Greetings from the Department Chair

Your department is doing remarkably well with 75 majors and 14 minors in the program, the most in recent history. We continue to improve the equipment in the program with the recent addition of a micro-FIR spectrometer courtesy of the National Science Foundation award to Phil Hinger. The FTIR lab is next to the conference room. Stop in and see this exciting equipment addition. We're currently planning for the addition of a High Resolution Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (HR-ICPMS) and seem to have the funding in place. I'll let you know as work on this facility progresses.

The department is proud to announce the addition of a promising young structural geology scholar to our staff. Dr. Colin Shaw was recently hired from the University of New Mexico and is spending his first year teaching structural geology to the hoards of majors. Thirty-four students have taken structural geology this year. Just compare that number to the sizes of your courses and you get some idea of the number of students currently in the program! Twenty-two students attended Field Geology I in New Mexico, and this crew stretched the capacity of the Black Range Lodge facility. Our upper-division courses are clearly at capacity.

Your Department also has had a difficult year. Since John Tinker's retirement we have been trying to fill the hydrogeology position, but the State of Wisconsin is simultaneously trying to balance a $3.2 billion deficit. Residents in the State of Wisconsin know what this is going to mean for the University System. We are looking at real budget cuts (a real 5% cut as long as a 17% tuition increase is approved—the best-case scenario) that will change the face of the UW System.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the UW System have restricted the use of 15-passenger and 12-passenger vans so our field trips have been thrown into turmoil. Winter field camp in New Mexico was forced to use small SUV's to access the field sites and this meant taking six vehicles instead of the normal two vans to field camp. They also haven't allowed us to pull trailers, making field studies even more difficult to support. The department is going to need to find solutions to the field transportation issues.

The Department had a seven-year review and received very high marks for the quality of the program from both students and alumni—thanks for your input. The very supportive comments to the reviewers should make it easier to preserve the current program even during tough budget times.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Hooper

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HYDROGEOLOGY LAB NAMED FOR DR. JOHN TINKER

At Dr. Tinker’s retirement party, the Department presented John with a personal gift, as well as a special plaque that will be framed and displayed outside of the hydrogeology computer lab (P-280). The plaque reads: John R. Tinker, Jr. Hydrogeology Lab In Recognition of Developing the Hydrogeology Program at UWEC
As Bob Hooper commented as he was presenting the plaque to John, "John spent twenty years building the hydro program at UW-Eau Claire. We have appreciated his hard work and dedication to the program. In recognition of this, the geology computer lab will no longer be referred to as 'P-280.' It will finally have a name—the John Tinker lab."

New Geology Graduates

Summer 2002
Josh Carlisle, General Geology w/Business Administration minor
Christopher Carlson, Biology major w/Geology minor
Paul Knipple, Environmental Science
David Robertson, Earth & Environmental Science w/Geography minor
Isaac Vandergon, Environmental Science
Melissa Weisheipl, General Geology

Fall 2002
Brent Kabat, Environmental Science
Amy Marcon, Environmental Science w/Geography minor
Kitt Siegfried, General Geology

Spring 2003
Sarah Gordee, General Geology
Joel Hyzer, Environmental Science
Shawn Owen, Earth & Environmental Science w/History minor
Christopher Wallace, Biology major w/Geology minor

Summer 2003* (unofficial list):
Nikki Athnos, General Geology
Luke Beranek, General Geology
Rachel Greve, General Geology with Creative Writing major
Adam Jacobson, Environmental Science
Elisha Johnson, Hydrogeology
Taryn Lopez, General Geology w/Spanish and Marketing minors
Steven Neis, General Geology
Benjamin Paulson, General Geology
Dan Sebern, General Geology w/Physics minor

*Due to Field Camp II, several students that would have graduated in the Spring will be officially graduating during Summer 2003.

Rocky Mountain Field Studies Summer 2002
by Bob Hooper and Lori Snyder (right)

We had another full load of 26 students for the 2002 Rocky Mountain field studies class. The weather was nothing short of spectacular with warm days (70's) and cool nights (30's). The bugs were nonexistent. Many of the students slept on the shore of Jackson Lake several times taking in the view of sunrise on the Tetons. Snow levels in the Tetons were at about 8000 feet, so much of the high-altitude hiking was below the snowline. I am pleased to report that for two years running we haven't visited a hospital on the trip! Wildlife was abundant in Yellowstone and very well behaved this past year. The past two years we've had a much better record of seeing wolves and a few grizzlies in Yellowstone probably because we now go one week earlier than in the past. This course continues to be very popular with both the majors and the non-majors. I hope we can figure out a way of offering this opportunity for many years to come.

FIELD CAMP ~ January 2003
by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor

Field Camp I was taught in New Mexico for the fifth year this January. Mahoney and Hooper, assisted by Sarah Gordee, taught a very successful session, with our largest group of students yet (22). The large number of participants taxed the resources of the Black Range Lodge, but, as always, Pete and Katherine came through with flying colors. The weather was spectacular, and all of the exercises were very successful. The group worked together to create a good working environment, and everyone seemed to learn quite a bit. These unfortunate students had never had the pleasure of working with Mahoney before, so they were a tad bit surprised at the calm and gentle nature of my professional personality.

GEOL OGY CLUB

by Lute Beranek, Geology Club President
Greetings Geologists! This past academic year for the Geology Club has been productive and enjoyable. The 2002 T-shirt sale and student-run bake sales generated the necessary funds for Geology Club to sponsor future outdoor excursions, speakers, and new geo-clothing. The Geology Club would like to give a hearty thank you to all alumni who have aided the club through t-shirt purchases and personal donations. Alumni feedback is critical for our continued desire to serve the UWEC students and alumni.

The Geology Club started the fall semester with the unveiling of a new website, including a t-shirt order form and information. We hope to expand this site as more geo-clothing and events become available in the fall of 2003. The Geology Club sponsored several speakers in the 2002-2003 academic year, including Greg Michael, Michelle Haskin, and Christine Siddoway. See the section on "Guest Speakers" for more details.

To the alumni, thanks again for all of your t-shirt orders, financial support, and for volunteering to share your job experiences with all of us geology students. Stay tuned to the Geology Club website for other club activities, http://www.uwec.edu/Geology/club/.
RESULTS OF STUDENT/ALUMNI SURVEY

In December 2002, the Department of Geology conducted a survey of all alumni and currently enrolled students. The survey was done as part of the academic departmental review process that is required every seven years. We were very pleased with the response rate (102 alumni, 30 current students) and the results of the survey. We owe all of you that participated a big “thank you!” Not only were the results of these surveys helpful to the department, but results also were used by the internal university review committee and the external consultant to evaluate our department. The internal committee and external consultant also met with our faculty and the currently enrolled students. Our assigned external consultant was Dr. Jill Singer, a Professor of Earth Sciences and Science Education from the State University College at Buffalo and currently with NSF. We are pleased to report that we passed the test and hope that this review will help us obtain additional support from university administration.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL GUEST SPEAKERS!

UWEC Alumni:

Kristen Hanson, consultant with Meridian Alliance Group, LLC, in Eau Claire. Presented in Dr. Tinker’s Physical Hydrogeology course during fall 2002. Discussed hydrogeology from the perspective of a consultant.


Mae Willkom, hydrogeologist with the Department of Natural Resources in Eau Claire. Presented in Dr. Tinker’s Physical Hydrogeology course in the fall 2002. Discussed hydrogeology from the perspective of a DNR regulator.

Non-UWEC Guests:

Glenn Berger, Research Professor at Desert Research Institute in Reno, NV. Presented “Dating sediment using fossil light: case histories in sand dunes and polar lakes” to geology students and faculty on October 23, 2002.

MASTERLARK RECEIVES “OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS” AWARD

On Saturday, December 21, 2002, Tim Masterlark was presented with the “Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award” at the UWEC Alumni Association Banquet. Tim is a 1994 UWEC graduate with a hydrogeology major and math minor. He received his master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 with a major in Geophysics and a minor in Geology. In 2000, he received his Ph.D. in Hydrogeology (major) and Geophysics (minor). After completion of his doctorate, Tim did a research post-doc in Geomechanics at UW-Madison with Dr. Charles DeVets. Currently, Tim is a Senior Scientist at the USGS/EROS Data Center, in Sioux Falls, SD, where he employs both forward and inverse modeling techniques to investigate a variety of geomechanical phenomena. The faculty and staff of our department would like to congratulate and thank Tim. We are proud to have one of our former students be rewarded for his hard work, dedication, and love for geology. This award was very well deserved. Keep up the good work, Tim!

NEW FACES IN DEPARTMENT

Michelle Haskin ~ Michelle was hired full-time to teach several sections of our introductory Physical Geology and Environmental Geology lab courses during Fall 2002. After graduation from UWEC in 1998 (B.S. Geology), Michelle departed for Canada to obtain her master’s degree from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, which she successfully completed in December 2000. She then worked for the Geological Survey of Canada and for an engineering company in St. Paul, MN, until September 2001. Then she took some personal time to travel the world. During the summer of 2002, we asked Michelle to teach introductory lab courses for the fall semester. Lucky for us, she accepted our offer! It was great to have her back at UWEC. Michelle has since been hired by the University of British Columbia to teach for the spring semester, so she is currently residing in Vancouver, B.C. e-mail mlhaskin@hotmail.com

Dr. Jeffrey Kuglichs ~ Jeff was hired full-time for the 2002/03 school year to teach Geology 106 (Earth Science for education majors). Prior to coming to UWEC, Jeff taught outreach courses through the Mt. Senario College in Ladysmith, WI. He also taught at UW-Milwaukee and TdEd at UW-Madison. Prior to his career in teaching, Jeff practiced law for ten years before deciding to pursue his lifelong interest in geology. We thank Jeff for the time he spent away from his family in Greenville, WI, to help us for the year. We wish him the best in the future!

Dr. Colin Shaw ~ Colin is our new Structural Geologist and Geophysicist who arrived in fall 2002 to replace Dr. Bradford Burton. Colin received his bachelor’s degree in German language and literature from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN; his master’s degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Colorado - Boulder; and his Ph.D. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque in July 2001. See more information about Colin and how he survived his first year at UWEC under “Faculty News”. Please join us in welcoming Colin to the UWEC Geology family!
Strumness Receives Kell Container Scholarship

Junior Laura Strumness (Eleva, WI) was awarded the Kell Container Corporation Scholarship for faculty/student collaborative research work for the 2003/04 school year. This scholarship will provide Laura with full-time undergraduate tuition, fees, and room and board for the 2003-04 academic year (worth approximately $8300). This is the largest undergraduate scholarship at UWEC, and is therefore highly competitive.

Laura's project title is "Quantification of Heavy Metal Distribution, Coeur d'Alene River, Northern Idaho: Assessment of Controls on Contaminant Mobility." Her faculty mentors are Drs. J. Brian Mahoney and Robert Hooper.

Congratulations to Laura and Drs. Mahoney and Hooper!

Haskin Receives GAC "Best M.Sc. Thesis Award"

Michelle Haskin, a 1998 UW-Eau Claire geology graduate, received her master's degree from Simon Fraser University (British Columbia) in December 2000. In May 2003 she won the Jack Henderson Prize for the "Best M.Sc. Thesis" from the Geological Association of Canada Structural Geology and Tectonics Division. One of the judges stated, "This courageous thesis merits recognition for tackling the Baja B.C. controversy head on! An array of structural, stratigraphic, geochronological, geochemical and paleomagnetic studies indicated >2000 km of northward displacement of the Insular Superterrane relative to the western Intermontane Superterrane. The strongest element of this thesis is that it challenges the Baja B.C. hypothesis on its own turf, in an area that might be considered the "type location" in south-central B.C. (along the Fraser Fault)."

The title of Michelle's thesis is "Stratigraphic affinity and tectono-stratigraphic significance of the Late Albian volcanic rocks in the Empire Valley - Churn Creek area, south-central British Columbia." Her M.Sc. supervisor at SFU was Dr. Peter S. Mustard.

We're impressed, but not surprised. Good work, Michelle!

Student Research Day ~ Spring 2003

The Eleventh Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 28-29 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 always 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 our students!

Athnos, Nikki, with Karen Havholm, "Geologic and Geographic Investigation of Holocene Terraces along the Lower South Saskatchewan River, Central Saskatchewan, Canada."


Chmielowiec, Jacob and Ryan Prechel (undisclosed), with Phillip Ihinger, "Growth of Hydrothermal Quartz Crystals: Insights from Computer Modeling."

Gordee, Sarah and Emily Hauser, with J. Brian Mahoney, "Magmatic Evolution of the Eastern Coast Plutonic Complex, Bella Coola, British Columbia (93D)." Received Fourth Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences Category. Sarah also presented at The Cordilleran Roundup Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, held in January 2003.

Greve, Rachel, with Kent Syverson, "Effect of High-Relief Topography on Deglaciation Ice-Flow Patterns. Phillips 7.5' Quadrangle, West-Central Maine." Rachel also presented at the North-Central GSA meeting in Kansas City, MO, held in March 2003.

Morrell, Carrie (Geology minor), with Garry Running (Geography), "Geologic and Geographic Investigation of Holocene Terraces along the Lower South Saskatchewan River, Central Saskatchewan, Canada."

Paulson, Ben, with Phillip Ihinger, "Differentiation in the Mafic Alkaline Magmas: The Role of Volatiles at Sub-Solidus Conditions."

Strumness, Laura and Taryn Lopez, with Robert Hooper and J. Brian Mahoney, "Lateral Variability in Heavy Metal Speciation Within Lacustrine Environments, Lower Coeur d'Alene River Valley, Idaho."

Wallace, Chris (Geology minor), with David Lonzarich (Biology), "Microhabitat Use of Juvenile Coho Salmon and Rainbow Trout in a Lake Superior Tributary." Received Fifth Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences Category.

Watkins, James and Jesse Bernhardt, with Phillip Ihinger, "Alkaline Magmatism from Calc-Alkaline Source Regions: Insights from Square Butte and Sweetgrass Hills, MT."

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.

Emily Hauser (left) and Sarah Gordee (right) stand before their Student Research Day presentation of "Magmatic Evolution of the Eastern Coast Plutonic Complex, Bella Coola, British Columbia (93D)" which received a fourth place in the Natural and Physical Sciences Category.
This has been a busy year, as usual. Garry Running (Geography Department) and I had a good summer field season on the high plains trying to understand some buried mid-Holocene dune deposits in Manitoba and the stratigraphy of terrace sequences along the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan. Nikki Athnos (senior geology major) and Carrie Morrell (née Mueller, a senior geography major and geology minor) presented their results at the meeting of the American Association of Geographers this spring, as well as at UWEC Student Research Day and the System-wide Research Symposium. Lisa Hansen, an education major I have been working with on a teaching-related research project, was named to the 2003 All-USA Academic Team by USA Today as one of the top 20 students in the country. That was very exciting, and well deserved on her part. She presented the results of her research at CSA in Denver in October and at the UW System Research Symposium.

My sabbatical has been approved for next year. I plan to work on finishing and writing up some research projects and doing reconnaissance for potential new projects. After 12 years of teaching I am ready for a little break. As Merilie will be spending the year in northern India volunteering at an international school, Glenn and I hope to get over there for a visit.

It has been fun to see several of you this past year in various places. Several alumni visited the department (Tim Masterlark, Greg Michael, Katie Thornburg, Beth Wennehl) and I visited with Jean Morrison at CSA in Denver. I was also most impressed with your response to the Alumni Survey. Your comments will be very helpful in guiding our thoughts as to where the department should be heading. Now, check out Geology Club’s website and order yourself a t-shirt!

ROBERT L. HOOPER, Professor

I spent the fall semester in Scotland teaching with the Wisconsin in Scotland program. Five geology majors went over with the group so there were more geologists than any other major. We had great field trips to Siccar Point and the Tertiary layered gabbros of the Isle of Skye in the Inner Hebrides. We stayed a night in Iceland during December and swam in some hot springs right on top of the mid-oceanic ridge. We watched a spectacular sunrise at 11:30 am followed by some shopping for Icelandic woolen products. The family spent a week on the Island of Crete in October enjoying Greek food and beverages. The beaches were almost empty but the water was warm and a beautiful azure blue. Oh yeah — I am still teaching part of the Mineralogy and Petrology course (Min/Pet II this year) and geochemistry.

I’m concentrating my efforts at Eau Claire on development of a new trace-element and isotopic laboratory and getting a technician for the program. We now have enough equipment that we can no longer exist without some concentrated equipment expertise. My main research continues to be associated with the Coeur d’Alene mine contamination, but I have also resurrected some research on the chemistry of clays and have a student looking at the chemical variability of individual clay mineral analyses using the analytical transmission electron microscope. I’m currently keeping four students busy on these projects.

PHILLIP D. IHINGER, Associate Professor

Greetings alumni! It has been a very busy year in the mineralogy/petrology laboratories here at UWEC. My students have taken full advantage of the financial grants provided by the National Science Foundation for both research and equipment. Adam Jacobson (2003), Casey Bowe (2004), Marc Giardelli (2004), Scott Formolo (2004), Angela Remer (2004), and Lisa Groversold (2005) have each engaged in research topics involving the crystal structure and growth histories of natural apatite, calcite, and quartz crystals. Their hard work has enabled the smooth set-up of our new FTIR microscope spectrometer equipped with a state-of-the-art array detector, and they are now looking at chemical variations in crystals with spatial resolutions never seen before. Look for their photos to grace the cover of mineralogy journals soon! Meanwhile, Jacob Chmielowiec (2003) and Ryan Prechel (2005) are making great progress in modeling the growth of hydrothermal quartz crystals using computer simulations, and hope to present their results at the upcoming GSA meeting in Seattle. In addition, Luke Baranek (2003), Ben Paulson (2003), Jesse Bernhardt (2004) and James Watkins (2005) continue their petrologic investigations on the origin and evolution of igneous rocks from Montana. Luke was impressive while presenting his work to the annual American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco this past December. Jim is a co-author on a paper at the upcoming GAC-MAC conference in Vancouver, and Ben will be presenting his work at the upcoming national GSA meeting. This fall, Luke (Idaho State University) and Ben (Western Washington University) will be attending graduate school, and we wish them well. I have also begun a collaborative project with Dr. Bob Barth of Anthropology and Jenny Thornburg (2005) characterizing an unusual red material used by paleo-Wisconsinites to make projectile points. Meanwhile, I continue to teach Physical Geology, Earth Resources, and Mineralogy-Petrology I, II, and III courses.

J. BRIAN MAHONEY, Associate Professor

Greetings once again! This semester marks my first semester back in Eau Claire after a one-year sabbatical, and reintegration has been a challenge at best! My sabbatical began in January 2002, when I began a five-month collaboration in the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of British Columbia. The Department was taking advantage of a multi-million-dollar equipment grant to establish the Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research, and my role was to help set up the tracer (Sm-Nd, Rb-Sr, U-Pb) isotope laboratory. The work was a combination of heavy lifting and major brain activity, as we built the laboratory from scratch, and established a new isotopic protocol for analyzing tracer isotopes on both a traditional thermal ionization mass spectrometer (Triton TIMS) and a multicollector inductively coupled mass spectrometer (Nu MC-ICPMS). The new laboratory is now up and running, and represents the most state-of-the-art isotopic facility in western North America. My collaboration with the PCICGR is ongoing, and the UWEC isotope preparation laboratory will be used to prepare samples for analysis at UBC, which presents a substantial benefit to teaching and research in the Department.

Following my stint at UBC, I headed back into the Coast Mountains near Bella Coola, British Columbia with three UWEC students (Sarah Gondee, Ben Paulson, Luke Baranek)
for the second year of a collaborative field mapping project with the Geological Survey of Canada and the British Columbia Geological Survey. Very intense mountain topography and extremely challenging geology led to a very interesting field season. A relatively small research group had the task of mapping an enormous swath of the Coast Mountains in a rather small period of time, so we were pushing rather hard at all times. The area is spectacular, and the geology is fascinating. Sarah Gордин is now heading a major research project into the petrogenesis of Coast Mountain plutonic rocks, with the results being presented at the annual Geological Association of Canada meeting in Vancouver in May 2003.

The final portion of my sabbatical was spent with Lori Snyder working and traveling in the southern Pacific. The main purpose of the trip was to spend time analyzing detrital zircon on the Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) at the Australian National University in Canberra, New South Wales, Australia. I spent about 2-3 weeks working on the SHRIMP with Paul K. Link (Idaho State University) and Mark Fanning (ANU), and produced a large amount of data that has important implications for the large-scale terrane translation controversy in the North American Cordillera. Lori and I took advantage of the trip to Australia to travel in the South Pacific where we were able to spend some significant quality time traveling in Thailand (great snorkeling!), Vanuatu (awesome active volcano!), New Zealand (amazing extreme sports, including white water rafting and bungee jumping!) and Australia (Great Barrier Reef, need we say more?). An absolutely magnificent time! Need to do that kind of thing more often!

Now I am back in Eau Claire. My research continues in Cordilleran (British Columbia and Baja Mexico) sedimentation and tectonics. I was able to submit several manuscripts during my sabbatical, and am now attempting to both finish manuscripts and get some new grant proposals written. Bob Hooper and I continue to actively explore heavy metal contamination in the Coeur d’Alene district of northern Idaho, and will be writing up this research this summer. I am still working with students on geochemical characterizations of glacial and non-glacial sediments in the Puget Lowland, as part of a major Seattle Mapping Project initiative. Needless to say, teaching and research are keeping me rather busy. I have petitioned the department chair for another sabbatical starting immediately, but I am not quite certain he supports another sabbatical for me at this point!

DeGraaff-Surpless, K., Mahoney, J. Brian, Wooden, J.L., McWilliam, M.O., 2003,


PAUL E. MYERS, Professor Emeritus myerspe@uiw.com

Time does fly. However, being an ancient Precambrian geologist I have a unique perspective on "time as we know it." With my wife, Velthy, my main preoccupation during the last year was designing and building our new energy-efficient Vermont house in the Green Mountain massif- a Late Precambrian allochthon comprised of high-grade mylonitic amphibolite gneisses, quartzitic schists, and sandy migmatites. I just thought you’d like to know that bedrock petrology is of critical importance when sitting a house.

The 3,000 sq. ft. "off-grid" house produces all its own electricity using rooftop amorphous PV panels and a 1.2 kw wind turbine on a tower on a rocky ridge north of the house. Hot water is produced by a solar collector on the roof backed up by a high-efficiency propane gas boiler. Essential living areas are on the radiant-heated first floor slab, and all rooms are wheelchair-accessible. A Russian-style wood fireplace stores heat and radiates it slowly throughout the main part of the house. This job has been a huge learning experience, since nearly all the materials and energy systems are experimental and very new. For instance, the shell of the house is built of panels of expanded polystyrene supported by a frame of tubular steel.

Velthy and I have been caring for her parents, who are in their mid-90's. This is a full-time job. They live in a 200-year-old homestead near our new house.

We did manage to break away in February for a three-week tour of Thailand and Cambodia. Thai people are handsome, friendly, industrious, and extremely talented with their hands. Although the country is predominantly agricultural, the people generally seem to be fairly well off, except in the northern hill tribes. Most city people drive small motorcycles. Our tour covered most of the country northwest of Bangkok including the famous city of Chiang Mai where we rode elephants. All in all we experienced nearly every imaginable form of water and land transportation.

So, now, we’re living temporarily in Bristol, Tennessee, home of NASCAR and country music—trying to sell Velthy’s house and waiting for the mountains of snow to melt from the Green Mountains. Vermont has 4 seasons: Snow, Mud, Blackfly, and Color [3 weeks], Come and visit our new home, which is within sight of three major ski resorts. Our phone number is 802-824-6626.

COLIN A. SHAW, Assistant Professorshawca@uwec.edu

After two semesters here at UW Eau Claire, I finally feel like I’m getting to know the department. So many of our faculty were overseas during fall 2002 that the department seems like a completely different place this spring semester... much more lively! Through all the comings and goings, I have been busy getting my courses off the ground and settling down with my family in Eau Claire. My wife Christine, 6-year-old daughter Fiona, and cat Anabel Lee were joined by Bruce (a Gordon setter) in November, and new daughter Norah on 18 February.

I have taught structural geology and physical geology both semesters this academic year. A total of 35 students took structure during this time. For me, the highlight of the course is a field trip to the Baraboo syncline to study this classic fold and the ultra-mature Proterozoic Baraboo quartzite. The Baraboo is very similar to quartzites that I have studied in New Mexico and Colorado... I feel right at home there. We also had some enjoyable shorter trips to Jim Falls and Big Falls.

Just to make sure that I didn’t get homesick for the mountains, I took advantage of several opportunities to travel out west. During the fall, I attended a proposal-writing workshop for the Continental Dynamics of the Rocky Mountains (CD-ROM) project in Socorro NM. In December we submitted our proposal to continue our seismic transect along the southern Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, we recently found out that the project was not funded. In October, I led a field trip at the national Geological Society of America meeting in Denver. Thirty-six geoscientists from the
News from faculty & staff (Continued)

U.S., Canada, Australia, U.K. and Germany examined Proterozoic mylonite shear zones of the Colorado mineral belt and argued about the dynamics of continental deformation and mid-crustal deformation mechanisms. After the meeting I joined a second field trip led by my colleague Joe Allen (Concord College) that explored pseudotachylites (flash frictional melts from ancient earthquakes) in the same area. In January I joined the UWEC field camp in New Mexico. What a great field area! I’m looking forward to the advanced field camp in Montana. Our field area is just 90 miles from my hometown of Bozeman. This summer I will be traveling to New Mexico for a fieldtrip to look at the Ortega quartzite. Students Ryan Dayton, Scott Formolo, Chris Fell and Kali Pace-Graczyk will accompany me on two research trips to Colorado to work on Precambrian tectonic problems near Leadville and Cañon City.


Lori D. Snyder, Senior Lecturer
snyderld@uwec.edu

Happy Spring Everyone! I’ve been busy just getting back to work after a leave of absence during the fall semester. It was wonderful to lead a completely different life for a few months. I left Eau Claire after teaching summer session Geology 110 and headed to British Columbia to assist the Geological Survey of Canada (and UW-Eau Claire faculty and students) with geologic mapping near rugged and beautiful Bella Coola. Life only got better when Brian and I took off for points on the other side of the earth - we visited Thailand, Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides), Australia and New Zealand. A few highlights include learning to cook Thai food, standing on top of an erupting volcano, swimming with pods of dolphins and snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef. The life of a carefree tourist was interrupted occasionally with work, but it somehow seemed easier in the Southern Hemisphere. Spring semester was back to classes at Eau Claire, which are still enjoyable and often challenging. Hope to see you around the Department sometime!

Kent M. Syversen, Associate Professor
syverskm@uwec.edu

My eleventh year in the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department is coming to a close, and I am still enjoying time in the classroom and field! During fall 2002 I was Interim Chair of the Geology Dept., while the Real Chair (Bob Hooper) was teaching in Scotland.

I also was elected chair of the University Senate Academic Policies Committee in the fall, so I had more meetings than I preferred. I was very thankful on December 4th when Bob Hooper returned to attend some of those fun meetings...! Research student Jeremy Treague presented his work on our Wisconsin till database at the national GSA meeting in Denver. The highlight of 2002 was a family summer spent in west-central Maine, a part of the northern Appalachian Mountains with up to 2500 ft of relief. I spent 4.5 weeks mapping glacial sediments north of Farmington, ME, for the Maine Geological Survey. My research student, Rachel Greve, became a third daughter to our family and accompanied us on a few weekend adventures. Rachel mapped glacial striations on the Phillips quadrangle in order to evaluate the impact of high-relief topography on ice-flow patterns during deglaciation. (She presented this research in March 2003 at North-Central GSA in Kansas City.) Lila, the kids, and I “house sat” for a couple in a rural area south of Farmington. Lila and kids had never been to New England, and we had a wonderful time. The people at Bean’s Corner Baptist Church welcomed us with open arms. We had short weekend camping adventures to the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the coast of Maine to visit Dr. Charlie Matsch (Kent’s geology mentor at UM). Lila and kids climbed the 1000-ft Bald Mountain—the kids are becoming good hikers. In mid-July we began a two-week vacation through Acadia National Park, Nova Scotia (outer coast, Halifax, Bay of Fundy), Prince Edward Island (Anne of Green Gables country), and Quebec City. I was impressed by the HUGE tidal range in the Bay of Fundy during the full moon phase—the time of maximum tidal range. It was a great trip, but it was nice to get home too!

I was a master painter at the Syversen mansion during summer/fall, and I am a reading/spelling teacher’s aide at home for Laura and Rebecca. I was asked to write an overview article about the glacial history of Wisconsin for an International Quaternary Association volume, and that was a huge undertaking. Thankfully, that manuscript is in review. My Chippewa County (WI) glacial geology map is plotted and ready for peer-review, and I hope to have the related manuscript ready to send out this summer. In addition, I am compiling the results of my research in Maine and working on a manuscript on ice-walled-lake plains with several other glacial geologists.

John R. Tinker, Jr., Professor Emeritus
tinkerjr@uwec.edu

Retirement is exciting and busy. I do some consulting, work on my farm (73 acres), play with my grandchildren (very important), and spend some time just relaxing. Christine and I took a trip to Texas where we ate some excellent seafood along the Gulf Coast and then traveled to the dry climate of southwest Texas. Very enjoyable trip but I was happy to return to Wisconsin.

I thank all of my former students who made my teaching career fun, enjoyable, challenging, frustrating at times, and worth every minute of my time and hopefully yours. I thank the Geology Department and all students for my retirement party this past month.

May good health and happiness stay with you and your families.

Nancy J. Amdahl, Program Assistant
amdahlj@uwec.edu

Through the eyes of the Program Assistant, I would have to say that this has been a very “interesting” year. To mention just a few events that have made this past year so interesting...Tinker’s retirement; a quick search and rescue for a temporary and a permanent replacement of Tinker; the absence of three faculty members during the fall semester—Hooper (teaching in Scotland), Mahoney (sabbatical), and Snyder (leave of absence); having three new faculty members during the fall semester—Haskin, Kuglitsch, and Shaw; and a new degree concerning University fleet vehicles use that really threw us for a loop. I spent quite a bit of time during the fall semester just trying to find drivers over the age of 25 and searching for rental vehicles that had the capacity to haul field gear for extended field trips. State budget uncertainties also have complicated the accounting management.

On the home front, we are still completing projects on our new house, and recently we decided to finish the basement. So life has been good, just a bit busier than it needs to be! For excitement, we drove to Orlando for a weekend vacation in February. I encountered my first NASCAR experience at the Daytona 500, which ended up being rain delayed twice and then eventually the race was called.

Thanks to all that visited this past year and keep those e-mail updates coming. Take care!
Donations to the Department

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since March 2002.

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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. The attached slip is intended to make it easy to contribute and to allow you to direct your gift to the Geology Advancement Fund. 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, $3086 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund. We definitely had more contributors than usual this year (32 individuals/companies), which was a great development! It is heartening to see more "established" alumni continue to contribute, but it is also nice to see more recent alumni starting to support their department financially as well. All gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated!

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, please check if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.

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Andrew Alff (1979). Andrew is the president of Tristar Exploration, a small oil and gas exploration company. Tristar will be participating in two new exploration efforts to expand known producing areas in northeast Texas. Andrew said they plan to drill both of these structures in the next six months with the hope of finding significant new gas reserves. Aaageodude@aol.com

Lance Bakken (1997). Lance is a hydrogeologist at RMT, Inc. in Madison, WI. Lance is the proud father of a new baby daughter, Lucinda. Lance.Bakken@rmtinc.com

Karl Beaster (2001). Karl is a hydrogeologist with American Engineering Testing in Duluth, MN. He said his job is going well, but he "I would rather be climbing on a rock somewhere". Karl and Sarah are enjoying Duluth and they are now looking for some land to build a new home. Karl said that they have been doing research to learn more about building a straw-bale construction. "I would like to take Sarah to Kingston, NM, and show her the straw bale house at the Black Range Lodge. This is what first spurred my interest." [Editor's note: The Black Range Lodge is the field site of the new UWEC Field Geology I course.] karlbeaster@lycos.com

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg continues to work for Golder Associates, a large employee-owned geotechnical engineering and environmental sciences company. Greg said that most of his work is with multinational companies in the manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, power and waste management sectors. He explained, "Golder acquired a small consultancy in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 2002, so now I don't have to work exclusively from an airplane or the south porch of my home." Greg's wife, Julie, a UWEC graduate and Physical Geology student (Greg reminded us that HE was the lab assistant for this course), continues to work at Cargill in Minneapolis, MN. Their children, Anna and William, are now 7 and 4 respectively. Greg said, "They are great outdoor enthusiasts and entry-level baseball fans. We are into the second year of our tour of all Major League Baseball Stadiums. We visited four stadiums in 2002 and we plan to visit at least three more in 2003. Go Twins!" gbeckstrom@golder.com

Bill Bergh (1997). Bill and Mara Arciniega announced their engagement in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram. The announcement stated that a January 20, 2003, wedding was planned in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Bill is the owner of Geo Tech, a consulting firm in Chippewa Falls, WI.

Nicole Bergstrom (2002). Nicole is a customer service representative at Humana Insurance in Eau Claire. She is continuing to search locally for a position in hydrogeology. nacoel@yahoo.com

Jody Brandrup (2000) & Dan Dahlman (1999). Once again we stole some hot news from the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram...! According to the paper, Dan and Jody are engaged and to be married on August 9, 2003, at Glacier National Park. Dan is managing a ski shop in Sun Valley, ID, and Jody works as a regulatory specialist and personal assistant to the CEO of Apogent Technologies in Portsmouth, N.H.

Kirstin Cahow (1997)

"I am living about 200 feet from Lake Superior and get to walk on the beach every day!"

Brad Burton (Assistant Professor, 1997-2001). Brad continues to enjoy his position as Staff Geologist - Frontier Exploration with Shell Canada Ltd. in Calgary. brad.burton@shell.ca

Kirstin Cahow (1997). We last heard from Kirstin in early December, and at that time she was in the process of revising and doing some "nasty recalculations" on her MS thesis at UMD, and she is hoping to finish by May. She is working full-time as the Water Resources Program Manager for the Bad River Natural Resources Department. Kirsten commented, "Since we are small, I get to manage both the surface and groundwater programs. I have my fingers in a variety of projects. I am living about 200 feet from Lake Superior and get to walk on the beach every day! It is really my dream job as far as the things that I do." kecahow@ncis.net

Eric Dahlman (1999). Eric is a hydrogeologist with METCO in La Crosse, WI. He commented, "Nothing much new... just been laying away on the LUST investigations and doing as much hunting and fishing as possible when I am away from work." ericd@metcolrq.com

Dan Dahlman (1999). See news item under Brandrup.

Greg Durocher (1982). Greg continues his chief position with the USGS Earth Science Information Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Greg described the experience he had with the world's strongest seismic event of 2002, the Magnitude 7.9 Denali Fault Earthquake. "It was felt over an area of hundreds of thousands of square miles - even breaking houseboats loose from their plumbing attachments in Washington State! Here in Anchorage, it felt like we were rocking on long ocean swells. Everything hanging was swaying like mad for several minutes. We knew it was big, but we also knew it was a good distance from us because there weren't any of the short, sharp vibrations that we get from local faults. Here are some good websites on this event: http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/fact-sheet/fs014-03/ and http://www.dgs.dnr.state.ak.us/earthquake.html gdurocher@usgs.gov

Aaron Ellringer (1997). We haven't personally heard from Aaron, but we recently received an election ballot to vote for the Royal Credit Union's Board of Directors and Aaron was listed as one of our candidate options. This brochure stated that Aaron is currently the Public Information Officer for Western Dairyland Community Action Agency, based in Independence. Aaron, his wife Jen, and their daughter Olive reside in Eau Claire. Aaron was described as a year-round cyclist and someone that enjoys exploring the rivers and the natural environment in our region. [You won our vote, Aaron!]

Kristie Franz (1995). Kristie completed her master's degree at the University of Arizona in December 2001 and immediately started her Ph.D. She said, "There has been a lot of interest in my master's thesis and I received a grant from the National Weather Service to do a short study for them on a stream flow forecast evaluation." On a personal note, Kristie mentioned, "I am still with my boyfriend Martin. He has been busy with the Navy Reserves since 9/11. I recently adopted a dog that someone left in the desert to die - she is a Chow/Shepherd mix and a wonderful companion. My father was put in the Alzheimer's wing out near the Chippewa Hospital, and the disease is pretty advanced. I am training for a half marathon in December 2002." kristie@hwr.arizona.edu

Bradley (BJ) Fuller (2000). When we contacted BJ about sending news, he
Kristen Hanson (2001). Kristen is a hydrogeologist at Meridian Alliance Group in Eau Claire. kihanson@ameritech.net

Sergius (Sarge) Hanson (1972). Sarge has been practicing in geology, hydrogeology, and environmental consulting since 1973. He explained, “I take a little over a year to fine-tune my first position as a geologist. So if you want to be a career geologist—keep working at it. It’s a lot of fun.” Sarge is now president of a small, but growing environmental consulting and soil/groundwater remediation company called E-21 Engineering, Inc. in Englewood, CO. He explained, “After drilling and logging several thousand geotechnical and environmental test holes and working on ~1,000 technical reports across all of the contiguous US, I can only say I’m proud of my degree at UWEC. In fact, I just had it reframed to hang on yet another office wall.” Sarge also wanted us to say “Hi” to all the summer of 1970 field camp gang (with Professor Willis). 

“I celebrated our nation’s second-most important holiday, Groundhog’s Day, by nearly getting frostbite while sampling through river ice.”

Dave Hodek (1995)

New Berlin, WI. Aimee is also a geology graduate of Idaho State University and she is employed as an environmental geologist/hydro with Sigma Environmental.

Paula (Hlavaty) Sumpter (1983). Paula continues to work for the City of Aurora’s Information Technology Department as a senior management analyst. When we heard from Paula last June she had just gotten back from a vacation across the Colorado Plateau. She explained, “I started at Colorado National Monument and then worked my way through every National Park and Monument in southern Utah. I saw all the red Mesozoic rocks a girl can stand! (All my photos have a distinctly pinkish hue.) It was fun. Put 2000 miles on the car. Now I’m pooped.”

Dave Hodek (1995). Dave continues to work as an environmental engineer/project manager at Natural Resources Engineering in Duluth, MN. He has worked on two big oil spills in the past year. He explains, “The first was July 4th near Grand Rapids, MN. I rang in our nation’s birthday by nearly getting a heat stroke while logging GPS coordinates in 90° weather in a burned wetland with residual oil fires still burning. The second was on national news and was in Superior, WI, in January. I celebrated our nation’s second-most important holiday, Groundhog’s Day, by nearly getting frostbite while sampling through river ice.” On a personal note, Dave is getting married this May to Teresa Heinrich, a 1996 nursing graduate of UWEC. Dave recalls, “The only time I met her in college was when I had the flu and said ‘Hi’ just before passing out with a bottle of Nyquil. Lucky for me, first impressions don’t last!”

“I saw all the red Mesozoic rocks a girl can stand!”

Paula (Hlavaty) Sumpter (1983)

Terri Hogue (1995). Terri admits, “I have been severely lax in writing, but how do you keep say yes, still here, still in school... But, luckily things are changing and I do have some news. Finally, I am graduating this May with my Ph.D. in Hydrology—it has been a long haul, but extremely rewarding and exciting.” Terri said that she has enjoyed the opportunities to travel extensively while in school to science conferences; in fact her latest travel was to Thailand in January. “We have loved living in Tucson. The outdoor life here is incredible-biking, hiking, great camping... But this summer we’re packing up and moving west again to southern states.”
At our house, so if anyone needs to take a break and get up to ‘der Nortwoods,’ drop me a line!” ajones@bhassoc.com

Brent Kabat (2002). Brent is employed as an engineering field technician with STS Consultants, where he does in-field geotechnical and environmental work.

kabatbl@hotmail.com

“Defense date is April 1st. Quite fitting, I thought.”

Dale Kerner (1996). Dale is a Field Technician with Brown and Caldwell, an environmental engineering and consulting firm in Boise, ID. Dale is also working toward his master’s degree at Boise State University. He joked, “Defense date is April 1st. Quite fitting, I thought.”

DKerner@bruncalci.com

Paul Knippel (2002). After some time off in Eau Claire after graduation, Paul moved to Bellingham, WA, in 2003 for reasons that Paul explained as “looking for a change of scenery and a job.” He continued, “Although I am applying for a number of positions, I am most interested in an interpretive ranger position at Mt. Rainier National Park. Is it going to be a summer job?”

plknippel@hotmail.com

Josh Kohn (2000). Josh is currently residing in Minneapolis and working at Xcel Energy, where he works on outdoor lighting projects. Luckily for him, he has his winters off, so he has spent the past four months traveling. Some of his travel adventures include: two cruises (one with his parents and girlfriend to Mexico and another with his girlfriend and her parents to the Caribbean), road trip to LA with a friend for a week with a return trip through the Grand Canyon, Vegas, etc., a trip to Hawaii for two weeks to visit friends and check out Hawaii Volcanoes NP, a five-week visit to Europe to sightsee and see friends, and when he sent his update in April he was writing from Denver, CO, where he was visiting with more friends, skiing, and attending a job fair for Raytheon Polar Services... “With hopes of seeing if I can go to Antarctica this coming winter to work for four months.”

[Editor’s note-can I get your frequent flyer miles, Josh?] Josh is thinking about graduate school or getting certified to teach high school earth science first, and then looking for more specific geology/environmental science or teaching jobs. “As for now,” Josh admits, “I am just enjoying life and taking it easy.” koinjosh@hotmail.com

Tom Kostalek (1989). Tom is a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Las Vegas, NV. Tom explains, “I work on the Yucca Mountain Project, so I keep a low job profile. I am listed as a hydrologist but I am doing soil physics. The politics are really interesting when they don’t scare you. Tons of paperwork but when we actually get to do fieldwork in the tunnel at the mountain it is quite fun.” Tom_Kostalek@notes.ymlp.gov

Lisa Kraft (1999). Lisa moved to Denver, CO, last June to take a seasonal job with the Colorado State Parks. Lisa commented, “It was fabulous. I spent the entire summer and fall GPSing at parks and creating their GIS’s. I created a winter trails map for the state’s largest park, State Forest State Park; it’s at all the trailheads!”

Lisa is a GIS Specialist at EDAW, Inc., a landscape architecture/urban design firm.

halfprintlilk@yahoo.com

Stephanie Larsen (2001). Steph is attending graduate school at UW-Madison’s Department of Geography. She is hoping to complete her MS this May, and then she plans to continue at Madison for her PhD. Steph received the Tinker-Nave Field Research Grant to do some fieldwork last summer, so she was able to travel to Jalisco, Mexico, to research her topic on “Agrobiodiversity and Maize Seed Exchange in the Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve.” Steph recently presented her research at the Association of American Geographers meeting in New Orleans.

steph_larsen@hotmail.com

Carrie Laudon (1984). In 1990, Carrie acquired her Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Minnesota. In 2001, Carrie and her family moved to Aberdeen, Scotland. She is now a Senior Geoscientist with Schlumberger Information Solutions in the U.K. Carrie explained, “Most of my work in the UK has been as a consultant to oil companies on using our advanced applications in geology, geophysics, mapping and modeling. The last five months I’ve spent half of my time in Algeria working with Sonatrach on a structural model of part of the Hassi Messaoud field. I’ve also been to Nigeria. I haven’t seen as much of the local geography as I’d like, but my dad (Tom Laudon, retired geology professor from UW-Oshkosh) did insist that we had to visit Hutton’s unconformity at Siccar Point. Her family now consists of husband, Eric...
Leonard, and twin sons Riley and Jack, age 3.  cmlarulo@aberdeen.nfl.tlsb.com

Virgil Lueth (1981). Since graduation Virgil has obtained his master's and Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Texas at El Paso. He is now the Asst. Director for Public Outreach and the Mineralogist/Economic Geologist and Curator of the Mineral Museum at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Virgil also works at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources in Socorro, NM. He is married to another UWEC geology graduate, Lisa Peters (UWEC-1982, MS-UTEP). Virgil advised, "Watch for Lisa's cmlarulo@aberdeen.nfl.tlsb.com

Tim Masterlark (1994). Tim is a Senior Scientist with the USGS/EROS Data Center. He explained, "This past year was quite fruitful. I have been studying the deformation mechanics of earthquakes and volcanoes and a couple of my manuscripts were published in 2002. I enjoy my work and I am always looking for opportunities to discuss my research with others." Tim also traveled to Alaska last fall and gave some lectures at the Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage and the Alaska S.A.R. Facility in Fairbanks, and this semester he is giving a series of lectures to the applied math students at Dakota Wesleyan University. On a personal note, Tim said, "Last summer, the annual roundup of 1994 UWEC geology graduates was held in South Dakota. This summer, we plan to meet at Devil's Lake during Labor Day weekend." Tim and his wife, Trisha, and their two children, Cora and Jack, are currently residing in Brandon, SD. masterlark@usgs.gov  [Editor's note: Tim also presented a talk to the UWEC geology students in the spring 2003. Tim's talk was well received by all. Thank you, Tim! See separate news item about Tim's UWEC Recent Alumnus award.]

Ann (Melby) Kron (1996). Ann is a RCRA Hazardous Waste Permitter for the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Montana. She commented, "This year we finally got to the stage of implementing corrective action at one of my sites. The soil was finally excavated and placed on an on-site land treatment unit. The groundwater is so contaminated that the remediation will go on past my lifetime, but at least progress is being made!" "The big news," Ann announced, "is that we had a beautiful baby boy on April 10! His name is Ayden Alcott, and he was 7 pounds 10 ounces. So far, being a parent is so wonderful! My pregnancy didn't prevent us from getting out and enjoying Montana during the fall and winter, but this spring it was a little more difficult! We also took a trip to Italy last October. It was a great trip, with highlights being a visit to Pompeii, Sicily, and an active volcano in the Eolian Islands. Unfortunately, we missed Mt. Etna erupting by a few days." adkron@juno.com

Greg Michael (1996). Greg continues to enjoy his position as a senior hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, PECFA Site Review Section. Greg declared, "It's been a great year for the Michael boys. Both Isaac and Brendan are now in school full-time—it's amazing how fast time flies. At this time in our lives, no news is really good news. Here's to no news." [Editor's note: Greg also visited UWEC to talk to the geology students about his job. Thanks for taking the time from your big fishing trip, Greg. We appreciate your support!] gmichael@commerce.state.wi.us

Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy is working toward his master's degree at Marian College in Fond du Lac, WI. "Geologically, I have nothing to report," Jeremy explained. "I deal more with metallurgy now, as I was recently 'promoted' out of Mercury's die cast foundry and into the Lost Foam area. I now supervise the only pressurized lost foam foundry in North America." Jeremy and his wife Shawna have been spending the majority of their free time working on the new house. He said, "We've been busy preparing a nursery, as we're expecting our second child at the end of May. Our daughter will enter kindergarten in the fall. She is very excited about the prospect of a new sibling." Jeremy_D_Miller@mercmarine.com

Martin Miller (Visiting Assistant Professor 1994-1997). Martin is an instructor/research assistant professor at the University of Oregon. millerm@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Jean Morrison (2000). In April 2003 Jean successfully defended her master's thesis in Environmental Science and Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. The title of her thesis was "Geochemical Processes Controlling a Coal Acid Mine Drainage Mixing Zone and the Impacts on Coal Creek, Alabama." Jean did her thesis work for the USGS. She announced, "I am celebrating the end of my career as a student (it has been a long one!) with a two-week trip to Japan in May." Upon the return of her vacation, Jean plans to continue working with the USGS in the Geologic Division, where she works with trace metal behavior in environmental systems. She admits, "I am still contemplating whether I want to continue my graduate studies. (I can't believe I am even considering that.)" Jean encourages former classmates to look her up if they are ever in the Denver area. jmorrison@mines.edu

Todd Myse (1995). Todd obtained his master's degree from Dartmouth College in 2001, and since then has been working for the Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, NH. Todd enjoys his job because it gives him the opportunity to travel. "I have been to Alaska three times. I spent about 1.5 months in Alaska last summer, working mostly in Fairbanks, and I was able to help out with some glacier research in Glacier Bay for about 2 weeks. We traveled around Glacier Bay on a National Park Service boat called the Nunatak that Kent [Syverson] was on when he was doing his research in Glacier Bay! I could write forever about my experiences up in Glacier Bay, but I can summarize them by saying they were 'magical.'" During his free time, Todd is active in the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club and he has been particularly interested in working on the wilderness issues in Vermont and New Hampshire. Todd explained, "It has been very fun going to public meetings to voice my opinion and then working in the background with other conversation groups to help these unique areas." As always, Todd invites all travelers to look him up if ever in the Vermont area. Todd.A.Myse@Alum.Dartmouth.org

Jamie Oakley (1995). Jamie continues to work as a project manager with GeoEngineers at the Anchorage, AK, office, where he manages environmental clean-ups and compliance with several local service stations. In March, Jamie was working in the Hawaiian Archeapelo on some Department of Interior projects. jokailey@geoengineers.com
**ALUMNI NEWS**

The latest and greatest news from UWEC Geology Alumni.

**Paul Overlien (1994).** Paul and Inga reside in Holmen, WI. overlien@charter.net

**Michael Palet** (1996). Michael is an Agent and Registered Representative for New York Life Insurance Company in Madison, WI. He moved from Eau Claire to Middleton, WI, in August 2001. Michael stated, “Most of my time is consumed by work and establishing myself in my new geographic region. With the struggle of the current economic market, managing assets has been a great challenge. In my free time I’m searching for Miss Right.”

*mpalet@mylifesecurities.com*

**Lisa (Peters) Lueth** (1982). See news item received from Virgil Lueth.

**Heidi Rantala** (1997). Heidi is utilizing her master’s degree in limnology from the University of MN-Duluth by working as a Limnologist II at the University of Iowa’s Hygienic Lab. Heidi said that she spends a large part of her days in the field. She described, “Our projects include monitoring monthly ambient of 60 streams in the state, sampling 60 beaches weekly, sampling three lakes and the Cedar River watershed as part of a nutrient loading project, and, my favorite, assessing stream health at 60 sites per summer. That is the fun one, collecting bugs and shocking fish. Life doesn’t get any better! Yes, I’m a bug nerd (and I love it!).” Heidi and her boyfriend, Mike (also a Limnologist), have been up to some interesting adventures recently. They have hiked the Grand Canyon and Zion. Heidi has been training for Grandma’s half marathon in Duluth in June, and she has been taking guitar lessons for the past year. They have welcomed a new boxer puppy to their household, and they are in the process of turning a corn crib into a house.

*hrrantala@uih.uiowa.edu*

**Shelly Roth** (1995). Shelly obtained her master’s degree from the University of New Orleans in 1999. After receiving her M.S. she spent a year working for Mobil in New Orleans. After Exxon/Mobil merged, she accepted a position in Houston as a geophysical applications specialist for the new company. She is currently employed there as a Senior Geologist. Shelly said, “In my free time I train for and participate in the Women’s Professional Football League as a member of the three-time National Champion Houston Energy.”

**Carrie Rowe** (2000). Carrie just graduated from the University of Calgary with a master’s degree in carbonate sedimentology. She commented, “It was a great few years of my life and I learned tons.” Two weeks after defending her thesis, Carrie started a job at Encana Corporation, a Canadian oil and gas company. She explained, “I am working in International New Ventures and Exploration group, with my position focused on deep-water reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico. It has been a very interesting job with a really steep learning curve!” Carrie continues to reside in Calgary, Alberta. “It’s a great city and close to the beautiful Rocky Mountains, so I get out to hike and camp as often as possible,” she remarked. *rowe@geoh.ucalgary.ca*

**Kay (Schoenecker) Briese** (1999). Kay is currently working in St. Louis Park, MN, as a Research Specialist for Environmental Information Limited, an environmental consulting/research firm. She explained, “Our main research revolves around the disposal/treatment of hazardous waste at treatment, storage and disposal facilities throughout the United States and Canada.” Kay was married last October and they live in Cottage Grove, MN, in their newly built home. *Kay_schoenecker@excite.com*

**Greg Small** (1989). After graduation, Greg obtained his master’s in Geochemistry from UW-Milwaukee. He is now a Senior Scientist at Epoch Environmental Group, LLC, in Lino Lakes, MN. In 2001, Greg and his wife Deb (UWEC, Biology, 1988) had their first child, Erik Gregory. Greg proudly states, “He is a blond blue-eyed little boy full of energy who keeps his parents (and the dogs) on the go all the time.” Greg said, “After living in Milwaukee, Denver, and Minneapolis over the last few years, we finally settled down in Hudson, WI...we’ll see how long that lasts. I’d be happy to hear from any alumni/faculty/students.” *gregory_small@epochenvironmental.com*

**Jim Spinner** (1995-1999). Jim departed from UWEC his senior year to start his own business. He now owns and operates Couderay River Bison Ranch in Radisson, WI. Jim’s on-line store features homegrown, grass-fed buffalo. His brochures state, “We offer burger, steaks, roasts, organ meats, sausage, and jerky. We also raise pastured poultry (chicken and eggs) and pastured pork... The store also carries skulls, hides, and handcrafted leather and beadwork items. Most ‘buffalo goods’ are created at the ranch.” For more information, you could check out Jim’s website at www.buffaloboy.net or e-mail him at info@buffaloboy.net.

**Troy Thompson** (1985). Troy recently joined ENVIRON International as a hydrogeologist. He wrote, “[I] am helping establish their new Milwaukee office. It’s interesting being in such a small office. I end up having to do everything from fieldwork to marketing. I have not done much fieldwork in years. Overall it has been exciting, though.” *troythompson@netscape.net*

**Katie Thornburg** (2001). Katie is planning to complete her master’s in geochemistry from UW-Madison this summer. She has been busy studying the mineralogy and kinetics of arsenic release from sediments in the Fox River Valley, WI. In addition to taking classes, conducting research, and planning her summer wedding, Katie also received the “Stanley A. Tyler Outstanding Teacher Award” for her Teaching at Madison.

She remarked, “I am just starting the process of trying to find employment after I finish my degree and am, for the first time in several years, starting to take up my hobbies of music and weaving again.” *kattie@geology.wisc.edu*

**Jennifer Tobias** (1996). Simply put, life is good,” was the first sentence in Jenna’s e-mail response. Jenna continues her hydrogeology position with the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment for the Wisconsin DNR. She said, “My project management area was recently expanded to include the City of Appleton and the Fox River. That is especially great since Jerry [her fiancé] is a firefighter in Appleton. He responds to the spills, and then they come to my desk to get cleaned up!” Jenna also continues to be actively involved with Habitat for Humanity. On a personal note, Jenna announced, “Jerry and I are getting married Labor Day weekend this year outside of his parents’ place bordering the Eldorado Marsh. They have 30 acres of beautiful nature to enjoy.” *Jennifer.Tobias.dnr.state.wi.us*

**Erik Tomlinson** (1999). Erik has been working with Earth Tech in Minneapolis, MN, for three years as a hydrogeologist. Erik explained, “I am primarily a field geologist traveling about the country installing numerous monitoring wells (and one municipal well), collecting soil and groundwater samples, performing aquifer tests and overseeing geotech borings. My office duties include interpreting aquifer tests, writing reports, and computer modeling hydrogeologic systems. Since introduced to it at UWEC, computer modeling is what I
was especially interested in and the area I wished to specialize. Since the unfortunate departure of our computer modeler at our Earth Tech office, I have been given the opportunity to step up and fill the role. In the fall, I will attend the University of Minnesota and take hydrogeologic modeling courses in the Department of Civil Engineering. Who would have thought...?"

Erik Tomlinson@earthtech.com

Chad Underwood (1999). Chad recently changed jobs and moved to the Minneapolis area where he is now working as a geotechnical engineer for GME Consultants. Chad explained, "I'm primarily dealing with shallow and deep foundation design and slope stability issues. It's been a big change after several years in the environmental business, but I'm adjusting. I took the PE exam last fall and passed, and I am now looking to take the PG exam this coming fall. If anyone has taken the PG exam recently, I'd appreciate your feedback."

Speaking of the PE exam, Chad said he owes a big "thanks" to fellow alum Todd 'Pyro' Myse. Chad joked, "I believe it was his coaching me out for a few beers the night before the exam that helped me pass—just like the college days!"

cunderwood@gmeconsultants.com

Tony Viavattine (1999). Last summer Tony started a new position as a project geologist with Aerostar, Environmental Services, Inc., a private consulting firm in Jacksonville, FL. Tony commented, "I mostly do water and soil sampling, as well as Phase I land assessments. I am also in charge of all GIS projects for my firm. Basically, I do everything in geology for which I DIDN'T take a course."

tony@aerostar.net

Reno Walsh (1995). Reno is an Adventure Consultant for Austin-Lehman Adventures in Billings, MO. "My career as a guide has taken me to many exciting regions, including Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, British Columbia, Colorado, Yosemite, Wyoming, Utah, etc., so I am lucky," Reno commented, "However, I am now spending more time behind a computer building adventures for our guests and guides. I also am getting more involved with Sales/Marketing. It is nice to have a home and not travel as much, although I do find myself in the mountains amidst the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem whenever possible, snowboarding, climbing, hiking, and fishing."

Reno definitely seems to be utilizing his environmental science degree. He said, "Applying my degree towards our planet’s largest industry, tourism, is natural and applicable. Sharing a greater comprehension with guests in regions throughout North America gives me an opportunity to educate and hopefully instill a greater appreciation toward conservation and environmental stewardship."

Reno ended with, "Life is good. Peace, health and happiness to everyone!"

reno@austinlehman.com

Charles Walter (1988). Chuck is manager for the Stormwater Environmental Utility for Sarasota County in Florida. In June, he will present a paper entitled "Creation of Regional Stormwater Management Facilities" at the Florida Stormwater Association Conference in Duck Key, FL. Chuck states, "Stormwater management facilities are an important surficial aquifer recharge mechanism in Florida. The use of regional systems has long been plagued by economic disincentives. The paper will address private planning incentives in new developments and community planning approaches for infill development in urban areas."

cWalter@co.sarasota.fl.us

Kristin Weaver-Bowman (1996). Kristin continues to characterize seismic hazards as a senior staff geologist at William Letis & Associates, Inc. in Valencia, CA. She and her husband recently celebrated their one-year anniversary (St. Patrick's Day). Kristin proudly announced, "The only big news I have for all of you is that we are expecting our first child in August! And that is big! We are both very excited to begin showing him or her the world."

weaver@lettis.com

Sarah (Weaver) Moore (1996). Sarah obtained a J.D. from Vermont Law School and she is now a lawyer with Holland and Hart, a law firm in Denver, CO. She explains, "I have been able to do some work on environmental-type cases, which has been fun. A breach of contract case involving a gold mine is better than nothing...right?!" In addition to starting her new job last summer, Sarah and K.G. also got married and purchased a house. Sarah said, "Aside from airplanes falling out of the sky in our neighborhood, which has us questioning our luck just a tad, things have slowed down a little bit. We've been enjoying a nice and wet last couple of months, which has made for some great skiing."

tinyrougar@hotmail.com

Melissa Weisheipl (2002). Shortly after graduation, Melissa moved to sunny California. She is currently bartending and serving at a Marriott in Irvine, CA, while she continues to search for prospective jobs in her field.

melweisheipl@hotmail.com

Beth Wenell (1999). Beth has started her own freelance graphic design business. According to the Easter letter that we received from Beth and Dave, "The business is keeping her satisfyingly busy." Beth and her husband reside in Manson, IA, where Dave is a minister at the Twin Lakes Christian Center. wenell@hotmail.com

Edward Wieland (1994). "The biggest news," Eddy announced, "is that Sandy and I adopted a little boy, Thomas Yoosung, from Korea. Being a parent poses new challenges, but none too great to overcome. The biggest challenge is driving a minivan. However, I still have my cycle and ride it every day." Eddy is a Coast Guard Officer and he is hoping to finish up his MS in Ocean Engineering at Oregon State University within the next few months. Then he expects to move to Cleveland, OH, or Oakland, CA, in June 2003. Eddy commented, "My next job will be in ocean structure design review (scary). I have really enjoyed Oregon and we may move back after I retire from the Coast Guard—eight years to go."

wielandes@juno.com

Mae Willkom (1998). Mae is a hydrogeologist with the DNR in Eau Claire. Mae wrote, "One of the highlights of this last year for me was accompanying the Mineralogy and Petrology students to the Black Hills. Michelle Haskin and I "co-piloted" one of the vans and had a great time reminiscing about all our old Geology trips! Even though I've done the Black Hills trip at least a half a dozen times, this trip was every bit as much fun and interesting as I remember, under the great leadership of Phil Ihinger."

Mae.Willkom@dnr.state.wi.us

LOST & FOUND

Please look through this list to see if you can help us locate any of our missing alumni.

If found, please contact Kent Syversen (syversknn@uwec.edu) or Nancy Amdahl (amdahnj@uwec.edu or 715/836-3732). Thank you!

Kimberly Ball, 1996
Steven Bohm, 1976
Jody Brandrup, 2000
Thomas Cheng, 1970
Mark Di Rienzo, 1973
Heather (Golding) Luckow, 1998
Paul Graham, 1993
Justin Humenik, 2000
John Jefferson, 1977
James Johnson, 1973
John Kostalek, 1989
James Markle, 1969
Karen Mc Adam, 1984
Josh Miller, 1999
Jeffrey Paddock, 1997
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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Can You ..... 

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