Greetings from the Department Chair

This past year has been exciting for the department. We're finally back in Phillips Hall after the remodeling and have a new wet-chemistry lab, a new experimental petrology lab, and improved teaching spaces for lower-division course. Upper-division space really didn't change much. The building looks better, but looks can be deceiving!

Personnel continue to change, and this always makes life interesting. Brad Burton left to join industry and is now working for Shell Oil – Canada (Calgary, Alberta). We wish him the best in his new position. We had to quickly search for a new structural geologist (hoping to beat a hiring freeze that was anticipated this spring). The hiring freeze did go into effect, but our structural geology position was one of the last positions authorized and we were able to fill it with a new faculty member. We are pleased to welcome Colin Shaw (Ph.D. University of New Mexico-Albuquerque) to the department as our new structural geologist.

Colin will be teaching physical geology, structural geology, geophysics, and field courses for the program. He sounds eager to move back to the Midwest.

Our students continue to present their research at regional, national, and international meetings and also continue to take top awards for the quality of both the science and the presentations. Last year's graduates had excellent success when applying to graduate school. I don't think the quality of the students has ever been better.

The State of Wisconsin is over a billion dollars short of cash this year and things look worse for the near future. Higher education has been singled out for substantial cuts and this always makes it harder to run the department. Still the Department is very healthy with access to great equipment, a very dedicated staff and hoards of students. We currently have 95 majors and minors and are running several upper-division courses with multiple sections.

To all of those alumni who have been supporting us I owe you a big THANKS! Your past contributions have been crucial for helping our students. With State support for higher education at an all-time low, this year I am making a special plea to our alumni and friends. Please help sponsor student opportunities in the program. Most of the contributions to the Geology Advancement Fund directly support student travel to attend meetings to present collaborative research results. We would also like to start a small scholarship fund to support participation in field camp experiences. For some students attending field camp is a huge financial burden. Sometimes financial aid will determine their ability to participate in the program. We have enclosed a donation slip and a check-off so you can target your donation.

Please help a student become a successful UWEC geologist.

As always, we encourage you to stop by for a formal or informal visit of the department. Someone is here almost all year so there's really no excuse for not stopping in. We love to see our alumni and we'd love to give you a tour of the department. Please keep in touch.

Bob

DR. JOHN TINKER ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT!

On June 8, 2002, our expert hydrogeologist, co-worker, and friend, Dr. John R. Tinker, Jr., will retire. John has been teaching in the Department of Geology at UW-Eau Claire since 1982. He received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University in Medford, MA, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota. After graduate school, John was hired by UW-Oshkosh in 1969 where he taught geology labs. He was later hired to start a geology program at UW Center-Fond du Lac where he was the only geologist on staff. He eventually received tenure from UW-Oshkosh, but mainly taught at the two-year center as the only geologist until he came to UWEC in 1982. John is currently in his 33rd year of teaching in the UW System. John has taught several courses over his 20 years at UWEC, but his main courses have been Environmental Geology, Water Resources, Physical Hydrogeology, Chemical Hydrogeology, and Computer Modeling in Hydrogeology.

(Continued on page 3)
The Geology Club at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has been revived due to renewed interest by upper-division students as well as new members still in introductory classes. Fundraising activities in both the Fall and Spring semesters provided much-needed funds for the Geology Club that have allowed the group to design a new shirt now available to all students, faculty, and alumni. In early March, Geology Club funds were used to pay for student pizza luncheons with prospective structural geology/geophysics candidates. The student turnout and comments assisted the faculty in their decision to hire Dr. Colin Shaw of the University of New Mexico.

The Geology Club has many plans for the rest of the semester. The Club is currently busy distributing notices of the new t-shirts and collecting orders. We will be sending out t-shirt order forms via e-mail to all alumni and friends of the department in early fall...so stay tuned. This spring has also seen the return of the Geology Club to the intramural scene with the creation of our own Ultimate Frisbee team. It is an exciting time for the Geology Club and we have many goals to work toward next year. We greatly appreciate any donations and help that have been given in any way by all faculty, alumni, and-the student body.

See you on the rocks!

Luke Beranek, Geology Club Vice President

Recruits for 2002

With the departure of Brad Burton in December 2001, the sabbatical of Brian Mahoney for all of 2002, the retirement of John Tinker in June 2002, the leave of absence for Lori Snyder in the Fall 2002, and the loss of our hard-working department chair, Bob Hooper, who will be teaching in Scotland in the Fall, there will definitely need to be some “creative recruiting.”

At this time, here are our latest recruits (or you could call them “re-recruits”):

**Dr. Colin Shaw**

Colin is our newly hired Structural Geologist and Geophysicist, and he will begin in the fall semester. Colin is currently a visiting professor at New Mexico Tech-Socorro, where he is teaching igneous and metamorphic petrology and tectonics. He finished his Ph.D. dissertation in July of 2001 at the University of New Mexico under the direction of Karl Karlstrom and Jane Silverstone. He has a master’s degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Colin’s primary research interests involve the tectonic evolution of the continental lithosphere and the large-scale tectonics and geodynamics of the western United States. Stay tuned to learn more about Colin in next year’s newsletter. Please join us in welcoming Colin and his family to Eau Claire and the geology family here at UWEC!

**Dr. Ronald Willis**

Ron’s last teaching experience in our department was in 1994. He joined the Geography Dept. in 1967 (Geography & Geology became separate departments in 1969). The department immediately began to offer “soft rock” courses, such as Sed/Strat and Paleontology. Ron and his wife Thora reside in Eau Claire, but they are often traveling, so we were very lucky that Ron offered to stick around the Eau Claire area for the spring semester to save us! Ron is teaching Physical Geology this semester, and it has been great having him around!
We had another very successful year for Geol 303 (Rocky Mountain Field Studies). This past summer we took a full compliment of 24 students again and we continue to have long waiting lists to get into the course. Because of a change in scheduling, the course is now offered a full week earlier than in past years. If you’re a Rocky Mountain veteran you know a week can make a huge difference for weather and snow levels. This past year we were in the Tetons before June 1 and not much was open for tourist services. We rarely got showers at the end of the day so some students even took to swimming in Jackson Lake (Ouch!). Still we lucked out and had great weather (highs in the 60’s and 70’s) with very little snow in the mountains (2001 was an unusual year for lack of snow in the northwest). We made it all of the way to Surprise Lake on the trail. We’ve added a few new hikes to the program—one hike on Mt. Everts (just east of Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone) to see the Huckleberry Ridge Tuff, and another along Togwotee Pass just outside the Tetons to explore the Tertiary-Paleozoic unconformity. Both hikes are to great geological exposures.

The most amazing change over the past few years has been the increase in wolf populations. We are now seeing wolves on a regular basis in Yellowstone, both along the road and in the backcountry. The wolves seem to be feeding quite well and the sightings of ungulates in Yellowstone seems to be decreasing. We don’t know if the numbers have really decreased, but the ungulates are a lot more edgy than when Bob started the course in the mid-80’s. For the first year in a long time we didn’t visit any hospitals and everyone remained healthy if not entirely happy. For summer 2002 the snow pack is much higher than last year and thus far it has been a cool spring. My guess is that we’ll find a bit more snow and even fewer tourists this year, but it’s sure to keep the mosquitoes at bay. If you attended this trip in past years we’re sure you have fond memories. Students are still having a great time and many see real geology for the first time on this trip.

Still Hiking Along!
Robert Hooper, Instructor

Field Camp I - Winterim 2002

Field Camp I was again a huge success. Brian Mahoney and Karen Havholm led this year’s excursion to New Mexico. The weather was unusually cooperative, with beautiful sunny days the entire time. The group was somewhat smaller than in years past, but no less enthusiastic. We were very impressed with the students’ field and computer skills. We think that rearranging Sed/Strat (now taught the spring semester before attending field camp) and Earth History (now taught the fall semester before field camp) has made a difference in student preparation for field camp. Earth History can now get into more depth, and it includes more mapping exercises to help prepare the students for a better field experience. Once more, the Black Range Lodge offered unparalleled accommodations and great company.

Karen Havholm, Co-Instructor
Lori Snyder, Field Assistant

Dr. John Tinker Announces His Retirement (continued from cover page)

Upon retirement, John is looking forward to spending more quality time with his wife Christine, daughter Nissa, and Nissa’s husband and their four children. He is also looking forward to enjoying the new house he and Christine built and “playing” on his 73 acres of land. In his spare time, John plans to do consulting and research for his own business, JRT Hydro, Inc.

Obviously the departure of Dr. Tinker will leave a large void in our department, and it is going to nearly impossible to find someone with the array of teaching skills, research experiences, and knowledge that John has provided. However, if all goes as planned, the department will begin advertising for his replacement this fall, with hopes of bringing the new person into the department in the fall of 2003.

We hope you will join us in congratulating and thanking Dr. Tinker for all his years of teaching and overall support of the Department of Geology. He will be greatly missed by all!
Thornburg & Beaster presented the “Excellence in Geology” Award in 2000-01

The “Excellence in Geology” Award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 2000-2001 winners of the Geology Excellence Award were Katie L. Thornburg and Karl F. Beaster.

Katie Thornburg
Katie Thornburg came to us from Spooner, WI. Katie conducted till clay mineralogy research with Kent Syverson and Robert Hooper for three years, won a best research poster award at national GSA in 2000, and also participated in the McNair program. Katie graduated magna cum laude in summer 2001 and is now attending graduate school at UW-Madison for a degree in geochemistry.

FORMER AWARD RECIPIENTS:

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

1999-2000:
Jean Morrison and Carrie Rowe

Karl Beaster
Karl Beaster came to us from Arlington, WA. Karl researched the Hinckley sandstone (late Precambrian, eastern MN) with student Josh Kohn and mentor Karen Havholm. Karl and Josh presented a research poster at Lake Superior Institute of Geology meeting in spring 2000 (Thunder Bay, ON) and won the best poster award in a session with graduate students! Karl recently accepted an entry-level hydrogeologist position with American Engineering Testing, Inc. in Duluth, MN.

2001 UWEC Geology Graduates

Spring 2001
Karl Beaster, Environmental Geology
Kristen Hanson, Hydrogeology
Melissa Klinger, General Geology
Matt Kromrey, Earth & Environmental Geology
Stephanie Larsen, General Geology
Bjorn Lysne, Environmental Geology

Summer 2001
Timothy Connor, Geography Major w/Geology minor
Heather Spehle, General Geology
Katie Thornburg, General Geology

Fall 2001
Rebecca Imdieke, Earth & Environmental Geol
Sarah Mindel, Geography major w/Geology minor
Maria Waggoner, Environmental Geology

Congratulations Graduates!
Burton Leaves for Position with Shell Canada

Dr. Bradford Burton resigned his Structural Geologist position at UWEC in late December 2001 to take a position with Shell Canada Ltd. Brad had been with the Department of Geology since the summer of 1997. Brad welcomes all former students and colleagues to keep in touch. Brad will be missed around the department, and we wish him well.

Brad Burton, Staff Geologist  
Shell Canada Ltd.  
400 - 4th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2H5  
Canada  
Phone: 403/691-2354  
brad.burton@shell.ca

Johnson Wins “Best Poster” Award at GSA-Boston

UWEC undergraduate geology major April Johnson (Luck, WI, B.S. expected May 2002) won the Sigma Gamma Epsilon best student poster award at the Boston national GSA meeting held in November 2001. April continued a study of the Hinckley Sandstone (eastern MN) begun by students Karl Beaster and Josh Kohn the previous summer. Karen Havholm supervised the research project investigating the environment of deposition for the Hinckley Sandstone.

April’s poster was voted the best student poster in an undergraduate research session with 19 other posters. The meeting also allowed April to network with professors from research institutions around the country. Another UWEC geology major, Katie Thornburg, won this same award at the GSA-Reno meeting (2000) for her till clay mineralogy research. Awards such as this are building the national reputation of the geology program at UW-Eau Claire. Congratulations, April!

Ihinger Receives NSF Research Grant

Dr. Phillip Ihinger, petrologist in our department, recently received a 3-year, $164,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Petrology and Geochemistry grant entitled “Crystal Growth Speedometry, Micro-Fourier Transform InfraRed (FTIR) Spectroscopy of Minerals.” The grant, which started 12/1/2001, has been supporting Phil’s crystal speedometry research with UWEC geology major Jacob Chmielowiec. NSF research funds are very difficult to obtain, so congratulations, Phil! In addition, Phil has submitted an NSF proposal to obtain a micro FT-Infrared spectroscopy instrument.
Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects,
Student Research Day - Spring 2002

The Tenth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 22-23 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!

Luke Beranek, with Phillip Ihinger and Bradford Burton, “Geology and Geochemistry of the North Doherty Mountain Intrusive Complex, SW Montana.”

Nicole Bergstrom, with Karen Havholm, “Mid-Holocene Dune and Sand-sheet Environment, Lauder Sandhills Glacial Lake Hind Basin, Southwestern Manitoba.”

Joshua Carlisle, with Phillip Ihinger and Bradford Burton, “Geochemistry of Eocene-Oligocene Volcanic Rocks in the Carlin-Pinon Range, Elko County, Nevada.” Josh received 1st place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category.

Jacob Chmielowiec, with Phillip Ihinger, “Computer Simulations of Crystal Growth.”


Paul Knippel, with Karen Havholm, “Investigation of the Local Mt. Simon Formation.”

Benjamin Paulson, with Phillip Ihinger, “Crystal Fractionation in Mafic Alkaline Magmas: Insights into the Chemical Evolution of the Mantle.”

Molly Sandgren, with Robert Barth (Geography) and Phillip Ihinger, “Geochemical Analysis and Sourcing of Wisconsin Obsidian Artifacts.”

Jeremy Treague, with Kent Syverson, “GIS Analysis of Northern Wisconsin Glacial Till Units.”

Melissa Weisheipl, with Bradford Burton, “Tertiary Volcanics of the Robinson Mountain 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Carlin-Pinon Range, Elko, Nevada.”

1 Students who presented posters at professional conferences are also indicated. Student travel to conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
WHAT’S NEW WITH US?

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

It’s amazing how quickly this time of year rolls around. I believe time has speeded up as I have gotten older! I have several student collaborators right now. After a second summer of field work in Manitoba, senior Nicole Bergstrom presented the results of her research at a GPR in Sediments conference in London in August. And darn it, I just had to go along! Perhaps the most exciting part of the trip was seeing William Smith’s original geological map of England displayed at the British Geological Society. Junior Nikki Athnos will be heading up to Saskatchewan on the same project this summer. Senior April Johnson (along with alumni Karl Beaster and Josh Kohn) presented a paper on the depositional environment of the Proterozoic Hinckley Sandstone at GSA—Boston and won the Best Student Poster award. Senior Paul Knippel is updating the Mt. Simon Sandstone story of this area by looking at new roadcut localities. Geology minor Christine Bills is modernizing the write-up on the Climactichnites display in Phillips Hall. Lisa Hansen (education major) is continuing her project on finding materials for teaching earth science to visually impaired students.

One exciting development on the education front is that with state rules on teacher certification soon will allow us to certify secondary-level earth science teachers here at Eau Claire. Details are still to be worked out, but students will take a regular geology major, with some additional courses in astronomy and meteorology, and then take a content test. Then they will be able to go into a three-semester post-baccalaureate certification program in the School of Education and take a second test in pedagogy to get certified.

Life on the home front continues to be busy. Merilie is active in Girl Scouts, cello and figure skating, and is starting to think about the college search. Glenn is busy with work and many home projects, as well as keeping us fed. One of our family trips took us to Colorado last summer, where we got a chance to visit with alumna Sarah Weaver. It was fun to get caught up on news. Let us hear from you about what you are doing.

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

Not much has changed in my life. The children continue to get older and even show signs of maturing. Matthew is currently a high-school senior and is going to attend the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities next fall. He is planning to major in chemistry. He’s very excited about being on his own and leaving Eau Claire and the control of his parents. Jennifer still has another ½ year of high school before she graduates. She also intends on studying chemistry or biochemistry in college. Next fall I will be teaching in Scotland with the Wisconsin in Scotland program. Jennifer will spend the whole semester with me in Scotland but Ginger may only be able to visit us a few weeks at a time. Ginger has a new job with the Wisconsin DNR as an enforcement specialist, so her vacation time is limited. We’ll see how this all works out.

I’m still teaching Mineralogy/Petrology I and Geochemistry. These courses keep me busy especially with some of the higher enrollments. Last year’s Min/Pet I course had 35 students. This meant field trips had over forty total participants. These numbers certainly meant a complete change of logistics but a good time was had by all. Weather in the Black Hills in October was downright balmy with highs in the 50’s and just a hint of frost. My primary research interest continues to the geochemistry of mine contamination in the Coeur d’Alene river valley of Northern Idaho, a collaborative project with Brian Mahoney and several undergraduate students as well as the USGS and several western universities. I sure hope you’ll stop by on your next trip through Eau Claire.

Phillip Ihinger (E-mail: ihinger@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-2158)

Hello UWEC alumni! It seems I just got here, and yet I have already seen so many changes. When the dust finally settled from the Phillips remodeling project, I found a beautiful new experimental laboratory waiting for me. The timing could not be better, as the NSF has funded me for the next three years to conduct research on crystal growth. This past year, I was involved in collaborative research projects with Josh Carlisle (Sr), Molly Sandgren (Sr), Ben Paulson (Jr), Luke Beranek (Jr), and Jacob Chmielowiec (Jr), all of whom proudly delivered their results at the UWEC Research Day posterfest. I was delighted to co-advise Molly with Dr. Bob Barth of Anthropology (we dated and sourced obsidian artifacts from WI) and to co-adviser Josh and Luke with Dr. Brad Burton, now at Shell Canada (we determined the trace element signature of some peculiar plutonic rocks associated with Basin and Range extension in NV and from the Boulder Batholith in MT). I am very impressed with the commitment by the University (through resources) and by the students (through desire) to the endeavor of faculty-undergraduate student collaborative research. Meanwhile, I continue to teach Physical Geology, Earth Resources, Global Environmental Change, and Mineralogy-Petrology II courses, and am enjoying the educational process with both majors and non-majors alike.
J. Brian Mahoney (E-mail: mahonej@uwec.edu, on sabbatical)

After another successful interim field camp in New Mexico, Brian began a year-long sabbatical. He is currently in Vancouver, British Columbia, participating in the set-up of an extensive, state-of-the-art isotope and geochronology laboratory. News from Vancouver indicates that Brian is excited about the new research opportunities offered by the lab and collaborating with a large number of well-respected colleagues. Being in a location that is very close to his heart has also been good for his psyche! This summer, Brian will continue a project that began last summer near Bella Coola, B.C., in the central Coast Mountains. Two UWEC geology students will participate in the project, which entails mapping complex plutonic and volcanogenic terranes. The project participants are challenged by the intense terrain, with extreme relief and active glaciers (not to mention virtually no roads). In the fall, Brian will spend his sabbatical in the southwestern Pacific working at Australian National University in Canberra. Brian will be joined by his wife Lori during this part of his sabbatical.

Paul Myers, Professor Emeritus (E-mail: myerspe@aol.com)

Here it is - another year! Time accelerates. Most of my activities now focus on the construction of an energy-efficient house in Peru, Vermont. It will be built of prefabricated tubular steel, expanded polystyrene walls and roof, radiant floor slab, off-grid electricity from a wind turbine on the ridge and PV collectors on the garage roof, etc. Construction will begin in May. I'm architect and general contractor, which takes a lot of time. It's definitely a learning experience! I've sold my Eau Claire home and Welthy, my wife of one year, will soon sell her Bristol, TN, home where we live now. Our ultimate objective is to live in Vermont year-round. Old geology vets, I'd love to hear from you. Live-it-up!

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

Another year gone by? It just doesn't seem possible. I've been keeping busy with courses, continuing to teach the high-enrollment Geology of National Parks class, Physical Geology and Earth Science. I'm not sure teaching gets any easier as the years pass, but the good thing is that I still enjoy it. Along with the diversity of students in introductory classes, I also stay involved with geo-types through field trips in some of the upper-division courses. Once again, I went on Rocky Mountain Field Studies with Bob Hooper and had a great experience.

I have been granted a leave of absence for next fall and I very much looking forward to it - everyone needs a break now and then! Hope all of you are doing well. Remember that we enjoy hearing from you!

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

Greetings! I am now in my tenth year at UWEC, so I am now becoming one of the "old guys" around the department! As such, alumni are starting to seek me out when they return to campus, and it was fun seeing persons such as Jeff Schels, Amy Jo Steffen, Peter Bement, Jenna Tobias, and others appearing at my office!

This past year has been a good one for the Syverson family. I am pleased to report that all the members of the Syverson family are now potty-trained! Another major event was the arrival of a young tabby cat named Sox. We attended Inspiration Point Bible Camp near Fergus Falls, MN, for four days in early July—a first for our family. We were brave this year and took a family vacation to the Black Hills July 16-25. We had a wonderful time (especially once we entered the Black Hills and temperatures dropped below 80 degrees at night)! The kids were good tent campers, and many positive memories were made. Highlights included Custer State Park, Wind Cave, Mt. Rushmore, horseback riding, and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

I continue to enjoy teaching a full load of classes (oceanography, environmental, and geomorphology). For the first time since summer 1995 I was not doing field work in Chippewa County, WI. Rather, I spent the summer compiling surficial glacial geology maps and cross sections of Chippewa Co., WI, and submitted these to the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey for review and eventual publication. It was a relief to have that huge job done! I am now working on a manuscript about the glacial geology of Chippewa County to be published as a WGNHS bulletin. Jeremy Treague and I have been evaluating northern Wisconsin till stratigraphy using a till database and GIS software. I taught a glacial geology short course for sixteen environmental consultants and engineers this fall, and that was a success. This summer I will be working in a new field area—Farmington, Maine. The Maine Geological Survey has asked me to do some glacial geology research for them, and I am excited about learning a new field area with a UWEC undergraduate research collaborator. On the non-teaching/research front, committee work has eaten a lot of time this year. I have been serving on a Univ. Senate committee examining general education requirements, and some positive changes have resulted.

I always enjoy hearing from you and welcome visits! Have a great year!
John Tinker (E-mail: tinkerjr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

Hello to all former UWEC geology majors and minors. I especially want to thank the following alumni for helping with our hydrogeology courses. Kristine Mercer helped schedule and lead a spring field trip for chemical hydrogeology. We visited several remediation sites in the John Tinker area. Doug Joseph helped at one stop on the trip and Eric Dahl at another. I thank Mae Willkom for providing career advice for several of our graduating students, and I thank Kris Gunderson and Joe Drapeau for their advice to our students at the annual meeting of the AWRA at Wisconsin Dells. I am sure that I am forgetting some people, but I hope you all get the message that I appreciate the help our alumni give our current students.

I almost forgot to mention—I am retiring from my UWEC responsibilities as of June 8, 2002. I will continue my consulting and research through JRT Hydro, Inc. I may even enroll for law courses. For sure, I will spend more time with my grandchildren, my beautiful wife of 35 years, and playing on my 73 acres in the Eleva, WI, area. I will miss teaching and the interaction with my students. You are the best.

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

On the departure of Brad Burton from UWEC at the end of the fall semester, the Geology Department was in a bind to cover the courses for spring semester, and as they scraped the bottom of the barrel, guess who surfaced?! I was thrilled to be asked to teach two sections of Geology 110 (Physical Geology) for one semester. As of this date, I am “having a ball”—really happy to be back, and everyone is treating me like royalty—everyone except the students, that is.

Last September my wife, Thora, and I drove up through the Canadian Rockies (Banff—Jasper, the works), and then down through the North Cascades and Mount Rainier, eventually getting around the Olympic Peninsula, followed by a couple of weeks hugging the coastline of Washington, Oregon, and N. California. We recommend this region to all who have not yet experienced it!!!

We are now looking for an opportunity to drive through New England in the fall and get up to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Wish us luck.

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

Besides our wonderful new home that we built over the summer, there’s not a whole lot of news in my world. Due to the home-building project, we only managed to get away on vacation once this past year, and that just happened to be the same place that we went last year—Las Vegas. Mainly because Las Vegas was a relatively inexpensive meeting place to gather a group of our friends from Florida, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Since we haven’t really had much of a winter in Wisconsin this year, the snowmobiling season has been very bleak. In fact, the Chippewa County trails were only open four days this winter!

As far as my job, this summer will mark my ninth year of working within the Geology Department. After graduating from UWEC in 1993 from the School of Business, I spent the first two years in the department working for Ron Struss, the UWEX Water Quality Specialist. In July 1995 I replaced the 10-year veteran in the Geology Department office, Wanda Schulner, and I have been here ever since. My husband said I should be granted tenure;-) This past year has been very hectic in the department. We spent a large portion of the fall semester trying to get things back to “normal” from the remodeling of Phillips Hall. Then in late December to March we conducted an urgent faculty search for a structural geologist, which managed to suck up the majority of the spring semester. In addition to this newsletter, we are also preparing for the departmental review that will take place next spring, which includes collecting surveys from our alumni...so please stay tuned! We would appreciate your input.

Thanks to those of you that have stopped in for a quick visit, sent an update or a simple “hello” via e-mail, etc. We enjoy hearing from you, and it’s a pleasure to know that you haven’t forgotten us! Take care and keep in touch!

Campus News Available On Internet
Are you interested in keeping up on the latest news around Eau Claire and the UWEC campus?

If so, here are some options that are available to you:
* The Spectator, the UWEC student newspaper, is available online at http://www.spectatornews.com.
* The UW-Eau Claire Alumni Office recently introduced an electronic newsletter called e-View. The newsletter is sent out the first week of each month to alumni and friends of the university. The newsletter includes campus news, information about upcoming alumni events, special events, and more. Alumni and friends who wish 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.
THANK$ FOR YOUR DONATIONS$!

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since March 2001.

BHP Petroleum Inc.
James & Mardelle Borgen
Chevron Corporation
Albert & Janet Ciardelli
Conoco Inc.
John & Carol Dietzl
Greg & Shari Durocher
Ken & Eileen Fredricks (Plus Employer Match)
Gary & Jody Graham
Matthew Hostak
Daniel & Colleen Kabat

William & Sandra Marohl
Kristine Mercer
Greg & Becky Michael
Irvin Mossberger
Curt & Laura Peck (Plus Employer Match)
Heidi Rantala
Todd & Elizabeth Renville
David Risch (Plus Employer Match)
Kristin Weaver
Mae Wilkom
Richard & Mary Helen Zillmann

The Geology Advancement Fund is used to support a wide range of activities in the Department including student travel to professional meetings, faculty/student field trips, and faculty recruitment. As Bob Hooper had mentioned in his opening letter, the Department would like to start up a scholarship fund to support student participation in field camp experiences because attending field camp is often a major financial burden for some students. In addition, it is possible to give your donation in honor of a geology faculty/staff member who strongly impacted your educational experience, such designations will be noted in future newsletters. The attached slip is intended to make it easy to contribute and to allow you to direct your gift. However, no matter how you choose to support our faculty and students, please be assured that your gift will be greatly appreciated and it will be used effectively within the Department. If you are unable to support us financially, we also welcome and encourage your support by volunteering to speak to our majors/minors about your job experiences, offering possible job opportunities to our students, or by the donation of equipment or field supplies.

During the past year, $2300 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund by fourteen alumni, five friends of the department, and three alumni employers. If the UWEC Foundation Office calls you asking for a donation (or if you are looking for a good tax deduction!), please remember the Geology Advancement Fund! If you work for a geology-related firm, check if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.

-- DONATION SLIP --

Name: ___________________________ Type of Donation:
Address: ___________________________ Individual
_________________________________ Joint (Mr./Mrs.), Spouse’s name:
_________________________________ Joint (Company Matching),
Phone: ___________________________ Company name:

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of $ ________ (payable to UWEC Foundation #279)

Foundation Office: Please deposit donation into the Geology Advancement Fund, Account #279.

Designation of Donation (Please select one):

____ Undesignated (Discretion of the Department)

____ In honor/memory of __________________

____ Field Camp Scholarships

____ Other __________________________

Page 10 Department of Geology
WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Karl Beaster (2001). Karl recently became an entry-level hydrogeologist/geologist with American Engineering Testing, Inc. in Duluth, MN. Karl and his wife Sarah spent their summer in Grand Marais, MN. Karl worked for the Minnesota DNR at Judge Magney State Park and patrolled the Grand Portage State Forest, and Sarah worked at the Sivertson Art Gallery in Grand Marais. In the fall they took a three-week journey through Utah, northern California, up the coast of Oregon and Washington, and back through Canada along Hwy 1. Karl commented, “I would really love to hear from my old classmates and profs!” karlbeaster@lycos.com

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg is involved in strategic planning, program management, and staff development with Golder Associates Corporation, a large geosciences and engineering firm with 85 offices located in Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America (www.golder.com). In this capacity, Greg works closely with clients in manufacturing, mining, oil & gas, power and waste management. Greg said that he and his wife Julia Weinstock (UWEC, BBA, 1985) will be celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary in June. They and their two children, Anna (6) and William (3), reside in south Minneapolis. gbeckstrom@golder.com

Pete Bement (1995). “This last year has been an incredible year of change for me,” Pete remarked. His father passed away last winter, and shortly after that, Pete quit his job in the oilfield. Pete spent the summer camping, hiking, and biking all over the U.S. and western Canada. He remarked, “My travels took me on a circuitous route to Wisconsin, then to the Rockies from Denver, CO, to Jasper, Alberta. I then continued west to the Whistler’s in BC, and then visited every national park in the west coast states. I returned to Louisiana, packed up and moved back to Eau Claire.” Pete has been working as a contract logging engineer for Pathfinder Energy, his former employer, in the Gulf Coast, Rocky Mountain, and Canadian districts. He hopes to get approximately six months of work a year with this position. Pete plans to move to Bozeman, MT, this spring. He says, “When I’m not working in the oil patch, I’ll be working as a whitewater rafting guide in summer months and as a snowboard instructor in the winter.” bementpj@msn.com

Tracey Carpenter (1995). Tracey defended her master’s degree last May at Arizona State University. In August, she accepted a position as a hydrologist at the Arizona Department of Water Resources. She currently works in the Basic Data Unit collecting a variety of ground-water data from wells all across the state, sampling water quality and gauging streams. Tracey commented, “I work in the Field Services Section and absolutely love it.” When we heard from Tracey in January, she had just finished the winter field season which involved a large amount of traveling around the state as part of their water-level monitoring program. “I have become an expert at navigating of a non-4-wheel-drive vehicle over horrible mountainous dirt roads in the rain/snow/hail, as well as automotive repair, and of course, sounding a well.” Tracey joked. She has planned a trip to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons this May. Tracey remarks, “This time, I hope the weather will be better than our Rocky Mountain Field Studies trip!” tlcarpenter@adwr.state.az.us

Doug Cieslak (1993). Since graduation, Doug has been employed as a state regulator for two agencies, a private consultant, and now as the Land Conservationist for Buffalo County, WI. He spends time working closely with private landowners, municipalities, and agricultural producers on many natural resource concerns that challenge the county. Their department has recently partnered with UWEC Geography Department’s Dr. Doug Faulkner on a post-settlement erosion study of the Lower Buffalo River Watershed. In 1995, Doug married Kendra Kleiber (UWEC, BBA, 1991), and they reside in Holmen, WI, with their two daughters, Laura (4-yrs-old) and Ellen (1-yr-old). Doug also added that he lives near Paul Overlien (1994 geology graduate), and they “duck hunt together frequently.” dcieslak1@buffalocounty.com
Noreha Yussof Day (1988). Noreha was one of our “Finds of the Year”. Noreha was one of the fourteen alumni that we considered “Lost” in last year’s newsletter, but thanks to Tom Kostalek, we found her! Noreha and her family are living in Bangkok, Thailand. Her children, Natasha and Andrew, are both in school and are doing well. Noreha is working part-time at Shell, where she updates their well database.  bing@bangkok.ssa.slb.com

Scott Eades (1999). Scott is a photogrammetric technician for Ayres Associates in Madison, WI. He played football in Idaho for awhile after graduating from UWEC, but said he kept getting hurt, so he decided to quit and go to a sport that was a little easier on his body. He said, “Instead of playing football, I took up snowmobiling racing and now I am into my third year racing cross country and snocross.” eadessa@hotmail.com

Scott Galetka (1998). Scott is employed as the GIS Project Coordinator and Acting Land Information Officer for Lincoln County in Merrill, WI. As Scott put it, “Basically, I get to work with every entity that deals with land issues.” In November, Scott bought a house with 40 acres of land. He comments, “I could finally bring my four Red Bone hound dogs to the house. They treed a 300-pound black bear for me in the fall that I was able to shoot, plus my dad shot one that weighed 400 pounds. It was a good season for bear hunting.” SGaletka@co.lincoln.wi.us

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen continues to work for Earth Tech Inc. as a geologist and an environmental management systems consultant. Last August, she transferred from Sheboygan to the Milwaukee office. This eventually involved shifting living quarters to Glendale, WI. Kristen recently finished eleven months of weekly commuting to Kokomo, IN, for an Environmental Management System (EMS)/ISO 14001 implementation project at an aluminum die casting facility. She is currently involved in a project on another EMS implementation at an automotive engine plant in Kenosha, WI. Kristen_Gunderson@earthtech.com

Rick Hagen (1984). Rick is a Marine Geologist/Geophysicist for Fugro Seafloor Surveys International, a company that does surveys for submarine telecommunications cables. Rick explains, “We tow sonar systems to collect bathymetry and sidescan sonar data and allow our clients to select the safest routes for their cables.” He comments, “I get to see a bit of the world, usually on the horizon! This past year I spent three weeks in Korea and five weeks between Okinawa and Hong Kong on survey jobs, as well as visiting Guam twice to examine proposed cable landing sites. I enjoy the work, but I must be getting old, because I don’t enjoy the travel like I used to!” r.hagen@seafloor.com

Doug Hallum (1996). Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hallum! Doug and Paula were married on October 17, 2001, in Nebraska. They also recently held a reception on February 16. Doug was very pleased that Steve Peterson (BS 1997) was able to witness their marriage celebration. drhallum@prodigy.net

Kristen Hanson (2001). Kristen is working as a hydrogeologist at Meridian Alliance Group in Eau Claire. Kh6618@aol.com

Michelle Haskin (1998). After graduation, Michelle ventured to Simon Fraser University in British Columbia to obtain her master’s degree, which she successfully completed in December 2000. Since then, she has worked for both the Geological Survey of Canada and for an engineering company in St. Paul, MN. In September Michelle quit her job, packed her bags, and headed out on a trip that had been on her mind since her senior year in college. She joked, “Contrary to popular belief, grad studies is not where the money is, so it takes a couple of years to save pennies for a long trip!” When we last heard from Michelle in January, she and her boyfriend were traveling through New Zealand. She remarked, “We also traveled through Thailand and Nepal for a couple of months where we hiked the Annapurna Circuit (luckily, I made it all 300 km without having to be airlifted out!). For all you mountain lovers, I highly recommend the Himalaya, but beware of yak meat and garlic soup (each suspect on their own, but together… a very lethal combination!). I’m headed off for some months in sunny Australia before returning to Vancouver to write papers and job hunt. After that who knows??!” mlhaskin@hotmail.com
Chris Heintz (1986). After graduation from UWEC, Chris attended VA Tech and received his master’s degree in civil engineering. He is now a Geodesist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville, KY. Chris reports that the Corps of Engineers is using a new mapping technique to map large floodplains. The new technique is called LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). The system works by using a laser to determine range to remote objects. Using this range information along with orientation information from an inertial measurement unit and positional information from GPS, they are able to determine coordinates for ground points. The system is loaded into an airplane and is then used to scan the area to be mapped. The raw data is an evenly spaced grid of point locations from which a DTM, digital terrain model, may be generated. This system is a fast, accurate, economical alternative to photogrammetry.”

Dave Hodek (1995). Dave continues to work as a project manager/geological engineer at Natural Resources Engineering in Duluth, MN. Dave said, “I’m getting more into the emergency response side of things, including responding to a couple of pipeline ruptures.” Dave has been working mostly in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota this past year doing site investigations, Phase I/Phase IIs, and remedial design. He said that he is doing more supervision and training than ever before. “I was also able to get out and go backpacking for a week in the Bighorns of Wyoming. It marked the first time I’ve actually caught any fish on a hiking trip. Two hours after that, we were caught in a thunderstorm above treeline. I figured getting pelted with hail had to be some sort of divine retribution for actually catching some trout.”

Mark Holmes (1997). Mark has been with the Arizona Department of Water Resources since October 2000. He is currently finishing a Hydrologic Map Series Publication for a basin in southeastern Arizona. “I am also working on a project to place sixty transducers, with data loggers and satellite data transmitters throughout our Phoenix Active Management Area. This project had long periods of fieldwork which I greatly enjoyed and I saw the greatest parts of the state. We collected ground-water data for the largest basin within the state (the northeast Plateau region) and I spent eight weeks out in the field,” Mark explained. Mark recently married, and he and his wife just moved into their first house. “I am enjoying some well-earned free time in the evenings,” Mark commented.

Matt Hostak (1989). Matt continues his work as an air pollution engineer with the WDNR in Oshkosh. “Still involved in an exhaustive and expensive (and ill-advised?) restoration of a 1867 house in Oshkosh,” he remarked. “Otherwise, still enjoying myself and enjoying plenty of beer and other strong drinks. Still ‘rattling the bureaucratic monkey cage’ when they need a wake-up call. Man, I have no complaints!”

Mark Kiessling (1995). Mark is a geologist with Phelps Dodge in Morenci, AZ. He writes, “I am learning a lot about a number of things I hadn’t really focused on before such as economic geology, low temperature geochemistry (I should have paid a little more attention in Bob’s geochem class), and surviving in the business world. However, all of these are a far cry from spending summers in the wilds of British Columbia mapping overlap assemblages with Brian Mahoney. Life in Morenci has taken been an adjustment. It’s like living in Durand, WI, with 100-degree summer days and no trees, water, or a large city nearby. We have, however, temporarily settled in and are enjoying hiking, biking, and the mountains just outside the door.” Mark has also been undergoing some major events on the home front. Says Mark, “The most significant event was when my wife gave birth to our daughter, Rosemary AnneKiessling, in April 2001.” He said, “Rosemary completely changed our lives. I am doing typical dad things like changing toxic diapers, sleeping irregularly, and constantly doting on the child I believe will be a genius. While Savona and I debated whether her first word would be mommy or daddy, she decided it would be “Doggy”. Obviously we need to make more of an impact.”

Chris Heintz@LEL02.usace.army.mil

Dave Hodek@hotmail.com

Mark Holmes@state.wi.us

Matt Hostak@dnr.state.wi.us

Mark Kiessling@phelpsdodge.com
Bjorn Lysne (2001). Bjorn is a hydrologist for Advent Environmental Services in Jalisco, Mexico. "I Biosphere Reserve in Jalisco, Mexico. Family! Jack, a happy and healthy baby boy, was born November 19, 2001. Stephanie Larsen (2001). Stephanie is attending graduate school at UW-Madison under supervision and guidance, so that has been interesting." mel_klinger@hotmail.com

Lisa Kraft (1999). Lisa spent a month in Brazil last summer. Lisa explained, "We went all over and even stayed in a tree house in the Amazon! Monkeys ate the insects on our porch! It was wonderful. We also panned for real diamonds (not like Tinker's trick) and got lucky! My next trip will be to Mexico in May." Lisa is currently living in Houghton, MI, where she is continuing a GIS internship that started last fall that eventually evolved into a full-time job. She is currently making platbooks. However, Lisa has plans to move to Denver, CO, in June for a six-month internship with the Colorado State Parks where she will be doing more GIS work. Lisa encourages former classmates to keep in touch, "Drop me a line, I love to hear from all my friends in Eau Claire," she remarked. halfpintllk@yahoo.com

Stephanie Larsen (2001). Stephanie is attending graduate school at UW-Madison’s Department of Geography. In addition to working toward her master’s degree in sustainable agriculture, Steph is also a teaching assistant for the Introductory to Physical Geography course at UW-Madison. "Teaching is definitely some work, and now I have an interesting view from both sides of the desk," she admits. In one of Steph’s e-mail updates from last fall she wrote, "This weeks lab is all about rocks. My students keep laughing at me because I am so excited to talk about geology!" Steph’s thesis will involve looking at sustainable agriculture and agro-biodiversity (specifically seed exchange networks) in the Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve in Jalisco, Mexico. Steph will depart for Mexico on May 20th. steph_larsen@hotmail.com

Bjorn Lysne (2001). Bjorn is a hydrologist for Advent Environmental Services Inc. in Eau Claire. He explained, "I originally spent quite a bit of time (50%+) in the field collecting water samples from monitoring wells. Now I spend the majority of my time in the office writing reports and invoicing for PECFA. I imagine that I will be out in the field more when it warms up a bit. In addition, Advent is gradually letting me have my own sites that I manage (under supervision and guidance), so that has been interesting." bjornlysne@hotmail.com

Tim Masterlark (1994). Tim completed his Ph.D. in geophysics at UW-Madison. He started a new position as a research scientist for the USGS/EROS Data Center last summer. He explained, "My research involves numerical modeling of earthquake and volcano deformational mechanics. I am currently conducting investigations of several regions including the Middle America trench (off the west coast of Mexico), the Cascadia subduction zone, and the volcanoes of the Aleutian Arc." For a brief example of what Tim has been up to, you can check out the publication below. In addition to the excitement of a new job, Tim and his wife, Trisha, also added some excitement to their family! Jack, a happy and healthy baby boy, was born November 19, 2001 and weighed 8 pounds. Tim and several other UWEC alumni met this past summer for their annual get together. Tim commented, "We met at the Mystery Cave, southeastern Minnesota. A good time was had by all except for Dave Noto, who ‘doesn’t like caves.’" masterlark@usgs.gov

Greg Michael (1996). Greg is a senior hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, PECFA Site Review Section. As far as news, Greg gave us a similar, concise version of the news that he sent us last year. Greg remarked, "A wonderful wife, two healthy, loving kids, well trained dog, and a minivan. What more do you need?" gnmichael@commerce.state.wi.us
Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy continues to enjoy his position as a die cast foreman at Mercury Marine. In the fall, Jeremy is planning to begin his master’s degree at Marian College for Organizational Leadership and Quality. Jeremy and his wife, Shawna, recently purchased their first home in Oakfield (a small town outside of Fond du Lac). They were also able to break away on a two-week tour of the west this past summer. Jeremy said, “We started in the Badlands for a day or so, then to Custer State Park, SD, for a couple of days, and then to Glacier National Park for a week. Wow! Glacier is the one place I always wanted to go in school and never had the opportunity. The scenery is incredible. We’re off to the Adirondacks this summer.” Jeremy_D_Miller@merycmarine.com

Martin Miller (Visiting Assistant Professor 1994-1997).

[Editors note: Once again, we would lose the full Martin aura if we attempted to edit his news, so we inserted his message as received.]

Hi everybody. Not too much to report this year, except that I now have a clean driving record in California, my family and I are still enjoying Oregon, and I’m still working in Death Valley. Last fall I learned that I’d gone for two years “without driving privileges” in the state of California—never mind that I’d driven its length twice, including an excursion across the LA basin! It’s the same story as two years ago: someone was arrested for drunken driving (in Eureka, California) and I got the bill! This time, I got to experience fingerprinting in our local sheriff’s office so I could send them to the Eureka investigator for comparison. I guess I should be flattered that people pretend they’re me, huh? Also last fall, I learned that it’s a compliment when your kids think you’re weird—which totally made my day (I’m still talking about it). And the Death Valley stuff is going great. I just published a small book on its geology that’s full of color photos [Editors note (NA)—The book that Martin co-authored with Lauren Wright is entitled “Geology of Death Valley National Park,” and it is published by Kendall-Hunt Publishing, ISBN 0-7872-8870-5], and in the last couple field seasons, I’ve found enough new and interesting things to be in the paper-writing mode for a whole year. And to quote my daughter, Lindsay, who’s now eight: Whatever! millern@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Irvin Mossberger (1994). Irvin works as an Environmental Consultant/Hydrogeologist for Twin Ports Testing in Superior. He remarked, “The variety of projects keeps things interesting and challenging.” In addition to work, Irvin has had a couple of opportunities to hook up with former UWEC classmates over the past year. He recalls, “Last May I gathered with some other geology alumni for David Noto’s wedding. For some unknown reason, Dave made us sit at a table way in the back of the reception hall, far from anyone else! We wouldn’t have embarrassed him! Then in September, we (I, David, Tim Masterlark, Paul Overlien and families) gathered at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park near Lanesboro, MN for some camping. One of us (whom I won’t mention by name, but he got married last May), was afraid of going into Mystery Cave, despite having a geology degree! Tim’s daughter, Cora, didn’t seem to have a problem going into the cave...!” igmossberger@hotmail.com

Todd Myse (1995). Todd obtained his master’s degree from Dartmouth College last summer. In addition, he landed a job working for a research branch of the Army Corps of Engineers called the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, NH. “Yup, government and the Land of Acronyms,” Todd joked. “Basically, this place conducts science in regions that drop below freezing. I work on contaminated sites in Alaska, a majority of which have contamination in fractured bedrock. Fracture hydrology was my focus in my master’s program, so that’s kind of cool! However, this ‘consulting-type’ work is a means of bringing in money to CRREL so I can work on glaciers with my boss—Dan Lawson. This is the main reason why I took the job. Lawson is studying the cosmogenic isotopes and supercooling of glacial meltwaters to quantify erosional processes. I’m looking forward to spending a lot of time up in Alaska and having a few Belgian brews with Harry!” Also, Todd GPS’ed all of the hiking trails on a mountain called Mt. Moosilauke for the Dartmouth Earth Sciences Department. Todd stated, “Unlike some of the ‘mountains’ in the area, this one is actually above tree line! It was fun to be paid to hike all summer long! Now, if I can figure how to do that for a living.” On a personal note, Todd planned to visit Ann Melby and her husband when we last heard from him in February. Todd visited with Chad Underwood and his wife while they were on vacation in Maine. Todd also mentioned that he had made his way to Eau Claire once during the year to visit The Joynt. [Editor’s note (NA): We’ll pretend we didn’t know that, because he never stopped in to see us!] Todd welcomes any visitors that happen to be in the area. “Just let me know when you’ll be in the area and we’ll do a hike, paddle, or whatever and then taste the many fine micro-brews out here! Cheers! Pyro.” Todd.A.Myse@Alum.Dartmouth.org
David Noto (1994). David and his new wife Susie (married 5/12/2001) recently moved to Albertville, MN. David now has two stepsons, Curt and Mat.” nuclear_n070@hotmail.com

Jamie Oakley (1995). Jamie recently completed a transfer with GeoEngineers from Washington State to their Anchorage, AK, office, where he manages environmental clean-ups and compliance with several local service stations. “It has always been my goal to get back to Alaska after spending a summer working with the National Park Service,” Jamie said. “Outside of the basic service station work, the summers get busy and present much job diversity in remote settings with limited resources. GeoEngineers has begun some overseas projects, and I have the potential opportunity to travel overseas.” Jamie is also enjoying the snow in Anchorage again vs. the rain in Seattle. “All free time is spent cross-country skiing or snowboarding, with occasional trips to the lakes for some ice fishing,” he remarked. joakley@geoengineers.com

Tina Pint (1999). Tina is working toward her master’s degree at UW-Madison. She stated, “Things have been awfully busy here in Madison as I try to find a job, maintain my bowling average, and finish my thesis by May (well, maybe August)!” As far as the mild winter in Wisconsin, Tina commented, “The one good thing about not having any snow this winter is that I have not been tempted to get out and ski, so I can spend more time working. Wait, is that a good thing?” cdpint@geology.wisc.edu

Lisa (Sobczak) Robinson (1998). Lisa continues to work as a software support specialist for IBM in Boulder, CO. She explained, “Since the September 11th disaster, my IBM software support group has been involved with disaster recovery. We had several customers located in the World Trade buildings, and it has been a very time-consuming effort to get those customers up and running again. I’m grateful that things have calmed down, and work load is back to normal.” Lisa has been working toward her dive master certification, and she and her husband just returned from a vacation to Cozumel, Mexico, where they were able to spend much of their time diving. Lisa also continues to enjoy geology. “Since I don’t get much geology into my daily life, other than rock climbing, I purchased a Colorado Roadside Geology book, and started taking excursions once a month with some friends who enjoy geology,” she remarked. lisaar@us.ibm.com

Stephen Sellwood (1999). After graduation, Stephen traveled to Kansas to obtain his master’s degree from the University of Kansas. Stephen is now working as a hydrogeologist for BT Squared, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Madison, WI. sellwosm@yahoo.com

Amy Jo Steffen (1998). Amy Jo is a Project Scientist III/Graphics for Environmental Services, Inc., in Raleigh, NC. Her job consists of making maps, managing the GPS group, and doing a little GIS with ArcView. Amy Jo remarked, “They’re expecting me to help out a lot with the archeological modeling project using my GIS skills. I’m very excited!” aj_is_smashing@yahoo.com

Mark Strobel (1988). Mark is a project manager/hydrogeologist for Earth Tech, Inc. in Stevens Point, WI. Mark_strobel@earthtech.com

Paula (Hlavaty) Sumpter (1983). “Well, I talked about it for years and now I’ve finally done it. I’ve fled the Midwest and moved to Denver,” said Paula. Last September, Paula accepted the position of senior management analyst for the City of Aurora’s Information Technology Department. “They made me an offer I couldn’t refuse,” Paula commented. “Now I’m out here where the geology sticks right out in the open as nature intended. I plan to spend my weekends exploring the Rockies and my vacations exploring the West in general. If any of my old classmates are in the neighborhood on vacation or at a GSA meeting, I hope you’ll look me up.” pmsumpter@yahoo.com

“Now I’m out here where the geology sticks right out in the open as nature intended.”
Katie Thornburg (2001). After graduating last summer, Katie moved to UW-Madison to begin work on her master’s degree. She is currently conducting research on arsenic-release mechanisms in ground-water aquifers of the Fox River Valley, WI. In addition to research, Katie is also taking classes and spending a lot of time teaching. She remarked, “I am teaching six discussion sections of Environmental Geology (120 students) which actually eats up most of my time early in the week.” Katie’s younger sister, Jennifer, joined the UWEC Geology Department this past year. We accused Katie of brainwashing her, but Katie replied that “Jennifer is entirely responsible for that choice. It didn’t completely surprise me though, because our interests have always been very similar. I just hope she has as good a time in the department as I did. She’s a good link to the department and keeps me updated on what is going on.” katiet@geology.wisc.edu

Chad Underwood (1999). Chad continues to work as an engineer with Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) in Madison. “I primarily work in the area of solid waste permitting and design,” Chad explained. “However, in February 2002, I had an opportunity to be part of a team that completed an inspection of the deep tunnel system in Milwaukee. This meant that I actually had an opportunity to use some of my structural geology and stratigraphy skills that have been on the shelf for quite awhile! Thanks to the great teachings of Martin Miller and Brian Mahoney, I was pretty confident that I actually knew what I was doing down there!” Chad said that he has also been working on finalizing some publications from his graduate research. “One article was published in JSG earlier in 2001,” Chad continued, “and the other will hopefully be published in AAPG later in 2002.” Chad and his wife Allison, spent a weeklong vacation in Maine last August “...where we (I should say “I”) was able to enjoy some east coast geology which was something new for me,” Chad joked. Chad and Alison also had an opportunity to hook up with fellow alumni Todd “Pyro” Myse while they were in Maine. Chad said, “We actually had a chance to see Todd again when we passed through Madison in November. Strangely enough, both encounters with Todd occurred at local establishments which specialized in great malted beverages!” They also had a chance to visit with another alumnus, Pete Bement, while he was temporarily living in Eau Claire. chad.a.underwood@mwhglobal.com

Maria Waggoner (2001). Maria just graduated in December, and she recently started a job with the Chippewa County Land Conservation Department. She is doing GPS, GIS, and computer programming to support their natural resource programs. mtwptw@charter.net

Kristin Weaver-Bowman (1996). Kristin just got married on St. Patrick’s Day on the hanging wall of the Coyote Hill Thrust! “Everything was perfect (except for the cold weather). We had many compliments on our ‘unconventional’ ceremony. We had a reading from Sir Isaac Newton’s ‘Principia Mathematica’ and the ‘Apache Wedding Verse,’ and our little spruce tree and music CD favors,” Kristin said. “The best part, I have to admit,” said Kristin, “was a low magnitude 3.2 earthquake that my mom and I experienced. The earthquake occurred on the fault underlying the ridge of hills on which we had the ceremony the next day! Being the geology nerds that we are, Dave and I thought that was awesome!” Kristin and her new husband, Dave, recently moved to downtown Los Angeles. Kristin continues her position as a senior staff geologist for William Lettis & Associates, Inc, a consulting firm specializing in seismic hazards. She explains, “The majority of my projects of late have involved evaluating liquefaction and fault rupture potential along gas pipelines in southern California. If any of you are planning a trip to LA, drop me an email and let me know when. It would be great to get together for dinner or coffee with an alumnus and catch up.” weaver@lettis.com

Sarah Weaver (1996). Sarah’s big news is that she is getting married this August at a ranch near Winter Park, Colorado. Sarah and her fiancé, K.G., met at law school in Vermont. Sarah continues her position as a law clerk for Judge Jackson in Golden. Last summer, Dr. Karen Havholm and her family visited Sarah on their way through Colorado. Sarah commented, “K.G. and I also had the chance to meet with Ann Kron (Melby) and her husband last summer for a backpacking trip in Wyoming, which was great.” Sarah also encourages former friends and classmates to get in touch when they are in the “neighborhood.” sarah.weaver@judicial.state.co.us
Ron Weegman (1981). Ron is the North America Operations Manager for PathFinder Energy Services, based out of Lafayette, LA. He commented, “The US oil and gas industry has suffered another blow with a decline in domestic drilling especially on land. PathFinder’s Gulf of Mexico offshore business has remained stable due to the specialized Logging-While-Drilling Services such as sonic, neutron density and resistivity. Globally we have rotated Engineers-Geologist to work in other areas during this downturn in domestic drilling. After 20 years of ups and downs, I can’t imagine doing anything else!!” Ron.Weegman@pathfinderlwd.com

Beth Wenell (1999). Beth and her husband Dave recently relocated to Manson, IA, because of Dave’s new position as program director at Twin Lakes Christian Center (i.e. Bible camp). Beth admits, “I am thoroughly enjoying being out of the 9-5 routine, and I am starting a freelance graphic design business. I have spent virtually no effort on marketing the business, but jobs periodically fall into my lap.” wenell@hotmail.com

Edward Wieland (1994). Eddy and his wife Sandy recently moved from Duluth, MN, to Corvallis, OR. Eddy is an officer with the US Coast Guard, and he was sent to Oregon State University to obtain a master’s degree in Ocean Engineering. Sandy is enjoying her position as a Nurse Practitioner in Eugene, OR. Eddy said, “Sandy and I are in the process of adopting an infant from Korea. All our adoption paperwork has been approved and will be sent to Korea by the end of Jan 2002. We hope to fly over to pick up our baby by September of 2002.” Eddy and his wife seem to be enjoying the geological sights of Oregon. Eddy commented, “Come out and see it for yourselves and stop by to visit us while you’re at it.” Eddy also wanted us to share a bit of advice for graduating students. He said, “If you are thinking about continuing with your education, don’t wait eight years to go back.” wielandes@juno.com or 542/754-6526

Lost & Found Alumni!

In last year’s newsletter we had listed all of the folks that we had considered “lost” because we didn’t have valid mailing addresses for them. Fortunately, a few of those people have surfaced since last year. Thanks to all of you for helping us find these people. However, we also managed to lose six more folks since then. Using the list from last year, those crossed off have been FOUND, and the remaining are still considered to be LOST. Please look through this list to see if you can help us find any of our missing alums.

Steven Bohm, 1976
Jay Byers, 1980
Norcha (Yussof) Day, 1988
Carol Elewanta, 1982
James Engelhardt, 1997
Paul Graham, 1993
Joseph Hinke, 1992
Jeffrey Jarocki, 1979
John Jefferson, 1977
James Johnson, 1973
James Markle, 1969
Karen Mc Adam, 1984
John McBride, 1984
Josh Miller, 1999
Jeffrey Paddock, 1997
David Prose, 1976
Alan Rahn, 1983
Gordon Schuh Jr., 1970
Kathryn Shaw, 1979
Jennifer (King) Tannehill, 1990
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.)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Return to:
Department of Geology
University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
Phone: 715/836-3732
Fax: 715/836-5627
E-mail: syverskm@uwec.edu or amdahlnj@uwec.edu
UWEC GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2002

Editors: Nancy J. Amdahl and Kent M. Syverson