the roller coaster ride called "Under Construction"...and it has been a very "interesting" ride. It all started in December 1999...we were informed that we would need to evacuate the south and west wings of Phillips Hall so construction could begin in January 2000. Fortunately, we only have a few lecture rooms on these two wings, so we weren't as frantic as some of the other departments. However, we did need to relocate our computer lab—what a chore. We also had to share our teaching labs with Geography because they had lost access to most of their labs during this time.

Anyway, we somewhat survived Phase 1 just in time to move to Phase 2. This phase required evacuation of the north and east wings of the building, which involved moving out of all of our teaching labs. Unfortunately, we didn't have anywhere to go with these labs, so most of the classroom materials were sent to "storage" (some unknown off-campus location) until the completion of the remodeling project. Luckily, we were fortunate enough to capture a small room over in Campus School to teach our introductory labs, and the Biology Department loaned us a lab for our upper-level courses for the spring semester.

To top it all off, we were recently informed that the project is running behind schedule (surprise, surprise!), so we will NOT be able to get into our classrooms and labs until mid-October.

Considering the fact that school begins on September 4th, it should be another "interesting" semester. Comedian Hooper has already volunteered to schedule his Min/Pet I course to meet out by the big oak tree. Can you imagine the confusion of the poor student who spends 15 minutes or more looking for the Min/Pet classroom (which would be under construction once found), reading the note on the door that states "Geo 312 has been moved from Phillips 110 to The Big Oak Tree on the south side."

Oh well, hopefully we will have a new and improved building in a few months and all the pain and suffering will have been worth it. We can only hope.

"Excellence in Geology" Award Winners

Former winners of the Geology Excellence Awards (continued from cover page):

1995-96: Kristin Weaver and Chad Underwood
1996-97: Sarah Weaver and Mark Holmes
1997-98: Tom Danielson and Michelle Haskin
1998-99: Mae Willkom and Beth Wenell
We had another great year for Rocky Mountain field studies with nearly perfect weather and relatively thin snowpack. We had 22 students, most of whom really wanted to look at the rocks and we didn’t miss a single hike because of weather-related delays. The hike up Surprise Lake was awesome with easy hiking and great weather. It was only marred by a black bear who sought out our packs for lunch while we were looking at the Teton Glacier. He didn’t cause much damage other than bear slobber on a few packs and some missing water bottles. These little devils are staring at you as you hike and just waiting for any opportunity for some cookies! Last year we added a hike in the Tetons up Garnet Canyon and we’re planning to continue this hike because of the excellent metamorphic rock exposures and the beautiful scenery. This hike is, however, highly weather dependent and could include steep snow-covered slopes in the wrong year. We only visited St. John’s Hospital in Jackson twice this past year, once for a knee injury (playing tag in a parking lot) and once for bacterial infections. In Yellowstone we were repeatedly rewarded with both wolf and bear sightings (in addition to abundant ungulates). We almost got to see a grizzly bear “rough-up” some Californians who forgot to disable the car alarm. The woman reached into the car for her camera and scared the heck out of a mom with two young cubs. We weren’t sure if the mother bear would charge or run away but she decided to follow her cubs. Well, better luck next year!

Field Camp I - Winterim 2001

Field Camp I was offered for the third time in January, 2001, and was once again a rousing success. Eleven students and three faculty members (Havholm, Hooper, Mahoney) ventured to the Land of the Enchanted for three weeks of intensive rock therapy. We conducted four exercises, including a jaunt up the regional stratigraphic section in the Caballo Range, examination of deformed rocks at Apache Gap, mapping in Trujillo Canyon (home to beautiful springs and elusive mountain lions), and an intrusive exercise in the magnificent Organ Mountains. Nights were spent effortlessly inputting all our data into ArcView, gradually becoming masters of the GIS world. The weather was a bit finicky, but we managed to conduct all our exercises, and had a very interesting introduction to rapidly changing mountain weather in the Organ Mountains. We have become very comfortable at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, New Mexico, where the friendly proprietors are guaranteed to add local flavor to our visit. This year we were treated to a Folk Music concert by Pete and a friend – excellent way to end a long day!

- J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor

Planetary Geology: The Search for Impact Structures - Spring 2001

Paul Thomas (UWEC-Physics) and Mahoney co-taught a special topics course on Planetary Geology this semester. The course was designed to compare and contrast the evolution of Planet Earth with that of the rest of the solar system. The night course was a tremendous success, with an eclectic mix of geology, physics, geography, and other science majors engaging in intriguing conversations about a wide variety of extraterrestrial topics. The highlight of the course was an 8-day trip to the Colorado Plateau to examine potential impact structures at Upheaval Dome and compare them with Meteor Crater, recent volcanic fields (San Francisco Mountains, Arizona), and erosion features (Grand Canyon). We also had the opportunity to view the stars from the Colorado Plateau using Celestron telescopes. The weather was rather lousy in part (two inches of snowfall the first morning at the Grand Canyon), but spirits remained high throughout the trip. The course culminated in student presentations covering a wide range of outstanding problems in Planetary Geology. The course was great fun, and everyone learned quite a bit. We look forward to teaching the course again in the future.

- J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor
Spring Break 2001

The Geology 343 Field Trip this spring saw myself and twelve students journeying to eastern Utah for a spectacular trip in which we examined the Colorado River as a natural resource, including the controversial Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell. With guides and equipment from Canyon Voyages Adventure Company in Moab, we first rafted from Loma, Colorado, to Cisco, Utah, a fifty-mile stretch of the Colorado River. This part of the trip introduced us to the relatively unspoiled upper reach of the river. During the first two days of the raft trip, we passed through the northern limbs of the monoclines in the Colorado Plateau and through unparalleled exposures of the Morrison Formation and other Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. We camped at Black Rocks, an exposure of 1.7-billion-year-old granites, and enjoyed swimming in a gorgeous waterfall and plunge pool while examining the great unconformity. Each student read a book in advance of the field trip, gave a presentation, and led a fireside chat during the trip. The books and discussions explored a wide variety of perspectives on the management of rivers as natural resources. The final day of the rafting trip took us through Westwater Canyon, a narrow notch through Precambrian rocks including the only exposure of the Vishnu Schist outside of the Grand Canyon. In wetsuits and helmets we met Class 4+ white water with names like Skull Rapids, and the Room of Doom. Next we explored the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park with a long backcountry hike, followed by a climb of South Sixshooter Peak on neighboring BLM land. We continued our journey southwestward to Hite Marina, to examine Lake Powell itself, returning via the San Rafael Swell. I can truly say that this was the best geological field trip that I've ever been on, made so by a tremendous group of students, perfect weather and natural scenery, and a compelling subject. Many thanks to the Geol 343 class!

- Bradford Burton, Instructor

Geology Club News

Geology Club is rebounding after a slow year. Many members devoted most of their time to research projects and presenting in various conferences during the fall semester. Even with serious time commitments, students found time to participate in the Earth Day Expo (sponsored by American Materials Corp.), intramural ultimate frisbee, bake sales, dinner at the Pickled Trout, and a couple of ski trips to Coffee Mill. A big disappointment was the loss of a down payment on a trip to Indianhead Ski Area — the hill filed for bankruptcy early fall semester, so a trip planned for late December had to be cancelled. A few members participated in an earth science unit at North High School, giving geology lectures and answering questions about the geology degree and careers in the sciences. This is something that Geology Club would like to pursue and expand in future years to educate and excite young students.

The Club is currently planning events for next year, including a back-to-school party (specifically to meet new majors), faculty speakers (though they don’t know this yet), community speakers, intramural teams (ultimate frisbee, soccer), ski trips, camping trips, and other fun get-togethers. Members are excited for summer adventures and for the start of a new semester!

The Geology Club would like to become more involved with getting young children excited about geology!

- Sarah Gordee, Student Co-President
Beaster and Kohn Win Research Award in Canada

Two UWEC undergraduate geology majors, Karl Beaster (Arlington, WA; B.S. May 2001) and Josh Kohn (Eau Claire, WI; B.S., Dec. 2000), presented a poster at the Institute on Lake Superior Geology (ILSG) meeting held in May 2000 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Their poster was awarded the best student poster out of twenty other student research posters. Their project examined the Hinckley Sandstone, a clastic fill within the 1.1-billion-yr-old Mid-Continent Rift of eastern Minnesota.

Karl and Josh spent twenty days in the field studying sandstone cliffs along the Kettle River in eastern Minnesota. Dr. Karen Havholm introduced them to equipment and techniques needed to analyze the problem and supervised the project. Karen states that Karl and Josh were extremely motivated and self-directed. Based on their research findings, Karen encouraged them not only to present a poster at the UWEC Student Research Day (where they won first place in the natural sciences division in 2000), but to take the poster to a professional geology meeting as well. The ILSG was a natural choice because it is well known as a Precambrian geology forum in the Midwest.

Congratulations, Karl and Josh!

Thornburg Wins Best Poster Award at National GSA

UWEC undergraduate geology major Katie Thornburg (Spooner, WI, B.S. expected August 2001) won a best student poster award at the national GSA meeting held in Reno, NV, in November 2000. Katie conducted a field glacial geology mapping project with Syverson after her freshman year, and then she spent two years studying the clay mineralogy of till units in western Wisconsin under the supervision of Syverson and Robert Hooper. Glacial geologists in the Midwest have viewed Katie's findings with great interest. She has answered some questions and raised some other important questions as well!

Katie's poster was voted the best student poster in an undergraduate research session with seventeen other posters. The meeting also allowed Katie to network with professors from research institutions around the country. This fall Katie will begin graduate studies in the UW-Madison Dept. of Geology and Geophysics to study geochemistry.

Rodda Receives Nan Pickett Memorial Scholarship

The Nan Pickett Memorial Grant was established in memory of the late Nancy Pickett, who received two degrees as a nontraditional student, and was also a faculty member in the Geology Department at UWEC from 1969-1988. Her death was untimely at the age of 52. In her memory, the family has chosen to support nontraditional students who persevere in the pursuit of an education. Therefore, the scholarship applicant must be a nontraditional student (age 25 or older), currently enrolled at UWEC, in good academic standing, and enrolled as a major or minor in Geology, any other science, or Nursing. The $250 scholarship is awarded on a yearly basis. This year the scholarship has been awarded to Cathy Jo Rodda, a senior General Geology major from Medford, WI.
Department Honored with Several Guest Speakers in 2001

* Dr. Barbara Tewksbury, Professor of Geology at Hamilton College, New York, and past president of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, visited our campus March 12-13. Barb was sponsored through the NAGT Distinguished Speakers program. She offered a workshop entitled “Practical Strategies for Actively Engaging Students in the Classroom, and for Assessing Their Work.” In addition, Barb facilitated an informal discussion about how to recruit students to the sciences. Barb is a dynamic person and she had some great teaching and recruitment ideas for us.

* Mr. Pete Bement, a 1995 General Geology Emphasis graduate, visited UW-Eau Claire at the beginning of March. Pete made a presentation to students and faculty entitled “Careers (and Life) in the ‘Oil Patch’.” The talk was well attended and everyone enjoyed the presentation. Pete works for Pathfinder Energy Services, the fastest growing Measurement-While-Drilling (MWD) and Logging-While-Drilling (LWD) company in the world. Pete, along with former alumnus Ron Weegman, both work out of the Lafayette, LA, office. For any of you that might be interested in a job with PathFinder, the positions require a 4-year bachelors degree in engineering, physics, geology, earth science or other technical field; excellent communication and customer service skills; technical expertise; and you must be legally authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis. Feel free to contact Ron (ron.weegman@pathfinderlwd.com) or Pete (bementpj@msn.com) via e-mail if would like more information.

* Dr. Martin Miller, Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Oregon, and his daughter Lindsay visited the department on January 29th during a Wisconsin ice storm! Martin was a Visiting Assistant Professor in our department from 1994-1997, and during his three years here he taught Physical Geology, Structural Geology, Geological Field Excursions, Engineering Geology, Geological Field Methods, and Global Geophysics and Tectonics. Martin’s presentation was entitled “The Tien Shan of Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia: Modern tectonism controlled by the Paleozoic?” As usual, Martin did a fabulous job keeping everyone entertained at his presentation with the use of his photography skills and wonderful sense of humor.

Recent UWEC Geology Graduates

Summer 1999
Eric Dahl, General Geology
Brian Hennings, General Geology

Fall 1999
Gretchen (Haupt) McDonnell, Hydrogeology
Gretchen Peters, Political Science w/Geology minor
Christine Pint, Hydrogeology
Kay Schoenecker, Environmental Geology

Spring 2000
Jason Belair, Hydrogeology
Ted Cummings, Biology major w/Geology minor
Quinten DeMars, General Geology
Paul Dupre, Hydrogeology
Erin Everson, Environmental Geology
Justin Humenik, Environmental Geology
Brian Junck, Geography major w/Geology minor
Arno Lamm, Biology major w/Geology minor
Tyler Mace, Environmental Geology

Spring 2000 (Cont.)
Timothy Morrell, Environmental Geology
Jean Morrison, General Geology
Carrie Rowe, General Geology
Michael Schmidt, General Geology
Matthew Udovitsch, General Geology
Sarah Uvodich, Environmental Geology

Summer 2000
Bradley (BJ) Fuller, Environmental Geology
Jared Schmidt, General Geology

Fall 2000
Jody Brandrup, Earth & Environmental Geology
Matt Grandy, Environmental Geology
Josh Kohn, Earth & Environmental Geology

Congratulations
Graduates!
Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects,  
Student Research Day ~ Spring 2001

The Ninth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 23-24 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.\(^1\) We are very proud of each student!

Nicole Bergstrom, along with Karen Havholm, and Garry Running & Harry Jol (Geography), “Documenting Sand Dune Stratigraphy Through Ground-Penetrating Radar, Flintstone Hill, SW Manitoba.”

Sarah Gordee and Carter Detloff, along with Bradford Burton, “Geologic and Geochemical Comparison of late Eocene and Oligocene Volcanic and Intrusive Rocks, Carlin-Range and Central Ruby Mountains, Elko County, Nevada.” Received first place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category. \(\text{Sarah \& Carter also presented their poster at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Reno, NV, in November 2000.}\)

April Johnson, along with Karen Havholm, “Documenting the Paleoenvironment of the Proterozoic Hinckley Sandstone.”

Brent Kabat and Katie Thornburg, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Robert Hooper, “Swan Lake Transect: Insight into Metal Speciation in the lower Coeur d’Alene River Valley, Idaho.”

Matt Kromrey and David Hanson, along with J. Brian Mahoney and Sean Hartnett (Geography Dept.), “GPS Mapping in Rugged Terrain: The Geronimo Frisbee Course, Kingston, New Mexico.”

Stephanie Larsen, along with Phillip Ihinger, “Geology at Oregon Caves National Monument.”

Sarah Prindiville, along with J. Brian Mahoney, “Provenance Signature of Glaciofluvial Sediments, Puget Lowland, Washington.” Received second place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category.

Katie Thornburg, along with Robert Hooper, “Transmission Electron Microscopy of Grain and Biocoatings from Lead and Zinc Contaminated Sediments in the Lower Coeur d’Alene River Valley.” \(\text{Katie also presented this poster at the 2001 GSA Rocky Mountain Section meeting in Albuquerque, NM, in April 2001.}\)

Katie Thornburg, along with Kent Syverson and Robert Hooper, “Clay Mineralogy of Till Units in Western Wisconsin.” \(\text{Katie also presented this poster at the GSA annual meeting held in Reno, NV, in November 2000, where she received the award for the best student poster in the undergraduate research session.}\)

\(^2\)Kristen Hanson and Maria Waggoner, along with Kent Syverson, “Glacial Geology of the Jim Falls 7.5’ Quadrangle, Chippewa County, Wisconsin.” \(\text{Presented at the North-Central GSA Sectional Meeting in Normal, IL, on April 22-23.}\)

\(^2\)Maria Waggoner and Kristen Hanson, along with Kent Syverson, “Origin of the high-relief Chippewa Moraine, western Chippewa County, Wisconsin.” \(\text{Presented at the North-Central GSA Sectional Meeting in Normal, IL, on April 22-23.}\)

\(^1\)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 and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

\(^2\)Because this meeting was scheduled on the same date as Student Research Day, Maria and Kristen were unable to showcase their posters at Student Research Day.
Bradford Burton (E-mail: burtonbr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4982)

This marks the end of my fourth year at UWEC. This year was busier yet—is there an upper limit? After an intensive field mapping program in Nevada, I enjoyed teaching new field-based introductory geology courses last summer and fall, revised two manuscripts for publication in Geology and Journal of Petrology, and began a new thermochronology project in Montana. We presented the initial findings of our research on Eocene volcanics in Nevada at the GSA Conference in Reno last fall. This summer will see an extensive field program in Montana, followed by one in Nevada to complete mapping of the Robinson Mountain Quadrangle. I’ve been lucky to work with great students on these projects, including Sarah Gordee and Carter Dettloff (Nevada) and Luke Beranek (Montana). I am looking forward to the first offering of our new Petroleum Geology course next fall. Ciao for now.

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

This has been a much quieter year. Research (jointly with Garry Running and Harry Jol in Geography) took me and junior major Nicole Bergstrom to Manitoba in early August where we examined the stratigraphy of some stabilized parabolic dunes. This is part of a larger archaeological project designed to understand human use of geomorphologically diverse areas of the Great Plains through the Holocene. Senior April Johnson has picked up the Hinckley Sandstone project, extending the study area and looking in more detail at the style of deformation within the fluvial and eolian strata. I continue to try to instill some understanding of the earth in elementary education majors, and enjoy working with these students. I have just started on a new project with an education major, Lisa Hansen. She is researching availability of teaching techniques and materials for teaching geology to blind and visually impaired students. This should prove interesting, and we hope to educate the geology teaching community about what is available.

Things are going fine at home. Merilie is in 10th grade and attended her first formal dance recently. School is going well and her Senior Girl Scout troop (the only one in the area) is working on their Gold award and doing leadership training. She has sold 98 boxes of Girl Scout cookies so far (Glenn is the troop’s Cookie Dad). Her main extra-curricular activity is figure skating (had a fine show in April!) but she also manages to make some progress on the cello and is playing with the youth symphony this year. Glenn is beginning to look about for a more challenging job, but remains our rock and keeps us grounded.

We really do love to hear from our former students, so if your news is not in the newsletter this year, let’s hear from you!

Bob Hooper (E-mail: hooperrl@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4932)

The Hooper family was busy this past year. Matthew is a junior in high-school and Jennifer is a sophomore, so we decided to take a “big-trip” as one of the last family outings. I know that it’s hard to believe the children have grown older, especially since their parents don’t seem to be aging! We spent three weeks in Germany and Austria behaving as though we were Germans. I learned enough German to be able to order brats, beer and strudel for the whole family! In a pinch I even found rooms for sleeping. I never let the family accept the “English” menus so that we could experience the full-flavor of the experience. When you don’t speak the language, the baby octopus on the pizza can be quite a shock!

We rented a car and we went wherever the tourists didn’t go. If there were tourist buses we just kept driving to the next town. We found some very unusual places (I wish I knew where we were). In addition, we made some local friends in one police station when I failed to read a traffic sign. German police can be very strict, especially when the only German words you know are Zimmer, Bier, Brats and Strudel! This spring break the family went to Taos skiing and we had perfect weather with highs in the 70s in town and fresh powder in the mountains. Matthew fell in love with skiing the couloirs.

I concentrated most of this year on research using the new Transmission Electron Microscope. One of my students presented at Rocky Mountain GSA in Albuquerque, NM, and the poster was well received by the conference participants. The rest of the equipment is in crates, so geochemistry research has slowed a little. I’m still teaching Min/Pet I and geochemistry and keeping busy with being Chair and equipment technician.
Greetings from the new guy on the block! I come to Eau Claire after spending time first on the west coast and then on the east coast. I did my collegiate work in southern California (BA at Pomona College, PhD at Caltech) and then became an Assistant Professor at Yale University in Connecticut. However, the Midwest is no stranger to me, as I lived in the Twin Cities in my childhood (in fact, I still have family living in Minneapolis). Shortly after marrying my wife (Patricia Turner, then a History Professor at Lehigh University), we were both very fortunate to be offered two professorships at UWEC (thank you, Bob Hooper, for all your magic!). We just finished purchasing our first house and are excited about settling down and raising our family here in Eau Claire.

I will be teaching Physical Geology, Global Environmental Change, Earth Resources, and Mineralogy/Petrology II. My greatest pleasure, however, is teaching the principles of earth science by engaging students in independent research projects. I am an igneous and metamorphic petrologist who works on scientific problems in field and laboratory settings. In particular, I am interested in the nature of hot-spot volcanism in the continental setting. The relationship between kimberlites, alkaline complexes such as in Wausau, and hot-spot activity is particularly intriguing to me and provides an ideal line of research to involve UWEC students. In addition, I am setting up an experimental laboratory in which students can simulate the crystallization of magmas and the growth of crystals to better understand the origin and evolution of the Earth’s crust and mantle.

While at Yale, I enjoyed tremendously my involvement in collaborative research with undergraduates. In this past year, five of the undergraduates who worked with me published and/or presented papers at a variety of conferences. Their projects covered a wide variety of topics, including: (1) deciphering the growth rate of natural quartz crystals (published in Nature, April 2000); (2) determining the effect of composition on the speciation of water in silicate melts (presented to AGU in Washington DC, May, 2000); (3) discovering a terrestrial analogue to the controversial carbonate assemblage observed in the celebrated Martian meteorite, ALH-84001 (presented to the Packard Fellows Conference in Monterey, CA, September, 2000), and; (4) determining the interaction at the contact of mafic alkaline dikes with their surrounding host rock (presented to GSA in Reno, October, 2000). During the next year, I will be writing up this research while my new lab facility is being constructed as part of the Phillips Hall renovation. I hope to meet you all soon.

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

The new millennium. Hmmm. Looks a whole lot like the old one from where I sit. However, I am told I cannot spend my valuable space belly-aching about the incompetence of the building remodel and how the project is detrimental to all aspects of our program, so I will not bring up such topics. The year has flown by as per norm, and was full of adventures. The highlight of the year was a Geology 343 trip to Costa Rica (reported on in last Newsletter), which we hope will be the first of many international excursions. UWEC made a major impression at the Spring 2000 GSA Cordilleran section meeting, where eight papers were presented by UWEC faculty and students.

I spent the summer in Washington and British Columbia, where the majority of time was spent compiling manuscripts and getting our ideas on paper. A necessary event, but not quite as intriguing as mapping in the high alpine!

This academic year was filled with field trips to the Black Hills, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. The only way to teach geology is to do geology, and that means getting out on the rocks and examining the world around us. We switched the order of Sedimentation/Stratigraphy and Earth History, so Sed/Strat is a spring course and Earth History is a fall course – students told us Earth History would be a lot more comprehensible after Sed/Strat, and we thought it was a great idea. The rearrangement led to two back-to-back Sed/Strat classes, with field trips to the Black Hills in the fall, and to Arkansas in the spring. Arkansas was particularly fun, as the weather was tremendous, Nimrod Lake was warm, and the rocks were very agreeable. A new road cut presented us with an unprecedented opportunity, so the class spent the day conducting a detailed sedimentologic analysis of the 250 m road cut. We will compile the data we collected and do detailed petrographic analysis over the next couple of months and produce a manuscript/field guide co-authored by the entire class. This turned out to be a tremendous idea, as the interest level and motivation was very high. The only way to learn geology is by doing geology!

This semester Paul Thomas (UWEC-Physics) and I taught a Special Topics course on Planetary Geology. The highlight of the course was an 8-day field trip to the Colorado Plateau to compare and contrast true and potential impact structures. The group was a mix of geology, physics, and other science students, which led to lively interactions on the trip!

This summer initiates a two-year mapping program in the Bella Coola region of British Columbia. Two UWEC undergraduates will be joining me for what promises to be a very interesting summer of mapping along the crest of the Coast Mountains. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!
Paul Myers, Professor Emeritus (E-mail: myerspe@charter.net)

Paul has been a tough guy to track down lately because he has been busy gallivanting around the world with his new bride!!! Yes, you read that correctly! Paul married Welthy Halstead Soni on December 30, 2000, in Peru, Vermont. After the wedding, Paul and Welthy moved to Tennessee with Welthy’s parents. They visited Eau Claire shortly after the wedding to put Paul’s house on the market, and they stopped by to visit us during their stay, but we haven’t seen anything of them since. Their game plan was to depart for a honeymoon to China, Tibet, and North Vietnam in late March. Well, the latest postcard came from Tibet, they had just visited China, and they were planning to head for Hong Kong and Vietnam...so they were right on schedule. As you can tell, Paul is taking full advantage of retirement and life...Keep up the good work, Paul! You’re

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

Another busy year has passed in Eau Claire. Geology courses continue to be in high demand and the seminars seem to move very quickly. I am still teaching Physical Geology, Geology of National Parks and Earth Science (and still enjoying it). My most significant teaching accomplishment has been the successful development of web pages for my courses. Now, I can see much more work that needs to be done to keep these current and useful. And I thought technology was supposed to make life simpler! I am also working on co-authoring papers from previous fieldwork.

I accompanied Bob Hooper on the Rocky Mountain Field Studies course again last interim and, yet again, the trip was a huge success. The weather was unusually mild and Yellowstone treated us to some spectacular wildlife. Grizzlies, black bears and wolves were all spotted - a great treat!

I spent much of last summer landscaping and, although it has been a harsh winter in Eau Claire, I am sure that spring is coming soon and I will get to enjoy the fruits of that labor.

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

Greetings! It has been an eventful year. The most unusual part of the year was not preparing for classes as late August rolled around (for the first time since 1969)! Why? I was on sabbatical during fall semester, and I had a wonderful time! After completing my third and final summer mapping the glacial geology of Chippewa County, WI, for the WI Geological Survey, I spent most of my time in Eau Claire preparing research for publication. However, I did make a couple of "big" trips. I presented a paper in Montreal at the Quebec Quaternary Association meeting in late August. My wife Lila accompanied me to Montreal, and the grandmas took care of the kids, so we called the trip "Honeymoon III!!" "Tourist" highlights of the trip included touring museums in Old Port, attending mass at Notre Dame Basilica, climbing Mt. Royal, and seeing the spectacular art exhibit "From Renoir to Picasso." I also traveled to Maine for ten days in mid-October to strengthen research connections with the Maine Geological Survey. I visited classic glacial geology sites in Acadia National Park and eastern Maine, studied spectacular eskers Ronald Shreve country...!), mapped glacial striations near Lincoln, and attended two Univ. of Maine Black Bear hockey games. I am teaching glacial geology and oceanography this spring.

Students continue to be involved in my Chippewa County research project. Three students presented posters at North-Central GSA in Indianapolis in April 2000 (Tyler Mace, till database; Katie Thornburg, till clay mineralogy; and Joel Hyzer, glacial geology mapping project). Katie Thornburg presented her final till clay mineralogy results at the National GSA meeting in Reno, and she won a best student poster award. Thanks to Bob Hooper's help and a lot of work on Katie's part, several questions about the glacial history of western Wisconsin have been answered.

On the home front, Nathaniel (3 yrs) has become the "wrestler" of our family. If he doesn't learn to eat more heartily, he will weigh 33 lbs forever! Rebecca (5.7 yrs) started kindergarten this fall, and her favorite pastime at home is sounding out melodies on the piano. Laura (8 yrs) is in second grade and has become an avid reader. The greatest excitement of the year for the kids was three weeks of cat sitting for my sister while she was on vacation. I also built a wooden swing set for the kids in the backyard, and that was popular before the snow flew. Lila has been volunteering one day each week in Rebecca's class, as well as supervising the local community garden.

It has been nice hearing from so many of you this year! Stop in and visit before I am completely bald...!
John Tinker (E-mail: tinkerjr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

I just received the third notice from Nancy to write a short note for the newsletter. I guess that lets you know that I am either: still disorganized, still overworked, still enjoying teaching too much to write; still trying to meet deadlines; still working on the computer model for Eau Claire County; still trying to be a professional hydrogeologist, or some combination of all activities. I do know that teaching is still fun after 32 years. My advice is to find a job you like, enjoy and support your family, appreciate and respect the environment, and hope the bills get paid at the end of the month. I send my regards to all past students of UWEC. I hope the education you received at UWEC is still helping you through life.

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

No earth-shaking news from my department of life. Life continues to be good. Our recent trips have been to spend time with distant family and friends. Wishing everyone success and happiness as the days go by.

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

Well, it sure was a great winter for snowmobiling! The past three years (or basically since I purchased my own sled) we’ve only averaged about 3-4 good weeks of sledding, but this winter we had plenty of snow. We even had a 9” snow storm in mid-March! Unfortunately, we were ready to put our sleds away for the season by that time. We were anxious to jump into spring so we could start building our new house, which has been a very exciting project, along with a lot of work and an awful lot of decision making! The biggest relief is that our old house is already sold, and the buyer is allowing us to rent from him until we have our new house done. Although it feels strange having to pay rent to live in your own house, it should work out pretty slick in the long run.

My husband and I had a real nice get-away this past summer when we went up to stay on the north shores of Lake Superior at the Bluefin Bay Resort. What a beautiful area! I told my husband that it even seemed like it was easier to breathe up there! We also visited Las Vegas in October. It was our first time there too—boy, that’s quite an amazing place too. While in Vegas we checked out the Hoover Dam, Laughlin, a preseason L.A. Lakers’ basketball game, the Annual PBR Pro Bull Riders Finals, etc. We were both astonished at how the professional basketball court had been transformed into a rodeo “dirt pit” within a couple days (both events were held at the Thomas & Mack Center)—or maybe we’re just easily amused.

Thanks again to all of you that took the time to send us your news and address updates, and thanks especially to those of you that have stopped by to visit us this past year—we enjoy your visits!

Can You Find The 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
Jay Byers, 1980
Noreha (Yussof) Day, 1988
Carol Eloranta, 1982
James Engelhardt, 1997
Joseph Hinke, 1992
Jeffrey Jarocki, 1979
James Johnson, 1973
Karen Mc Adam, 1984
John Mc Bride, 1984
David Prose, 1976
Alan Rahn, 1983
Gordon Schuh Jr., 1970
Kathryn Shaw, 1979
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The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since March 2000.

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During the past year, $1715 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund by thirteen alumni, one friend of the department, and two alumni employers. 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 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 is financial, setting up meetings to speak with our geology majors/minors, offering employment to new graduates, or donating equipment.

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WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?
The latest news from alumni.

Lance Bakken (1997). Lance continues to work for RMT, Inc., an environmental engineering firm in Madison, WI. He says the majority of his work is in the field conducting ground-water investigation/sampling, gas monitoring, and sound monitoring. “Most of my sites are local (100 mile radius), but some of the bigger Superfund sites require travel (MO, IA, MI, IL) and can take up to 2-3 weeks to sample,” Lance explained. He also does some office work, such as making ground-water maps, writing reports, and lots of data management. Lance has worked on some very interesting and challenging projects in which he has gained a lot of valuable experience. Lance.Bakken@rmtinc.com

Michelle (Barnes) Peterson (1992). Michelle is in her sixth year at AMEC Earth & Environmental as an Environmental Consultant. Michelle remarked, “I have been given the opportunity to manage several junior employees. So far they haven’t caused me any trouble! I have also been fortunate to be involved in a project using an innovative remediation technology that employs electricity to heat subsurface soil and groundwater to the boiling temperature of the contaminants of concern. Once the contaminants have become vapors, they rise and are collected by a venting system. It’s been an amazing project, full of challenges. By this time next year, I am hoping to be talking about its success at as many conferences as I can get the company to send me to!”

Michelle and her husband Brian are still happily married and they are living in a small rural town about 40 miles southwest of Portland. “Our kittens, Magnum and Sylvie, have grown into beautiful cats, and for the moment, they are our “kids,” Michelle remarked, “We hope the newsletter finds you all as happy as we are!”

Bryce Bartelma (1995). Bryce works at the Northern Environmental Technologies in Mequon, WI, as a Hydrogeologist. bbartelma@northern-env.com

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg has returned to the geosciences after spending the last two years working for an aerospace company. He is now the Director of Global Client Development for Golder Associates, a 2000-person geosciences firm with 80 plus offices located worldwide. The Beckstrom family continues to do well. Greg’s wife, Julia (BBA in MIS, UWEC ’85) is the Manager of Information Systems at Cargill in Minneapolis. Daughter Anna is now 5½ and her little brother William is 2½.

Pete Bement (1995). Pete works for Pathfinder Energy Services, a fast-growing petroleum service company. Pete, along with alumnus Ron Weegman, both work out of the Lafayette, LA, office. Pete commented, “The oil industry has been keeping me very busy this last year. I’ve been working on offshore oil rigs providing Logging While Drilling Logs of wellbore characteristics; Gamma Ray, Formation Resistivity, Porosity, Sonic Profiles, Formation Pressure, and Wellbore Pressure. I am hired by major and minor operating companies, such as Chevron, Texaco, Dominion, and Stone, etc. It’s interesting, but I spend 20-26 days a month on rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and it gets to be monotonous. Pete was home several times this past year to visit his father, who recently passed away after a 5-year illness. In fact, when Pete was in town in March for his father’s funeral, he visited the Geology Department and presented a talk to the students and faculty entitled “Careers (and Life) in the ‘Oil Patch.’” bementpj@msn.com (“I am frequently away for extended periods of time, so if I don’t respond immediately I will at the first opportunity.”)

Tracy Carpenter (1995). Tracy recently defended her master’s degree from Arizona State University.
carpentl@asu.edu

Doug Cieslak (1993). Doug is the County Conservationist at the Buffalo County Land Conservation Department in Alma, WI. Dcieslak1@buffalocounty.com
Ted Cummings (2000). After graduation, Ted was hired by the Eau Claire branch of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to do trout stream research. He has since changed positions within the DNR, and is now a water management specialist. unirdna@charter.net

Tom Danielson (1998). After deciding to pursue an MSc program at the University of British Columbia, Tom and his family packed up the Ryder van and moved to Blaine, WA. Tom spent the summers of 1998 and 1999 in the central Mexican state of Zacatecas, doing mapping, logging drill core, and collecting geochron, geochem, and Pb-Pb isotope samples in support of his study of the San Nicolas VMS deposit. Tom said, "The remainder of the 98-99 and 99-00 years were spent crushing rocks, picking zircons, reading, writing my thesis, and spending four months conducting mineral exploration in central China." Tom defended his thesis this past December. Tom remarked, "I finally defended my thesis—the last slide of my defense presentation was 'free at last, free at last, lord almighty, free at last.'" Tom's wife, Antje, has also been very busy. She recently received her AAS, and is now considering a bachelor's degree in either zooarcheology or paleontology. Their son Alex is now eleven. "He's a budding soccer star (scoring the winning goal in the championship semi-final) and a regular lady killer," Tom proudly commented. Tom gives his best regards to all! danielta@gte.net

Eric Dahl (1998). Eric is working in the environmental field at Metco in LaCrosse, WI.

Greg Durocher (1982). Greg continues to work for the USGS in Alaska. Greg reports that a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope oil field is moving closer to reality. Two routes have been proposed, but the State of Alaska prefers the route that follows the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline to Fairbanks before diverging to enter the existing gas pipeline network. gfdurocher@usgs.gov

Christopher Elvrum (1992). After working as an environmental consultant in Milwaukee for 4.5 years, Chris moved back to Minnesota to work for the Metropolitan Council, a regional governmental agency. In his position as Water Supply Planner, Chris is responsible for reviewing plans, water-demand forecasting, and ground-water modeling. This June, Chris and his fiancée Melissa will be tying the knot. christopher.elvrum@metc.state.mn.us

Kristie Franz (1995). Kristie and UWEC alumna Terri Hogue ventured on a seven-day bike trip of southern Utah this past summer. Kristie remarked, "It went really well. I tell people about the 13-mile, 2000-foot climb against 50 m.p.h. head and cross winds and battling the 40-degree weather at 10,000 feet only to have to face steep mountain switchbacks on a highly traveled road on the downhill trek to 6000 feet, and no one thinks it sounds like fun—I can't understand it." Otherwise, Kristie is continuing to work toward her master's degree at the University of Arizona in the Hydrogeology and Water Resources Department. kristie@hwr.arizona.edu

Scott Galetka (1998). Scott is employed at the Lincoln County Courthouse in the Land Information Office. Sgaletka@Co.Lincoln.wi.us

Thomas Gill (1985). Tom lives in Oak Park, IL, where he is an Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager for Waste Management, Inc. tgill@wm.com

Heather Golding (1998). After graduation Heather headed to the University of New Orleans to obtain her master's degree, which she completed last fall. She has started a Ph.D. at the University of Georgia with Sandra Wyld, a structural geologist. The last we heard, Heather was planning to work on a project in the Black Rock Desert of northern Nevada.
Harrison Griffin (1996). Harry is a Physical Scientist for the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage, AK. The last time we heard from Harry he had been working on an abandoned mercury mine called the Kolmakof Mine. In his position, Harry said he acts as the Assistant Project Inspector in the field, and he takes care of the accounting/contracting spreadsheets and submitting the task orders. He is also involved in oil and gas rig investigations/remediations. Harrison_Griffin@ak.blm.gov

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen is a Geologist and Environmental Management Systems Implementor at Earth Tech, Inc., in Sheboygan, WI. Kristen is currently implementing an ISO 14001-compliant Environmental Management System (EMS) at an automotive aluminum die casting facility in Indiana, and she figures the project should be completed and the system certified to the Standard in July 2001. Kristen says, "Commuting weekly to Kokomo, IN, from Sheboygan, WI, has one major benefit—the frequent flier miles!" However, even though Kristen thinks this project is interesting, she is looking forward to completing it and starting a new project a little closer to home. I still get to do some geology once in a while, and in November 2000 I was elected to my second two-year term as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Groundwater Association (WGWA)." kristen_gunderson@earthtech.com

Rick Hagen (1984). After graduation from UWEC, Rick went on to grad school in Hawaii and received his Ph.D. in 1992. He did a post-doc at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Germany, and then did another post-doc at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. Since 1998 Rick has been working as a marine geologist and project manager for Seafloor Surveys International, Inc., doing surveys for submarine telecom cables. Rick says, "It's interesting work, and the industry is putting in cables at a break-neck pace." Rick is married and has a 2-year-old daughter. "We're in the process of buying our first house now, so I guess I'm finally going to settle down in one place for a while! However, I still have to travel for work—In fact, I'm leaving next week for Korea." R.hagen@seafloor.com

Doug Hallum (1996). Doug and his fiancée Paula moved back to Chippewa Falls, WI, but they weren't around for long. In fact, we just received a farewell e-mail from Doug stating that they were planning to depart for Texas on Memorial Day. They had found a place to rent on Houston County Lake, west of Crockett, TX. However, Dave figured he would be spending the first month near Ruidoso, NM, working on his first assignment. drhallum@prodigy.net

Gretchen (Haupt) McDonell (1999). Gretchen is a research scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Ada, OK.

Brian Hennings (1999). Brian is attending graduate school at Idaho State University to obtain his master's degree in geology. Hennbr@isu.edu

Dave Hodek (1995). Dave lives in Superior, WI, and works as a Project Manager/Geological Engineer with Natural Resources Engineering in Duluth, MN. Dave travels to Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota quite a bit for his job, but his field time has recently slowed down since he has become more involved in the project and personnel management part of the job. "That's a pretty tough adjustment for me to handle since that's the reason I chose geology," Dave remarked, "However, the company has grown 150% since I started, so it's great to see something develop from the ground up." Dave said the most fun he had last year was when he had to supervise construction of a remediation system. "I got to drive and run the fire hose on a 1970's-era fire engine. So not only did I get to play in the mud, I got to play fireman. Talk about your childhood fantasies come true." davehodek@hotmail.com

Matt Hostak (1989). Matt is an Air Pollution Engineer at the Department of Natural Resources. When asked for news, Matt wrote: Still with DNR, since 1989 (You gotta love a state job!). Still rattling the "beauracratic monkey cage" whenever it needs it. Still renovating/restoring an 1867 house in Oshkosh, and have found a great resource for materials: Old houses slated for demolition. I save things from the landfill and give them a new life in my home or someone else's home." hostam@dnr.state.wi.us
Tony Jones (1992). Tony has been employed with Becher-Hoppe Associates in Wausau, WI, since June 1998. When we heard from Tony in March, he and his wife Nancy, and their 8-year-old daughter had just returned from a two-week vacation to Florida and the Bahamas. Tony and Nancy also have a 15-month-old daughter. They reside in Rhinelander, WI. tjnnb@newnorth.net

Ric Kopp (1975). Ric is a Senior Geologist at the Belco Energy Corporation in Parker, CO. Ric remarked, “With the high oil and gas prices this past year Belco has kept me very busy. I have had three drilling rigs running since May 2000 in the Green River Basin of Wyoming. Have been involved in two large 3-D seismic programs and a large Bighorn Basin 2-D seismic program. These should lead to additional 2001 drilling. During this time I got Belco into two new Basins, and may see drilling towards the end of the year.” Well, it’s a good thing that Ric has a good job, because his three children sure are active...his daughter Brenda is a freshman at the University of Colorado-Denver, his daughter Carrie is a freshman at Colorado State in Fort Collins, and his son Rick recently graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a B.S. in Engineering...Can you hear Ric’s pocketbook crying “Ouch!” RicKopp@compuserve.com

Lisa Kraft (1999). After graduation Lisa headed to Michigan Tech University to obtain a master’s degree in forestry. The last time we heard from Lisa she was just starting to work on her MS project, she said, “I am using a new trail rating system called the Universal Trail Assessment Process, and GPS/GIS to rate a series of trails around Copper Harbor. Basically, the easy, moderate, and difficult system does not give users a clear picture of what the trail is like. Plus, I will be creating new maps as well as signage for the trails. Current maps are terrible. I hope to incorporate some policy into the project as well.” Lisa has also been working with the Forest Service located on the MTU campus, where she uses database software, ArcView, and land survey notes from the 1800’s. Lisa said, “Basically data entry, but it’s not as bad as it sounds. It’s interesting to hear about what the land cover was 200 years ago and how it’s changed. The same work is being done in WI and MN. The end product will be a land cover map for all three states.” llkraft@mtu.edu

Shanna Laube (1990). Two weeks after graduation from UWEC Shanna was hired by the DNR. Shanna said, “I was shocked. How a biology major ended up a hydro is beyond me.” Shanna has worked at the DNR offices in Adams-Friendship, Wisconsin Rapids, and Park Falls, and in 1996 she was transferred to the Department of Commerce. “I have been trying to get back to the DNR ever since,” she remarked. Shanna and her 7½-year-old son, Alex, are hoping to move to the southern part of the state sometime in the near future. “I put my house up for sale and hope to have a job and new place to live before that sells. Anyone want to buy a house in Butternut? Call me.” Shanna would also like to have a Geology Club reunion sometime, so if anyone else is interested let her know. slaube@commerce.state.wi.us

Tyler Mace (2000). Tyler is employed in database administration at Silicon Graphics in Chippewa Falls, WI.

Tim Masterlark (1994). Tim earned his Ph.D. last summer from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently continuing his stay at Madison to conduct post-doc research. Tim explains, “My work involves constructing numerical models of geomechanical systems.” This summer Tim plans to join the USGS at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He expressed that he was saddened to hear that the Camaraderie had burned down. “I remember spending quite a bit of time there discussing geophysics with Lung Chan. Although I do not remember exactly what we discussed, I can say with confidence that a wet napkin is no substitute for a chalkboard. I’m just thankful the Joynt is still standing.” Tim also notified us that he and several other UWEC alumni had a “meeting of the minds” last summer at the Interstate State Park. Tim commented, “It’s a relief to finally have the NOTO/NOVOTNY controversy worked out.” [Editor’s note—see later news items...] master@geology.wisc.edu
Thomas Mc Manus (1999). Tom is a Senior Assistant Engineer/Scientist for I.T. Corporation in New Brighton, MN (per UWEC Career Services).

Ann (Melby) Kron (1996). "We are still really enjoying living in Montana! I'm starting to catch on to fly fishing, and have really enjoyed hiking and backpacking in the mountains. We survived the terrible fires last summer, even with the frustration of not being able to be outdoors for several weeks. We bought a house this past August and have been having a lot of fun fixing it up and making it feel like our home (i.e. I finally have space to put all of my rocks out!) Pyro came out to visit in September, which was a blast! We spent a few days near Yellowstone and had fun reminiscing about Rocky Mountain Field Studies," Ann wrote. Ann is working for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality as a hazardous waste permitter, where she oversees cleanup of groundwater and soil contamination from past practices at a pesticide formulating plant and a creosote tie treating plant. Ann commented, "It is challenging to figure out the ins and outs of RCRA, but I'm really enjoying it." Ann also wrote: If anyone is ever in Montana definitely give us a call!!!! adkron@juno.com

Dave Meyer (1977). Dave completed his master's degree in Geological Oceanography at the Florida Institute of Technology in 1981, and he is currently employed at Chevron North America Exploration and Production as a Staff Geologist. When Dave was asked to update us on what he has been up to for the past 20+ years, he wrote: I have been exploring for oil and gas reserves in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico for the last five years. A significant area of exploration potential is below widespread salt canopies that have been remobilized from their original mid-Jurassic age of deposition. Most often these salt sheets have moved upsection and have flowed out and over the younger Miocene sand and shale stratigraphy. The deep water turbidites deposited during the Miocene are the prime reservoir targets for subsalt structures in the Gulf of Mexico." Dave's wife, Betsy (UWEC Special Education graduate of 1980) teaches 6th grade, along with juggling the social activities of their three boys, who are 10, 14, and 15 years old. DMEY@CHEVRON.COM

Greg Michael (1996). When we asked Greg for an update for the newsletter, this was the best that he could come up with, "Sorry, but my life is appropriately boring. Two kids, a dog, and driving a minivan, talk about classic..." Well, Greg is going to wish he came up with something a little more concrete once he finds out that we actually published exactly what he said, but seriously...Greg is employed as a Hydrogeologist for the Department of Commerce, and he and his family reside in Wauwatosa, WI. gmichael@commerce.state.wi.us

Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy moved to Fond du Lac, WI, last summer when he took a position as a Die Cast Supervisor with Mercury Marine. Jeremy spent the summer living in a cottage on Lake Winnebago because his wife and daughter were not able to relocate immediately. Jeremy says, "I spent virtually the whole summer on the water when I wasn't at work. Did the usual: fishing, swimming, fishing, boating, fishing... Did I mention fishing?" Jeremy said that his family has adjusted well to their new hometown. The three of them (his wife Shawna, and their 3-year-old daughter Isabelle) are planning a backpacking trip to Isle Royale this summer, as well as a road trip to upstate New York. Jeremy_miller@mercmarine.com

Joshua Miller (1999). Josh is a hydrogeologist with Handex in Naperville, IL (per UWEC Career Services).
Hi Everyone, Life goes well. I finally landed a permanent position at the University of Oregon and like everyone else, have way too much to do. Coffee helps though. It makes me smarter and more efficient and exercises my heart when I'm truly disappointed that we were able to turn around--she's now seven! (Have I been gone for four years?) It was GREAT for me to see everyone and "reconnect" with them—and take Lindsay to all sorts of places and to see all sorts of people that she only vaguely remembered. And to those of you who remember the killer ice storm that didn't quite materialize, Lindsay was truly disappointed that we were able to leave town as scheduled.

When we returned from Eau Claire, Lindsay told me that the most boring part of her visit was having to sit through my geology talk. Oh well, life goes on. Lindsay's sister, Meg, who's now three, likes to say "yyyech!" when I cook dinner. millerm@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Jean Morrison (2000). Jean is at the Colorado School of Mines working on her master's degree in Environmental Science and Engineering. This summer she has been offered a student appointment with the USGS in Denver. She explains, "The project is dealing with arsenic contamination in the Appalachian Basin resulting from coal deposits enriched with arsenic and other metals." We don't have to wonder if Jean is enjoying life in Colorado...In her last e-mail message, she and Roger had just returned from skiing at Keystone, and three days later they were planning to go to Copper Mountain. She admits, "The weather has been great and I have quite the tan going on (from the neck up only)." jmorriso@mines.edu

Todd "Pyro" Myse (1996). Todd is planning to complete his master's degree at Dartmouth by early June, and then he hopes to find a job either out west or in Alaska. He went to visit alumna Ann Melby and her husband Darrin, in Montana last fall. He says, "We went hiking, camping, backpacking, fly fishing, and visited some local establishments as well. It was great to see where they live and hang out with them!" After visiting with Ann, he TA'd a summer field course that went from Yellowstone-Tetons-Dinosaur N.M.-Arches-Grand Canyon-Vegas-Death Valley—and back to Vegas. The field trip took place for one full month and involved 36 students. "Talk about logistics!" Todd sighed, "However, even though I've been to some of these places many times (e.g. Yellowstone and Tetons), it NEVER gets old!" Toddm.A.Myse@Dartmouth.EDU

Brian Novotny (1994). Brian is a Project Manager at Liesch Associates in Minneapolis, MN. For his news update Brian wrote: "A trip to Interstate Park in St. Croix Falls reunited me with some fellow geology graduates this past summer. Tim Masterlark, David 'I am a trained fighter' Noto, Irvin Mossberger, Eddie Wieland, Paul Overlien, and myself reminisced about our various field trips and the time I accidentally formatted the hard drive in Dr. Tinker's new computer modeling lab. Fortunately for me, Noto took the heat for it. Or at least he said he did. Consider this my admission of guilt and my apology." brian.novotny@liesch.com

Jamie Oakley (1995). Jamie is a Geologist at GeoEngineers Inc. in Black Diamond, WA. When we last heard from Jamie in late January, he was preparing to transfer to Anchorage, AK, for his job. His company had recently received a large job in Kazakhstan (formerly a member of the Soviet Union) to develop a pilot program for oil field clean-ups. Jamie remarked, "This summer I may find myself doing pilot tests overseas, so I'll have more news by the next newsletter."

...I accidentally formatted the hard drive in Dr. Tinker's new computer modeling lab.
Steve Peterson (1997). Steve completed his master’s degree at Northern Illinois University last summer. He and his family have moved to Nebraska, where Steve has been working on regional ground-water modeling for a statewide cooperative project. Besides the excitement of completing his MS and moving, in August 2000 they gave birth to a little girl, Molly. Steve proudly admits, "She's a real doll, and her big brother dotes on her as much as we do!" Her big brother Alex, will be 5-years-old this April. Steve says that Alex is astonishingly tall for his age, "I can't imagine where he gets that from," he jokingly remarked. Steve encourages all former classmates to e-mail him. sptrs@mailandnews.com

Tina Pint (1999). Tina is in her first year of graduate school at UW-Madison’s Department of Geology and Geophysics, where she is working with Dr. Mary Anderson to develop a ground-water model for a section of Vilas County. Tina says, "We will use it to look at the effects potential climate change would have on the surface/ground-water relationship." Tina says that she is enjoying Madison, and that she feels that UWEC did a good job preparing her for the work that she is doing. cdpint@geology.wisc.edu

David Risch (1978). Dave received his MS in oceanography from Texas A&M, and he has been working as a Exploration Geophysicist with BHP Petroleum for the past 13 years, mostly as a regional seismic interpreter in the Gulf of Mexico. Dave said, "Recently, I did some prospecting for 18 months but found I prefer trying to put together the big picture." Dave’s children are also very active, his daughter Erin is about to graduate with an animal science/business degree from Sam Houston University. His son Colin is attending the Art Institute in Houston for computer animation, and his youngest son will be graduating from high school this May and he plans to attend the University of Houston to become an orthodontist. Dave remarked, "It won't be long now when all three are graduated and I can get serious about a second career, possibly teaching at a small college far away from Houston." Risch.David.DL@bhp.com

Carrie Rowe (2000). After graduation Carrie departed for Calgary to work on her master’s degree in sedimentology at the University of Calgary. Her advisor is a scientist from the Geological Survey of Canada, and they are working on a Neoproterozoic carbonate unit named the Cunningham Formation. Carrie said, "I am looking forward to the upcoming summer. I will be doing field work in the Cariboo Mountains of British Columbia measuring strat sections and taking samples from the Cunningham for stable isotopic studies. In addition, next fall I have been given the opportunity to spend some time at Queen's University to study with Noel P. James, a premier carbonate sedimentologist." Carrie said she has been enjoying life in Calgary, "The winters are not even close to the cold snowy Wisconsin winters!" rowe@geo.ucalgary.ca

Pete Sandborg (1989). Pete has been working as a Project Manager/Hydrogeologist at Sigma Environmental Services, Inc., an engineering and environmental consulting firm, for the past 10 years. He comments, "I am currently chillin' in lovely Oshkosh, WI (b'gosh) on the west shores of Big Winnie (that's Lake Winnebago for all you land lubbers) where the walleye roam free. I've continued to be able to dodge the bullet with respect to commitment, responsibility, maturity, etc. That is to say, I'm still single and enjoying it." Pete hasn't visited our department for several years, but he admits that he often reminisces about the field trips offered while he was here. He must have a good memory, because he even had the gall to ask us if the Geology Department is still banned from using the University vans for field trips. psandborg@thesigmagroup.com

Don Schleicher (1985). Don continues to do an excellent job as the Television Services and Distance Education Technology Manager here at UWEC. Don admits, "I'm sad to report that there is nothing new on my home front. Kids are doing fine. Sam is in kindergarten and seems to be enjoying it; Katie is 11 months old and is a real sweetheart. No new travels, no new jobs." schleid@uwec.edu

Michael Schmidt (2000). Mike is attending graduate school at the University of Calgary.
Lisa (Sobczak) Robinson (1998). Lisa claims that the past year has been good to her. For starters, she has a new job. Lisa said, "Since the Colorado front range area was booming with high tech jobs, I decided to go for the career change." Therefore, she quit work at Terracon, a geotech firm. Lisa now works with an IBM software division, where she deals with an archive retrieval software called OnDemand. She admits, "I asked for a challenge and I got it. I've been spending the last few months taking classes learning everything I'll need to know so I can troubleshoot customer problems by replicating them in our laboratory." Lisa said she feels the change has been a good one. "I now have more means to do the things I want outside of work. In fact, my husband and I are taking a diving trip to St. Thomas/U.S. Virgin Islands this May," she said. lisaar@us.ibm.com

Amy Jo Steffen (1998). Amy Jo is a Project Scientist II at Environmental Services, Inc. in Raleigh, NC. Amy Jo remarks, "We mainly do mitigation work for the NC DOT and other private businesses. I started last August as a GPS Tech (PS-1), working long days in the hot sun mapping wetlands and streams while dodging briars, spider webs, and snakes (what fun!). Near the end of September I dislocated my shoulder playing rugby and was forced into the office for several weeks. While in the office, my graphics, cartography, and GIS skills were discovered and this is where I remain. I received a promotion at the beginning of the year and I now take the GIS data and analyze project sites for acreage and quality. I also create site and location maps for project reports." Amy Jo is taking a graduate-level GIS/ArcView course at NCSU to improve her skills, because her company recently acquired two 3- to 5-year-long GIS projects. This spring Amy Jo moved from Chapel Hill to Raleigh. "I was making a 50-minute commute one way and got tired of it," she comments. aJ_is_smashing@yahoo.com

Mark Strobel (1988). Mark and his family moved to Weston, WI, last fall. strobel@stsltd.com

Jennifer Tobias (1996). Jenna is a hydrogeologist for the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment for the Wisconsin DNR. She says, "Work is great but it's amazing how important writing and communication is in an environmental position! I would have never thought I needed those technical writing or speaking courses, but I'm glad I took them." Jenna also continues to work with Habitat for Humanity in Oshkosh. She remarks, "It's an awesome experience to work side-by-side with a family that will have their lives changed with opportunity when the home is completed." Jenna also expressed that besides enjoying the company of her co-workers at sledding parties, volleyball, etc., that many of her friends are busy having children so she has been spending some of her spare time playing Trouble, Connect Four, and other fun games. She admits, "There's a lot of laughter and fun in my life and I hope it never changes!" TobiaJ@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us

Chad Underwood (1996). Chad received his master's degree in Geological Engineering from UW-Madison in 1999. He immediately was hired as an Engineer at Montgomery Watson in Madison. After about six months, Chad decided to take advantage of an opportunity that he thought would broaden his experience by going to work for Olin Corporation at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Baraboo, WI. After five months there, Montgomery Watson had called him to come back to work for them, so Chad accepted their offer. Chad said that lately he has been working with a lot of geotechnical engineering tasks associated with ground-water modeling. He jokingly admits, "The most notable project was a wellhead protection project for a major brewery out west. It was at that point that I realized that I was really making a difference in the world—protecting America's beer supply! I now have a renewed sense of pride every time I lift a 12 oz. of my favorite brew." Chad and his wife Alison moved into their first house last summer in Mt. Horeb, WI. Chad encourages all former UWEC grads to look him up if you are ever in the Madison area, he said "I'd love to have some company next time I express my 'pride.'" underwood_chad@yahoo.com

Anthony Viavattine (1999). Tony is a GIS Specialist for the CNL Group in Orlando, FL.
Aaron Walczak (1998). Aaron is a geologist for PES Incorporated. His job responsibilities include doing Phase I and II assessments. He is also a state building inspector for lead-based paint and asbestos. Aaron is engaged to be married to his long-time girlfriend Stephanie on October 6, 2001. They also bought a house this past summer in St. Paul. As far as the city life, Aaron remarks, "It's alright, but you need to drive much farther to get to a bike or ski trail than in Eau Claire." Aaron.Walczak@psiusa.com

Kristin Weaver (1996). Kristin was full of good news when we heard from her in January. For starters, she was recently promoted to "Senior Staff Geologist" at William Lettis & Associates, Inc. in California. She explains, "I continue to enjoy the work I do here, which includes primarily seismic hazard studies and Quaternary geology (check out our website at www.lettis.com). I hope to get into more engineering geology as I continue with the company, so that I will be more prepared to take the Registered Geologist (RG) test in two years. In the meantime, I will continue excavating trenches, playing with dirt, and mapping geomorphology! Woo Hoo!" In addition to this excitement, Kristin recently became engaged. "I was visiting Dave (my fiance) in Paris and I popped the question to him at the top of the Eiffel Tower. Needless to say, he said yes, and we have a date set in March of 2002." Dave is currently working in Paris and will be finishing his post-doc in geophysics in April. Kristin & Dave plan to get married in California, but they also hope to have a reception in West Bend, WI, later in the year. weaver@lettis.com

Sarah Weaver (1996). After graduation from the Vermont Law School last summer, Sarah moved to Boulder, CO. She commented, "It's nice to live in a city again, but I do miss some of the quirkiness of a small town." Sarah spent last summer as a camp counselor for a group of kids in Boulder, and then later started her job clerking for a district court judge in Golden. In fact, she recently passed the Colorado Bar Exam! "Reciprocity among the states for lawyers is kind of tricky, which means I plan to stay in Colorado indefinitely, because I don't think I'm up for that exam again any time soon," she admits. Sarah invites anyone traveling to Colorado to look her up. sarah.weaver@judicial.state.co.us

Ron Weegman (1981). We hear from Ron once in awhile when he is recruiting. Ron is the North America Operations Manager with Pathfinder Energy Services, a petroleum exploration service company. Ron, along with alumnus Pete Bement, both work out of the Lafayette, LA, office. ron.weegman@pathfinderlwd.com

Beth Wenell (1999). We get the honor of receiving a "Year in Review" electronic Christmas card/letter from Beth every year, so she does a fine job updating us. Beth continues to work at the North Park University in Illinois as an operations assistant in the School of Continuing Studies, while her husband Dave attends the North Park Theological Seminary. Dave hopes to complete his seminary coursework this December, and then they'll be looking for an internship for him..."Anywhere," Beth says. One of Beth's highlights from this past year was whitewater rafting in the Smoky Mountains... not only did she enjoy her rafting journey, but she also met her favorite female vocalist, Alison Ogren from the band Clear. Also, this past March they traveled to Ecuador on a work project for the Covenant World Mission and the seminary. bwenell@northpark.edu

Edward Wieland (1994). Eddy and his wife Sandy reside in Duluth, MN, where Eddy is the Operations Department head on the Cutter SUNDEW. Eddy was recently accepted into the Ocean Engineering master's program at Oregon State University, so they plan to head out west if all goes as planned. "This past year has been my greatest year of hunting," Eddy comments. "I've seen so many deer and other wildlife, but decided not to take anything. No mess that way." wielandes@juno.com

Mae Willkom (1999). Mae is employed by the Wisconsin DNR in Eau Claire. She has a half-time permanent hydro position, plus a half-time LTE position doing outreach work for municipalities. Mae commented, "It's pretty much the best of both worlds—a nice mix of technical and non-technical work, with both benefits and flexibility." Mae also spends one day a week helping Dr. Tinker with his wellhead protection modeling of Eau Claire County, which is a DNR-funded grant. "In my spare time, I'm enjoying walking my dog through the woods, grooming my daughter's new horse, and planning a trip to Florida for Easter. Ain't life great?" willkome@ecol.net
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 Degree(s) ________________________________

News for the next department newsletter (NOTE: If you send us news, and then something major in your life/job changes by 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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