Greetings from the Department Chair

W hat a year (yikes)! This newsletter finds the department in excellent shape but it hasn’t been an uneventful journey. Several items stand out as real accomplishments and improvements over the past year. We have finally hired a hydrogeologist for the program. Katherine Grote will be joining us this fall and will be responsible for picking up where John Tinker left off in the program. These are indeed big shoes to fill, but Katherine comes with significant experience in hydrogeology and is prepared with a PhD in geological engineering from UC Berkeley. I have every confidence that she is up to the challenge. The department continues to see significant growth in instrumentation and facilities. We are converting an outdated lecture space (Phillips Hall 175) into a new mineralogy and petrology instructional laboratory. The new petrology lab will actually have windows and ventilation to make those four-hour labs a little less stuffy. Coincident with this move, the old Min/Pet laboratory (Phillips Hall 110) is being converted into a new High Resolution - Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer lab with an associated clean lab for isotope and ultra-trace-element geochemistry. This facility represents an investment of well over a half million dollars in the geology program.

We have had Ms. Nathalie Brandes and Dr. Nancy Bowers around the program this year as the University has allocated funding for temporary faculty to offer more seats in geology courses. They have been great additions to our program. Geology courses are in very high demand among both the majors and the general education population. The number of students remains stable at about 67 majors and 10 minors; however, 15 students have graduated since last summer and 18 more will be graduating this semester.

The university has been hit very hard by budget cuts in the State of Wisconsin and this has resulted in large increases in tuition and a decrease in staffing in several programs. Geology has largely been spared from the pain of the budget cuts, but the reduced budgets do make it harder to make progress on department initiatives. Speaking of initiatives — the department is finally getting two field vehicles in support of our excellent field geology program! The university came up with initial funding to purchase a 3/4 ton Yukon XL (Suburban) and an F-350 club-cab, long-bed, pick-up truck for moving students and equipment. We are responsible for purchasing the replacements when the existing vehicles are retired. In addition, we’re converting two faculty office spaces into a new department office this summer. This will provide Nancy Tinker with improved working conditions and will result in a higher-profile entry point for initial contacts coming to the university. Unfortunately, the faculty and staff are still going to work out of “shoeboxes.”

Our geology majors continue to be very active in research and nine students will have presented at regional, national and international scientific meetings by the end of the year. We have a full slate of students doing research this summer in areas such as Maine, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. We even have a student participating in a research cruise in Antarctica this spring, so the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department is in far-flung corners of the globe!

With decreases in State funding, we are more dependent than ever on contributions from our successful alumni to help with student travel expenses for professional meetings. Your generous donations support current students so that they can become tomorrow’s professionals. I appreciate your past support and hope you’ll continue to support your program. Many companies match employee contributions, so be sure to check with your employer as well.

Please stop by and see all of the exciting changes in the program when you’re passing through Eau Claire. We love to hear from our alumni and share the stories of your success with both our current students and the administration at UW-Eau Claire. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Bob Hooper

Inside this Issue:

New Lecture Series ............ 2
New Geology Grads ........... 2
Field Trip Updates .......... 2
Geology Club Report ......... 3
Guest Speakers ............... 3
Research in Antarctica ...... 3
Student Research Day ...... 4
Geology Dept. History ...... 5
Excellence Awards .......... 6
Faculty News ................. 7
Donations ..................... 11
Kell Scholarship .......... 11
Alumni News ............... 12
Lost & Found Alumni ..... 18
Ask an Alum ............... 18
New Publication .......... 18
Questionnaire ............. 19
GUEST LECTURE SERIES TO BE INITIATED

Outside speakers are one way to enrich the educational experience for our undergraduate students. You probably can remember some speakers during your undergraduate career that impacted the direction of your degree program. The UW-Eau Claire Geology Department is starting a guest speaker series to provide students with chances to interact with geologists in regulatory agencies, industry, and academia. Dr. Phil Ihinger, the lecture series coordinator, reports that we do not have a lot of money to offer for expenses and an honorarium. However, if you would enjoy giving a talk in your undergraduate geology department about your geological job experiences, PLEASE contact Phil Ihinger (ihinger@uwec.edu, (715) 836-2158) and he will coordinate your visit. If you ever know that you are going to be visiting Wisconsin and would like to arrange a talk around that time, PLEASE let us know!

New Geology Graduates

**Fall 2003:**
Jacob Chmielowiec, General Geology with C.S. minor
Ryan Hammes, Environmental Science

**Winterim 2004:**
Ryan Sauter, Hydrogeology

**Spring 2004 (unofficial list):**
Ian Anderson, General Geology
Jesse Bernhardt, Environmental & Earth Resources with History minor
Kristin Block, General Geology
Casey Bowe, General Geology
Mark Ciardelli, General Geology
Christopher Drabrandt, Hydrogeology with Business Admin minor
Andrew Eddy, Geography with Geology minor
Nicholas Freiburger, General Geology
Daniel Hennessy, General Geology
Andrew Kennedy, General Geology
Kelly Plathe, Environmental Science
Sarah Prindiville, General Geology
Suzanne Reed, Journalism with Geology minor
Mike Rohlik, General Geology with Geography minor
Benjamin Running, Environmental Science
Laura Strumness, General Geology with Math minor
Andrew Sudbrink, Hydrogeology
Rebecca Thorn, Geography with Geology minor

Rocky Mountain Field Studies Summer 2002

*by Bob Hooper*

Lori Snyder and Bob Hooper took a large group (about 23 students and one mouse named Lucky) to the Rocky Mountains for 16 days and had spectacular spring weather. The snow pack was still very significant, but fairly firm, so hiking in the backcountry was just fine. There were no visits to hospitals and no mishaps in the field. Probably the most notable occurrence was the presence of a mouse on the trip. We picked up a mouse in the Black Hills and he rode with the group all the way to Yellowstone by stowing away in the cab of the pick-up truck. He went through a lot of snacks (loved cheese puffs) and the wires on headphones on the student’s CD-players, so he was rather unpopular! Lucky abandoned the trip somewhere in Yellowstone so I hope he’s having a good time in the national park. There’s increasing wolf activity in Yellowstone and it’s relatively easy to see them when traveling in and out of the NE entrance to the park. It makes the geology that much more enjoyable when there’s wildlife to see along the way. Last year a hike up the stratigraphic section in Tensleep Canyon was added to the trip and it worked out really well. Tensleep is a spectacular canyon, yet with minimal trouble (except for heavy breathing) you can walk through the entire Paleozoic section between the road and the rim of the canyon. We look forward to using this new exercise in coming years. There are lots of good memories from past trips and it’s a great experience for students to get out and see lots of rocks. It continues to be a very successful offering for the program.

FIELD CAMP II ~ Summer Interim 2003

*by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor*

Field Camp II was a resounding success this year, with two full back-to-back sessions held in late May and early June. Mahoney and Shaw co-taught the first session with Sarah Gordee (2003 grad) as the TA; Mahoney and Gordee took care of the second session. Montana is a wonderful place, and everyone reveled in the mountain air and sunshine. Both groups were in high spirits, and thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and good cheer of Bev and Jeff Jones at the Castoria Inn. The field exercises went well, with excellent weather and great rocks. Phil Ihinger stopped in for several days to assist with the Doherty Mountain exercise, which seems to be expanding each year! Several horses decided that the UW van and Travis Mast's (2003 grad) truck tasted pretty good during the Rustler's Gulch exercise, but, beyond that, we escaped without a scratch! The two-phase field camp experience (New Mexico + Montana) is firmly established and working quite well, and the integration of field mapping and computer techniques has become a significant benefit to students in the Department.

FIELD CAMP I ~ January 2004

*by Colin Shaw, Instructor*

This January Colin Shaw co-taught Field Camp 1 (GEOL 470) with Brian Mahoney for the first time. It was great to get back to New Mexico! Our stay in New Mexico started and ended with visits to the famous Frontier restaurant in Albuquerque where we sampled the green chile. As always, Pete and Catherine made the Black Range Lodge feel like home-away-from-home for all of us. In addition to our tried-and-true field exercises at Apache Gap, Rattlesnake Canyon, and Trujillo Canyon, we checked out a classic field area in Estadio Canyon in the Manzano Mountains where we mapped a spectacularly folded amphibolite-schist-quartzite sequence.
Hello all UWEC alumni! We began our year by rewriting our club constitution. Not much changed, except we no longer have monetary dues.

The club started the fall semester with a talk and weekend field excursion with Professor Emeritus Paul Myers. Paul and the Club’s new advisor, Colin Shaw, planned a wonderful day of geology in the Eau Claire area. We were lucky enough to have Paul with us to explain the map of Wissota Dam that the department has been using for years.

Our newest project for the spring is our “Knowledge Parties.” Every Wednesday from noon to 2pm geology students get together to work on homework. Students in entry-level geology classes are encouraged to attend and ask questions of the “older” students. This allows all students in the department to either learn or refresh their geologic knowledge.

Geology Club also sponsored several pizza lunches or afternoon snacks for guest speakers in the 2003-2004 academic year. In fact, we would like to thank all of our guests for the time they spent with us. Special thanks go out to speakers Rob Bruant, Katherine Grote, Kristen Gunderson, Paul Myers and Aaron Walczak. See section on “Guest Speakers” for more details.

Stay up to date with club activities at: http://www.uwec.edu/Geology/club/.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL GUEST SPEAKERS!

We are grateful to the following individuals who presented in the department during the past year. These talks have supplied our students with perspectives from outside UW-Eau Claire that are extremely important for broadening our students’ horizons. If you would like to present a talk sometime, we would enthusiastically accept (see separate article about the new speaker series being initiated!)

UWEC Alumni Students:


Dr. Paul Myers (Professor Emeritus) - Paul guided a field trip for anyone interested on October 18th and 19th, and then he presented a talk entitled “Reading the Rocks: Field Studies in Complex Tectonic Settings” on October 20, 2003.


Non-UWEC Guests:

Dr. Robert Bruant, a research associate for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Princeton University, presented “Geochemical Considerations Related to Deep Subsurface Disposal of Carbon Dioxide” on February 25, 2004.

Dr. Christina Gallup, an assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, presented “Uranium-series dating of fossil corals: Testing Milankovitch Theory predictions for the last two glacial cycles” on March 1, 2004.

Dr. Katherine Grote, a hydrogeologist with Weiss Associates at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, presented “Field-scale estimation of water content for engineering and agricultural applications using ground penetrating radar” on February 16, 2004.

Sophomore Geology Major Conducts Research in Antarctica

Joshua Kinsman, UW-Eau Claire sophomore, spent April 12-May 12, 2004, on a National Science Foundation [NSF] research cruise to the Weddell Sea, Antarctica. Kinsman, a geology major from Lavalle, WI, was one of seven students from the United States chosen for the expedition. The expedition was headed by Dr. Eugene Domack, professor of geology at Hamilton College in New York. Domack, who taught at UW-Eau Claire for one year before joining the faculty at Hamilton College, has 25 years of Antarctic research experience. He is interested in understanding the natural record of environmental variability locked in glacial marine sediments in fjords and inner coastal basins on both sides of the Antarctic Peninsula. He is currently investigating the paleorecord of Antarctica's disintegrating ice shelves.

Kinsman states that the entire research experience was an adventure. The Gould, an ice-strengthened vessel leased to the NSF for Antarctic marine research, was a floating research platform that was constantly active. The scientific team took core samples of the ocean floor and set sediment traps along various ice shelves. They also used subsurface sampling and SONAR to verify a previously unrecognized submarine volcano. Even getting to and from the field area was an adventure! The Gould had to cross Drake Passage from Punta Arenas, Chile, to Antarctica. Drake Passage has the reputation as one of the harshest areas to sail. Kinsman states that the reputation is earned—the ship encountered strong winds and 30-foot-high wave swells that made sleeping, eating, and walking difficult as the ship rolled 30 degrees from side to side. On the flight back from Chile, Kinsman was able to see the spectacular glaciers of Patagonia flowing out of the Andes Mountains. Kinsman reports that even though he missed several weeks of classes for this research expedition, he learned a lot and is thrilled that he had the chance to participate.

More information about Kinsman’s research trip to Antarctica is available on Hamilton College’s Web site, http://www.hamilton.edu/news/exp/Antarctica/2004/. We hope that more UW-Eau Claire geology majors will have opportunities such as this in the future!
The Twelfth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 26-27 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 our students!

Anderson, Ian, Dan Hennessey, Jesse Bernhardt, and James Watkins, with Phillip Ihinger, "Origin of felsic segregations in mafic magma chambers: Comparing tholeitic and calcalkaline intrusive complexes."

Ciardelli, Mark, with Phillip Ihinger, "Hydrous Impurities in Speleothems: Indicators of Growth Rates and Paleoenvironments?"


Fell, Chris, Scott Formolo and Kali Pace-Gracyzk, with Colin Shaw, "Ancestry and Reactivation of the Homestake Shear Zone." The students will also be presenting at the 2004 Rocky Mountain GSA Meeting in Boise, Idaho, May 3-5, 2004.

Formolo, Scott, with Phillip Ihinger, "Micro-IR Investigation of Apatite Crystals."

Freiburger, Nicholas, with Kristina Beuning (Biology), "Widespread Drought in Tropical East Africa During the Grand Solar Maximum."

Grossvold, Lisa, with Phillip Ihinger, "Micro-IR Investigation of Doubly-Terminated Gemmy Quartz Crystals."

Hauser, Emily, with J. Brian Mahoney and Sarah Gordee (May 2003 graduate), "Magmatic Evolution of Central Coast Plutonic Complex."

Herrick, Morgan, with Robert Hooper, "Crystal Structure of a Pyroxene, CaFe3+[Fe3+Si06], with Significant Tetrahedrally Coordinated Fe3+." Received Third Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category. See photo.

Kohel, Christopher and Kali Pace-Gracyzk, with J. Brian Mahoney, "Geochemical and Geochronologic Analysis of Volcanic Suites of the Bella Coola Region, West-Central British Columbia."

Johnson, Breck, with Phillip Ihinger and Brady Foust (Geography & Anthropology), "Visual Display of the Cenozoic Evolution of the North American Cordillera."

Lange, Adam, with Garry Running (Geography & Anthropology) and Karen Havholm, "Origin and Distribution of Fluvial Terraces Along the Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan Rivers: A GIS and GP Approach."

Pace-Gracyzk, Kali, with Garry Running (Geography & Anthropology), "Kast Hydrogeology: An Investigation of the Origin of Lake "What-the-Hell" Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota."


Prechel, Ryan, (Undeclared) with Phillip Ihinger and Dan Stevenson (Computer Science), "Visual Simulation of Quartz Crystal Growth."


Strumness, Laura and Jennifer Thornburg, with Robert Hooper and J. Brian Mahoney, "Speciation and Mobility of Trace Metal Contamination in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River Valley, Idaho." Laura will also be presenting at the American Geological Union/Canadian Geological Union 2004 Joint Assembly Meeting in Montreal, Canada, May 15-20, 2004.


Watkins, James, with Phillip Ihinger, "Major Element Characterization of OIB Source Regions: Insights from the Hawaiian-Emperor Hotspot Chain."

Watkins, James, Breck Johnson and Jesse Bernhardt, with Phillip Ihinger, "Origin of North American Cordillera: Lithospheric Response to Plume-Slab Interaction." The students will also be presenting at the 2004 Rocky Mountain Geological Society of America Meeting in Boise, Idaho, May 3-5, 2004.

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.
Geology Department History Part II — John R. Bergstrom

by Paula M. Sumpter (Class of 1983)

[Editor's note: In the 1998 Geology newsletter, Professor Emeritus Paul Myers published an article summarizing the history of the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department. The article, entitled "Up from the Mud: The History of the UWE Geology Department," was well received by our alumni (see our web site). Ms. Paula Sumpter conducted a lot of research to produce this article on Dr. John Bergstrom, one of the founders of the UWE Geology Department. If you would like to showcase a former UWE geology faculty member, please let us know!]

John Bergstrom was the first geologist to join the faculty at UWEC, hired as an Associate Professor of Geology in the Department of Geography and Geology. There would be no separate Geology Department until he established it, a task that took six years. His specialty was Structural Geology, but in his eighteen years at UWEC he taught 25 different courses.

Bergstrom was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1916. He received a B.A. in Geology in 1938 from Union College in Schenectady, NY. After graduation he found jobs in geology to be scarce and made a living selling ski equipment and vacuum cleaners, as well as working for Eastern Airlines. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a member of the 10th Mountain Division. After the war, he returned to college at the University of Wyoming at Laramie, where he earned an M.A. in 1950 and Ph.D. in 1954. He taught briefly at the Univ. of Connecticut, Williams College, North Dakota Univ., Western Illinois Univ. and Arkansas Tech. in sabbatical-replacement positions. In 1964 he joined the faculty of the UW-Eau Claire where he taught until his retirement in 1982.

The case for establishing Geology as a major and as a separate department was outlined in the form of white papers Bergstrom wrote to administrative personnel. One such paper, written in 1965, described how the advent of space exploration had increased public interest in "The World We Live In" and caused Earth Science to be added to the public school curriculum. By 1964, demand at UWEC had resulted in the hiring of a geologist and the implementation of a program intended to provide pre-professional training and courses that would satisfy the general education laboratory science requirement. By 1965 the Curriculum Committee had approved the offering of a Geology minor for the fall semester of 1966.

Another paper included a graph demonstrating projected growth in student enrollment in geology courses and a detailed chart outlining the corresponding need for additional staff. The chart illustrated how Bergstrom would eventually be joined by "Man B" "Man C" and "Man D" over a period of five years, as well as the new courses and additional sections that would be added to the curriculum. It was supplemented by interviews with students who wanted to become geology majors at UWEC, and these and other students would have to go elsewhere if the major was not offered at UWEC. Projected increases in employment for geologists, primarily in the petroleum industry, had helped to spark student interest.

The Geology major was offered in the catalog for the first time in 1967 and an independent Geology Department was established in 1969. Bergstrom served as department chairman from 1969-1971. He was joined by "Man B", Ron Willis, in 1967 and "Man C", Paul Myers, in 1969. "Man D" happily turned out not to be a man at all, but rather Nan Pickett who was hired in 1973.

I met Bergstrom in my first geology class, Plate Tectonics. He greeted me warmly and I liked him immediately. He had bright blue eyes and a face that crinkled when he smiled, which he did often. He was outgoing and friendly, the sort of person who makes you feel like an old friend as soon as you meet him. After a few sessions of the class I was hooked. It didn't take long for me to realize that this man was literally telling me how the world worked. He had opened my eyes to the processes that shape the planet and my interest has not wavered. In retrospect I realize I had inadvertently chosen the perfect course to begin my study of geology. Everything I've learned since has been more meaningful for having this global view of geological processes as a foundation.

During every lecture he took at least one trip down memory lane and related some story relevant to the topic of discussion. He knew the geologists who were regarded as the experts in the field and peppered his lectures with first-hand anecdotal information. J. Tuzo Wilson, a pioneer proponent of the theory of plate tectonics, was discussed in an early reading assignment. In the subsequent lecture, Bergstrom digressed into the story of how he and Wilson had once discussed particulars of the theory far into the night over a bottle of bourbon. He was not name dropping - he brought it up so he could tell us what Wilson himself had to say.

Bergstrom was a life-long student and a born teacher. He was interested in everything and always learning something new. If you were sensible enough to listen, he would turn right around and teach it to you. He got an obvious thrill out of seeing the lights come on in a student's eyes when they finally understood and it spurred him on to teach some more. His lectures always exuded enthusiasm. He was excited about the prospect of learning
Gordee and Paulson presented the “Excellence in Geology” Award in 2002-03

The “Excellence in Geology” Award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 2002-2003 winners of the Geology Excellence Award were Benjamin D. Paulson and Sarah M. Gordee.

Benjamin Paulson  
written by Phil Ihinger  
Ben came to us from Chippewa Falls, WI. Shortly after coming to Eau Claire, Ben discovered geology and became a regular fixture (at all hours) in our department. As an undergraduate, his contribution to our department was enormous. Ben was a favorite of both the professors and students alike, and volunteered to be the TA for an amazing array of courses that ranged from introductory to the most advanced classes for our majors. He was elected president of the Geology Honors Society (Sigma Gamma Epsilon) and brought new life to the organization, which had been dormant during the previous years. But Ben's most impressive quality while he was with us was his dedication and passion for his research project. Ben's project focused on the geochemical and petrographic characterization of the unusual and controversial Shonkin Sag, which is the classic locality for the study of K-rich mafic magmas. Surprisingly, Ben's work represents the first study of these rocks in which systematic quantitative mineral chemistry was performed. Ben has made some profound new observations that bear on the origin of syenitic magmas, and we hope to see his work in print soon. Ben graduated in August of 2003 and is now attending graduate school at Western Washington University.

Sarah Gordee  
written by J. Brian Mahoney  
Sarah is a native of Eau Claire. After a year or two of wandering about the department (including participating in a Costa Rica spring break trip), Sarah found geologic research to her liking. She first examined Tertiary volcanic successions in Nevada with Brad Burton, and she and her co-author presented their work at the annual Geological Society of America meeting in Reno, NV, in 2002. Sarah then had the opportunity to work for two summers with J. Brian Mahoney and researchers at the Geological Survey of Canada mapping and conducting plutonic rock studies in the Bella Coola region of west-central British Columbia. She was primarily responsible for the examination of plutonic petrography and geochemistry in the eastern Coast Plutonic Complex. She tackled the project with a vengeance, and did an excellent job of synthesizing all the data into a workable model of magmatic evolution of the Coast Plutonic Complex in the Bella Coola region. She has authored or co-authored two posters at the Annual Cordilleran Round-up in Vancouver, British Columbia (2002 and 2003), a poster at the annual Geological Association of Canada meeting in Vancouver in 2003, and she gave a talk (a UWEC undergraduate first!) at the annual Geological Society of America meeting in Seattle in 2003. She is now in the process of writing a manuscript with Mahoney for a refereed journal publication in 2004. In addition to being active in research, Sarah was invaluable around the department as she Taed field camp a couple of times and did whatever needed to be done. Sarah graduated in May of 2003 and is now attending graduate school at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where she is examining Jurassic volcanic arc systems in the Coast Mountains.

there’s an art to being a mentor; to be able to explain and correct so much without being condescending to the student. To know when they’ve had enough for the moment and let up so they can tell you about something for awhile. To encourage them to think for themselves. To let a student argue a point and sharpen his or her skills on you without being offended. The students must trust that the instructor is inviting them to share what they know and not criticizing them for what they don’t. Bergstrom had all the qualities of a mentor and generously shared his wisdom and passion for discovery with his students. John Bergstrom died entirely too soon on June 24, 1988 at the age of 72. The flag on Schofield Hall flew at half staff in mourning. During the memorial service, his twin sister read aloud a portion of a letter he had written to her. In it he described his observations of the change of season from summer to fall and his continuing effort to understand all he had seen. It was a beautiful letter, more like poetry than prose. There was one line that remains in my memory, “I am a slow and impatient study, still learn I do.” I can only hope to do as well.
NANCY E. BOWERS,
Associate Lecturer
Nancy received her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California-San Diego in 2002. She has a B.A. in Anthropology and a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington from 1990, and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Wyoming in 1993.
bowersne@uwec.edu

I joined the UWEC Geology Department last August in order to teach Geology 106 (Earth Science for education majors), for the 2003-4 academic year while Karen Havholm was on sabbatical. Prior to my appointment at UWEC, I completed my Ph.D. in marine geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and then taught at the College of William and Mary in Virginia during the spring and summer of 2003. Upon arriving in Eau Claire, I was instantly submerged in preparations for the beginning of the fall semester, familiarizing myself with the campus and Eau Claire, drawing up a syllabus, preparing lectures, and learning the local geology and prime locations for the class field trips that I would be leading in the following weeks. Although I knew the first few weeks would be a little hectic, I predicted that as the semester rolled on and I got into the swing of things, I would have a lot more free time to write up the research I had yet to publish. I successfully filled up all this free time by going on weekend field trips, attending the GSA meeting in Seattle, applying for jobs for the upcoming year, and grading papers. The most memorable field trip was Bob Hooper’s Mineralogy/Petrology I excursion to the UP of Michigan. This program uses a辗转 and pothole on the roads between Eau Claire and Calumet, Michigan. My husband (Paul) and my cats (Morgan and Sika) still live in our house in Calumet while Paul completes his M.S. in geology at Michigan Tech. I drive home almost every weekend to visit Morgan, Sika, and Paul, and to watch some of my former students who play hockey for Tech. I have also recently completed my first novel, a western set in my home state of New Mexico, and hope to have it published next year.

ROBERT L. HOOPER, Professor
hooperrl@uwec.edu

It has been a busy year that has included planning department facility renovations, brokering deals to buy trucks for field work, faculty/staff hiring and a full slate of teaching. I have 5 students active in collaborative research involving pyroxene chemistry, the Coeur d’Alene mine contamination and clay mineralogy. I am also serving on several very active university committees. Given the university commitments, I don’t have much time left for anything else. The children (Matthew and Jennifer) are both at college, so for a while Ginger and I had an empty nest. Not for long, though, because we ended up getting a puppy which takes almost as much time as children... go figure! I’m still teaching Mineralogy and Petrology, Geochemistry and Physical Geology. This spring I also took on Chemical Hydrogeology due to John Tinker’s retirement. I don’t know what the students are learning, but I have learned a great deal as a result of teaching the course. I’m trying to stay active by riding bike, playing ultimate Frisbee with a student group from Scotland and
working around the house. If I make it through the rest of the semester I have the summer pretty well planned out (and used up) with Rocky Mountain Field Studies and mapping in the Coast Range of British Columbia with Mahoney. I got a chance to connect with some relatively recent alumni at meetings in Seattle (GS&A) and at AGU in San Francisco. I’m planning on attending the annual meeting of GS&A next fall, so maybe we’ll be able to connect in Denver. Try to attend for at least a day if you’re in the area. It’s always great to see the alumni active in the profession and attending the conferences. Stop by and see the department when you’re passing through Eau Claire. I love to give department tours and show off the advances being made by the students in our program. Cheers!

PHILIP D. IHINGER, Associate Professor

Hello alumni! My, how quickly time has gone by: Just when I feel as if I’m finally unpacked at home, I look up and find that many of my students are now official UWEC alumni! This past year has been a very busy one for my current students and me. We have presented our research at international conferences in Iceland, Vancouver, BC, and San Francisco, CA. We are currently preparing nine separate posters for presentation at the upcoming UWEC research day; Ian Anderson (2004), Jesse Bernhardt (2004), Marc Ciardelli (2004), Scott Formolo (2004), Lisa Grosvold (2005), Dan Hennessy (2004), Breck Johnson (2005), Jenny Thornburg (2005), and James Watkins (2005) are all busy working on projects that range from crystal growth to magma evolution to ancient Wisconsin paleo-Indian trade patterns to the tectonic evolution of the North American Cordillera. Casey Bowe (2004), Christopher Kohel (2005), Angela Remer (2004), and Andy Sudbrink (2004) continue to make great progress in their collaborative research projects on diffusion in quartz, the timing of structural deformation in Montana, and deciphering the bulk composition of the Lower Mantle. My students continue to take full advantage of the financial grants provided by the National Science Foundation for both research and equipment. Meanwhile, I continue to teach Physical Geology, Earth Resources, and Mineralogy-Petrology I, II, and III courses.

J. BRIAN MAHONEY, Associate Professor

The year 2004 is a milestone, as it marks ten years that JBM has been at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. That is nine years, eleven months, and three weeks longer than anticipated! However, we are glad we stayed! My experience in Eau Claire has been very positive, with a long list of interested, active students who continually challenge conventional wisdom, and a research program that ranks with the best universities in the country. The collaborative research opportunities, research equipment and the strongly field-oriented nature of this department offers its students an unparalleled experience and a fantastic geologic education. Kudos to all!

It has been a very busy year, as per norm. The ongoing explosion of interest in the geologic evolution of British Columbia has kept me hopping, with a full field season last year, and an unbelievably full field season coming up this year. We are expanding our bedrock geologic mapping program in the Bella Coola region, and will be running several crews into the remote mountains of west-central British Columbia. Bob Hooper will be joining the effort in mid-July, and I look forward to introducing him to the magnificent terrain that we have been focusing on for the past several years. I recently acquired an NSF grant that will allow us to dramatically expand our provenance studies in British Columbia and Baja California, where we will be examining the utility of U/Pb studies of detrital zircon, whole rock neodymium, and Ar/Ar analysis of K-spars in constraining the dynamic linkage between orogenic exhumation and basin evolution. This year marks the start of a major three-year project, and is timed perfectly for the development of the new HR-ICPMS laboratory, which will be up and running in late 2004. We are looking very forward to the new laboratory that will dramatically increase the geochemical capabilities of the department. We are being forced to develop the laboratory on a shoestring, but we are committed to doing it correctly - this is going to be a world-class facility!

So...as always, thing are wild and wooley, yet much the same around here! Stop by and say hello, or drop an email to keep in touch. The success of our former students and their continued interest in our program are important components of our work here!

PAUL E. MYERS, Professor Emeritus

Welthy and I had a fabulous two-week tour of Thailand and surrounding countries last February. After that, we were engrossed in the final stages of the construction of our new energy-efficient, off-grid house. Our home receives numerous curious visitors every week. They frequently read about this advanced-technology house in local newspapers, and say they “just had to come and see it” for themselves.

We’re planning a trip to Peru in late October. Meanwhile, we spend a lot of time on community and political activities. I am working up a geologic map of the area around the house, finishing a big collaborative mapping project with Reed Lewis at the Idaho Geological Survey, and working on several riverside trail geology signs for the historical committee folks at Cadott, Wisconsin. Welthy devotes a lot of her time to microenterprise consulting work, and travels all over the place to conferences. “Retirement” has meant only a career change for us. No complaints!

COLIN A. SHAW, Assistant Professor

I just returned from Baraboo, Wisconsin where another great group of structural geology students investigated the famous Baraboo syncline (see photo). We spent three days studying bedding-cleavage relationships and trying to understand the connection between outcrop-scale structures and regional tectonics. This trip always helps students to synthesize many of the concepts they have learned in structure. We are lucky to have such a classic field area so close to Eau Claire. Structural Geology (GEOL 330) class, Spring 2004, on and around the famous Van Hise rock in the Baraboo syncline. This outcrop shows spectacular bedding-cleavage relationships and cleavage refraction.

In addition to my usual structural geology and physical geology courses, I had the opportunity to teach applied geophysics during the fall 2003 semester. The small class size made it easy to get out for a number of hands-on geophysical experiments around the Eau Claire area. We focused on gravity and seismic methods, but also had a chance to
learn about several other geophysical tools. One of the highlights of the semester was a combined seismic and ground penetrating radar survey (with Geography associate professor Harry Jol) at the Hubbard Property near Durand. Our data will contribute to ongoing work by Geography associate professor Garry Running to develop a model for soil development in this study area.

I have been working with two groups of students on research related to the Precambrian tectonics of the Rocky Mountain region. We will be presenting our results at the UWEC Student Research Day and at the Rocky Mountain GSA meeting in Boise, Idaho. Kali Pace-Graczyk, Chris Fell, and Scott Formolo joined me for two weeks of field work near Leadville, Colorado. We mapped mylonitic shear zones and pseudotachylyte-filled fault zones that record a complex interplay between slow plastic creep and sudden earthquake-generating fault motion in the middle crust about 1.4 billion years ago. Understanding the interaction between these modes of deformation is important for modeling how strain scales between seismic and orogenic cycles.

Geology Students Kali Pace-Graczyk and Chris Fell on Homestake Peak (13,209 ft.) in the Sawatch Range, Colorado. The high Peaks in the distance belong to the Gore Range.

Kari Niss and Ryan Dayton joined scientists and students from the University of New Mexico, University of Massachusetts, and University of Texas, El Paso to investigate the relationship between metamorphism and deformation at Cerro Colorado in the Tusas Mountains of northern New Mexico. This project focuses on plastic deformation at deep crustal levels during an intracontinental orogenic event 1.4 billion years ago.

LORI D. SNYDER, Senior Lecturer
snyderl@uwec.edu

Hello again and happy spring to everyone. That means it must be time for the annual news from the Geology Department. After a very brief field season, I spent an enjoyable year teaching Physical and Environmental Geology and Geology of National Parks. Rocky Mountain Field Studies and assorted other field trips, along with a visit to the New Mexico Field Camp, have also been keeping me busy and active. The big news this year is a major remodeling project on the house. It is our first house and our first major project, so there was some serious learning to do. Luckily, the work is almost finished (and it’s beautiful) and I’m looking forward to not living in a construction zone. My summer plans are two months of field work in British Columbia with three current students. Stop by for a visit if you’re in town!

Publications during 2003:

KENT M. SYVERSON, Associate Professor
syverskm@uwec.edu

Greetings from Eau Claire! The biggest news of the year—after ten years in our house, the Syversons decided that it was time to find a neighborhood with more kids, a larger garage, and cheaper interest rates...! Thus, we went through all of the normal hassles to get the house ready and put our house on the market. Our house sold in late May 2003. We found a nice house one block from the kids’ elementary school and moved in July. The kids (ages 10, 8, and 6) are all in school—another major transition for the Syverson family! The new house is within easy walking and biking distance to the junior high, high school, and our church, so we appreciate the convenience. I miss the wooded park at our old home, however. I am still able to walk and bike to work, but the 1.5-mile commute is along busier roads than my previous route.

I am now in my 12th year at UW-Eau Claire. I continue to teach my normal rotation of classes, and that is very rewarding. I also taught an eight-week Environmental Geology class during the summer, and it was nice to teach the course in field mode. Normally I teach that course in the spring when field opportunities are more limited. I continue to be very involved with university-wide political issues as I serve on the University Senate and University Academic Policies Committee.

This past year my research focused on the publication of research results. I submitted several manuscripts for review this year—an overview article about the glacial history of Wisconsin (for an Elsevier volume about the glaciation of North America, now in press), the Chippewa County Pleistocene report and map (for a Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey bulletin, now accepted for publication pending revisions), and a text and map about the geology of the Phillips Quadrangle, Maine (co-authored with UWEC alumna Rachel Greve, now published, see below). The submission of the Chippewa County report was a milestone of sorts—I began that research in 1996 and the report represents the culmination of numerous UWEC student research projects! I hope to resubmit the Chippewa County report for publication before this summer. Student Rachel Greve presented her Maine research results at NC GSA in Kansas City. This spring I presented research results in St. Louis (NC GSA) and Duluth (Institute on Lake Superior Geology). Speaking of Duluth, my UMD Bulldog hockey team made it to the Frozen Four in Boston this year! We lost a heart-breaking game in the semi-finals, but the UMD fight song resounded throughout our new house anyway...! Besides, a UMD player won the Hobey Baker Award, the hockey equivalent of the Heisman award for football. This summer I will be working for the Maine Geological Survey in southern Maine with UWEC geology major David Mans.

Publications during 2003:

JOHN R. TINKER, JR., Professor Emeritus

I want to thank everyone for the best wishes you sent to me at the time of my retirement. I thank the Geology Department for the retirement party and for the honor of naming the hydrogeology laboratory with my name. I thank all of you.

I enjoyed teaching during the fall semester of 2003. I have been luck to ease into retirement and still have the opportunity to interact with students. Now that the Geology Department has found a replace-
of course the beautiful covered bridges. We hit the east end of the Bay of Fundy at the Hopewell Rocks during low tide, which was fun to walk on the rocky beach along the 50 ft. cliffs. Nova Scotia was not disappointing in the least—including Cape d’Or lighthouse and south onto the Digby Neck, then around the coast road to Lunenburg and Peggy’s Cove. All of it thrilling. We soon crossed over to Cape Breton Island and on north to Ingonish and found a place to bed down right on the beach...with the appropriate sunset and sunrise, listening to the waves coming in during the night. 

Next was around the north coast and finally crossing over to Prince Edward Island, which was another marvelous experience. I am sorry to have to make such a long dissertation, but it’s impossible to leave out anything...each day was so beautiful—perfect weather all the way. We spent several days on PEI before going back into New Brunswick and heading north along the coast into the Gaspe Peninsula of southeastern Quebec. One area in particular was noteworthy...the small town of Perce—with motel accommodations right on the beach at the foot of a cliff...watching the fog roll in—the next days were also very rewarding—down the St. Lawrence region. We crossed back into the U.S. through an isolated point on the northern border of New Hampshire...And I should mention we saw several moose in New Hampshire, Maine, and Nova Scotia.

Our second drive through Vermont was made extra special by a visit to Paul Myers’ beautiful home—unfortunately he was not there at the time, but his lovely wife Welthy was most kind and hospitable—showing us through their home. Believe me, Paul is one fortunate guy to have such a fantastic wife and partner. On crossing over into Massachusetts, we dropped in on John Tinker’s father in the town of Gardner, and had a great visit with him. He’s so much like John—a great person to be around.

Our drive home to Wisconsin took us through the Catskills—eventually crossing Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky...Beautiful all the way. Arrived back about mid-November. Thorie and I can recommend this region to anyone with a slight travel bug. Most rewarding!

Have a great year! You were wonderful students here at UWEC, and I want to encourage each of you to continue your search for increased understanding of this beautiful earth through travel. Warmest Regards Always, Ron
Donations to the Department

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since April 2003.

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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 to the Geology Advancement Fund. Please be assured that your gift will be greatly appreciated and it will be used effectively within the Department. In addition to financial support, 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, $4368 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund! We collected more contributions than last year, but we are concerned by a decrease in the number of donors. Please understand that all gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated! Please consider giving something back to your undergraduate department.

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 whether your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.

Geology Students Awarded Kell Scholarship

The Geology Department is proud to announce that one of our students has been granted the Kell Container Scholarship for the past two years. This “Kell Scholarship” is the largest scholarship offered at UW-Eau Claire with an approximate value of $10,500, approximately $8300 for the student and an additional $2200 for their faculty mentor. The scholarship is awarded annually to a UWEC junior or senior who has demonstrated outstanding undergraduate collaborative research, so we are very pleased that someone from our department has been awarded this prestigious scholarship for the past two years.

In the fall of 1997 the Kell Container Corporation of Chippewa Falls announced the creation of a scholarship that would pay for a student’s full tuition, fees, and room and board for a year. According to an article from the UWEC News Bureau, one of the Kell brothers (Mike, Tom, and John) stated, “We’ve all experienced what school systems can offer, and we know how tight money can be. We know scholarships are very important to students because it helps them concentrate on school and not so much on how they are going to pay for school.” The 2004-05 scholar was recently announced and awarded to Jim M. Watkins of Spooner, WI. Jim has been working on collaborative research projects with Phil Ihinger. The 2003-04 award winner was Laura A. Strumness of Eleva, WI. Laura has been doing collaborative research with Bob Hooper and Brian Mahoney. Jim and Laura have both recently presented their research projects at national conferences. For more information, check out the “Student Research Day” section.
Kimberly (Ball) Kaiser (1996). After spending a couple of summers teaching at a science camp and one year with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Kimberly is back in school for her master's degree in Environmental Science-Policy & Law through an extension of the University of Idaho. She has been living in Driggs, Idaho, since 1997. “I will be defending my thesis on ‘Estimating Streambank Erosion in the Big Lost River Subbasin’ at the end of March. It has been a busy year, after spending a couple weeks on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in April, Doug and I were married in Wisconsin on July 19, 2003, and I was trying to finish my thesis field work at the same time!” Kimberly is currently working for a non-profit called “Friends of the Teton River (FTR).” FTR is committed to surface-water and ground-water issues in the Teton Valley. “Life is good. I am enjoying my mountain views, deep powder skiing, and white water kayaking-without going on vacation! Give me a call if you are in the Greater Yellowstone Area!”

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg is the Director of Global Client Development for Golder Associates Corporation. He has been with this company since 1992. Greg commented, “Highlights for the last year include my first trip to South Africa. Golder acquired an operation there and I’ve been involved in assimilating the business. South Africa is a major precious metals mining region and they have many interesting technical and social problems and challenges. On the personal front, the Beckstrom family is progressing toward our goal of seeing all the major league baseball teams in their home stadiums. Last year took us to Detroit and Cincinnati. This year we plan to visit Boston, Baltimore and Phoenix. A side trip from Phoenix will take us to the Grand Canyon. I’m sure I’ll bore the dickens out of my kids with my explanation of how the canyon formed.”

Luke Beranek (2003). After graduation last spring, Luke moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where he is now pursuing a master's degree in geology at Idaho State. “I am working with Paul Link on a variety of topics including the detrital zircon geochronology of Neogene strata in the western Snake River Plain, mapping near Sun Valley, Idaho, and the provenance of Neoproterozoic zircons that record the rifting of Rodinia in central Idaho.” Although he has been very busy, Luke admits, “I have reaped the benefits of living in such a beautiful place: downhill and cross-country skiing, winter camping, and hiking.”

Nicole Bergstrom (2002). Nicole is a customer-service representative for the Claims Research Unit at Humana Insurance in Green Bay, WI. She was engaged this past Christmas Eve to Chris Kane, and they are planning a wedding in September 2005. Chris works as a process engineer at Georgia-Pacific.

Lynn (Borgenheimer) Moline (1976). Lynn is the President at LMA, Inc, where she works from her home near Minneapolis, MN. She described, “My office overlooks my garden landscaped with river rock and granite cobbles.” Lynn was a double-major in geology and English, and she joked, “Admittedly, geology isn’t a predictable major among management consultants; neither is English, for that matter. But I must say this: those terrible puns that all of us young field mappers thought were so clever have helped me explain more than once how geology is relevant to my chosen field. I simply say that while some management consultants are full of schist, most of us are gneiss people who are skilled at transforming the behavior of managers who occasionally act as if they have rocks in their heads and take their subordinates for granite. Works every time. What’s more, my clients think I’m witty. It’s perfect, really. Since most of my clients are local, my travel is almost always for fun. But once a geologist, always a geologist, at least at heart. My family has grown accustomed to the fact that places like the Canadian Rockies, southeast Utah, and the Grand Canyon sing me a siren song at vacation time. Of course, when I visit places like these, I find myself trying to remember, always unsuccessfully, what I once knew about the difference between synclines and anticlines. But I’m willing to bet I’m one of a select few management consultants in America who regularly read Scientific American.” Lynn said that she has also been in touch with Dr. Paul Myers and his wife, Welthy. “We are mostly pen pals now that he’s moved to Vermont, but it’s a joy to see and be in touch with him again, she explains, “He reminds me that youth is a state of mind.” Lynn mentioned that she would be happy to hear from any former UWEC students with whom she went to school.

Brad Burton (Assistant Professor, 1997-2001). Brad continues to enjoy his position with Shell Canada in Calgary, CA. Brad’s two children, Russell and Rebecca, have recently moved to Calgary to live with him. “I’m Mr. Mom, but really happy to be with them again,” Brad admits. “All three of us are in Karate together, which is great fun, and it gives them the opportunity to kick and punch the old man.”

Kirsten Cahow (1997). Kirsten is in the process of finalizing her MS thesis at UMDuluth. We recently noticed an article in the Journal of Geomorphology which Kirsten had co-authored. It was entitled “Lateral flow routing into a wetland: field and model perspectives.”

Josh Carlisle (2002). Josh is Project Manager for a small environmental consulting firm in Laramie, WY, called CBM Associates, Inc. According to Josh, CBM specializes in water resources management, specifically with coal bed methane (natural gas) production in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. “My specialty is environmental permitting,” Josh states. “I maintain close communication with my clients for the establishment of project goals and budgets. I develop parameters and water management options for permitting and development within the boundaries of the Clean Water Act.” Josh also commented that there were two courses at UWEC in particular that have been specifically useful to his career thus far, “1. Geochemistry-thanks Hooper, and 2. Technical Writing.”

Richard Christy (1985). Reverend Rick is the pastor of Conklin Reformed Church in Michigan. He commented, “My training in geology helps me to enjoy the research, and the experiences working with people have helped me to be a better minister. I believe that science is learning how God did things or does things. I still play my guitar in every worship service and I am still a football fan. I look back at my years at UW-Eau Claire very
happily. I learned a lot about geology and a lot about life. I believe that I learned as much how to live as how to make a living. My wife and three kids enjoy hearing about geology and I am always of help to them when they have troubles in earth science."

Michael Cummings (1971). Professor Cummings is in his 25th year of teaching in the Department of Geology at Portland State University. In addition, he has also been the department chair for the past three years. Michael writes, “My research involves hydrogeology (Oregon coast and Klamath basin), volcanic stratigraphy (Klamath basin, Cascades near Mt. Hood, southern Blue Mountains province near Juntura), and K-12 education (rural school districts in Oregon and Portland Public Schools). I am Co-PI for the Center for Learning and Teaching in the West, a $10M, five-year project funded by the National Science Foundation. This collaborative between PSU, University of Montana, Montana State University, Colorado State University, and University of Northern Colorado conducts doctoral-level research on the achievement gap and equity and diversity issues in science and mathematics. In my spare time, I garden.”

Chris Elvrum (1992). Last fall we received a brochure announcing the annual Minnesota Ground Water Association Conference and Chris was one of the speakers. According to the program, Chris is with the Metropolitan Council and he presented a talk at the conference entitled “Metro Area Water Conservation and Planning for Growth: Efforts to Counteract the Assumption of Limitless Ground Water Availability.”

Heather Golding (1998). As of last summer (the last time we heard from Heather), she and her new husband, Joel, had just moved to Houston, TX, to start new jobs. Heather was working as a geologist in the marine geohazards department of a geophysical consulting firm called Fugro Geoservices. Joel had just finished his M.S. at the University of Tennessee and was starting to work for ExxonMobil as a geophysicist. Heather remarked, “My career goals did change; I left the PhD program at the University of Georgia. Instead, I did a geoscience policy internship with the American Geological Institute in the Government Affairs department. And now, here I am in Houston...the inevitable end of the road for geologists.”

Spring and assisting our department with the Advanced Field Geology course, Sarah spent the summer working in the Eastern Coastal Mountains of Bella Coola, British Columbia. In the fall, Sarah went to graduate school at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Sarah comments, “Grad school has been challenging in many respects, but so far, it has been pretty rewarding. Vancouver is a fantastic place to live, which makes the tough days a little bit more enjoyable.” More than anything, Sarah is looking forward to the summer field season and the chance to get into the mountains again. On a more personal note, Sarah is the proud aunt of Reed Michael, who was born in early January 2004. Sarah has been home a few times this year to visit the little guy, and luckily for us, she typically visits the department during her stay in Eau Claire.

Harrison Griffin (1996). Having narrowly survived 2 years of blinding depression in the Great Land, I have been asked repeatedly by my friends and family to admit myself into a mental health facility in upstate New York. The trees here are frosty and they speak to me from time to time, saying bad things, like “Geology has done this to you”, or “Brian Mahoney is the DEVIL!!”. I’ve since come to believe otherwise, but for a brief period of time, there was some uncertainty as to whether or not my hospital sheets were plotting to kill me. I’ve come to believe this diabolical scheme to be true, and have disposed of both the fitted and the regular sheets in a most violent manner. The meals here are also very conspiratory. I overheard the cobbler mention to the meatloaf that it might be best if I were to “have an unfortunate accident in the bathing room.” So, I slammed the tray - cobbler and all - against the far wall of my haunted room. They found the gun in the toilet, so I couldn’t defend myself against the bed frame at night when it would begin its torturous chanting: “Ice cream, bottle cap, sticky pads AAAAAHHHHH!!”

Lately, my walks through the frozen garden remind me of times I’ve never spent in Greenland, observing the fjords being formed by the glacial flow of rock and ice. I hope this spring is going well for all of you. I won’t be able to write or visit for some time as I have just been given some pretty heavy sedatives that should.....be...ZZzzz.

And now, here I am in Houston ... the inevitable end of the road for geologists.”

Heather Golding (1998)

“[Editor’s note: Based on the address associated with this message, it appears that Harrison is still up to his tricks while working with BLM in Alaska. However, one never knows...!]”

Kristen Gunderson (1993). Kristen continues her position as an environmental management systems consultant for Earth Tech in Milwaukee, WI. She gave a very interesting talk to our majors this spring describing how she has integrated her interest in politics, geology, and environmental issues. Kristen_Gunderson@earthtech.com

Doug Hallum (1996). Doug started his own business last summer called Hallum Residential Consulting. He provides assistance to homeowners seeking to enhance their home environments. Doug resides in Cornell, WI.

Michelle Haskin (1998). Michelle is teaching at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She has taught a variety of courses at UBC in the past year, including Natural Disasters, Min/Pet, Earth Science for Engineers, Earth Systems, Earth and the Solar System, and field school. Michelle said, “In the future I’ll be continuing to teach (at a much reduced load!) and do lab and distance education course development.” On the home front, Michelle and her longtime boyfriend, Adrian, visited Corsica last summer on a 3-week climbing trip. She stated, “It was spectacular! We spent our time staring at rocks, eating excellent French food, and sleeping in. I was in heaven!” This summer they are planning a climbing trip to the southwestern US to visit some national parks.

Hodek, Dave (1995). In the past year Dave has quit his job in Duluth, got married, and is now living in St. Paul, MN. He took a job as an environmental engineer with ProSource Technologies in Minneapolis. Dave commented, “I still get into the field when I can, I use some of my geology brain cells (atrophied from five years of engineering), and I even put my Civil Engineering PE to use and do some design work. Since those changes were not sufficient, we also bought a new house two months ago. It’s my own version of ‘shock and awe.’ I figure by the time I come to my senses; I’ll be in my late 40’s and will have even missed the best mid-life crisis years. Seriously though, life is probably the best it’s ever been and I’ve never been happier.“
ALUMNI NEWS

(Continued)

Terri Hogue (1995). Terri is in her first year as an assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UCLA. In a message from her in late October she commented, “Sometimes I still can’t believe I have a position here and it all started in Eau Claire...the support from all of you to go to grad school was certainly instrumental in getting me here...”

Matthew Hostak (1989). Matt has been employed by the Wisconsin DNR in Oshkosh since 1989. Due to budget cuts, when the State asked for volunteers to work less so they could save money, Matt took them up on the “opportunity.” He expressed, “I now have 3-day weekends EVERY weekend and I only work a half day on Thursdays. I would never go back to full-time. Why wait until I’m 65 to retire? As I look at it, I’m starting retirement early-one Friday at a time!” In his spare time, Matt continues to enjoy working on his historical home in Oshkosh, WI. Matt summarized his life as “No wife, no ex-wife, no kids, no plans for such, and no complaints!”

Joel Hyzer (2003). Joel is attending school for law enforcement/park ranger training in Rangely, CO. His goal is to work in the National Parks. Joel and April Johnson (see below) are planning an October wedding in Madison, WI.

April Johnson (2002). April is working at CBM Associates in Laramie, WY, as an Environmental Compliance Auditor. April explained, “I deal with regulations and procedures for coal bed methane drilling in CO, WY, and possibly MT soon. It is weird. I never thought I would be working for the development side of geology, but it has given me a very new perspective from this side of the fence.” April hopes to apply to CSU to obtain her master’s in teaching in a few years.

Tony Jones (1992). Tony summed up his update with a one-liner, “Still bobbing along on the tide of life...watching my kids grow, spending time with my wife, surveying and brewing a bit of beer every now and then.”

Brent Kabat (2002). Since graduation, Brent has done some hydrogeology, some drill rig work, and has completed training on plastic liner and geomembrane inspection for landfill construction. However, he recently decided to change paths. He admits, “Days ranged from 10-16 hours, and the hardest thing was keeping my eyes open due to sheer boredom. You can only watch dump trucks haul clay for so many minutes before losing interest. So I left that and went back to work as a carpenter, and now I expedite for my Dad’s building business. However, I’m still quite interested in a job in geology.”

Dale Kerner (1996). Dale continues his position at Brown and Caldwell, an environmental consulting firm, in Boise, ID. He reminded us that he has been in Boise for almost eight years already. He remarked, “Love the town, love the state, and love the climate. The pervasive, and at times militant, right-wing conservatism is a bit tiresome, but that’s the price you pay for living in Idaho. Thus far I’ve accumulated one wife (Kathy), one child (Lauren), two cats (Emma and Bella) and one dog (Macy).” Dale said he received a visit from Mel Klinger last year on her way back from field season. He also gets together with Pete Eades once in awhile. “He’s got a pool in his backyard,” Dale commented, “so we go there a lot. It’s good to have occasional reminders of the old Wisconsin home. Not that there’s any shortage of Midwesterners out here. You can pick them out because they generally don’t have bumper stickers proclaiming their native Idahoan status.” Dale also reminded us that the 2004 annual meetings of the Rocky Mountain and Cordilleran Sections will be held jointly in Boise this May, and he welcomes any visitors to look him up.

Melissa Klinger (2001). Mel is finishing her MS thesis in structural geology at the University of Idaho. Upon completion, she hopes to obtain a position in the petroleum industry. Mel suggested, “If that isn’t what I’m looking for, then I plan to teach. I’ve done lots of traveling in the Pacific Northwest out here in the past three years, but course work usually takes me to Nevada. I have found that I love mapping in the desert and have worked in the Hawthorne/Walker Lane, NV area for the past two field seasons. Idaho is great! I call it ‘the Best Hidden Treasure of America.’ Bob and Ginger [Hooper] know what I’m talking about! All I can say to describe it out here: Bitterroots, Idaho Batholiths, Blues, Palouse, Cascades, and microbrew!”

Roger Kocken (1979). Roger is a Staff Geologist with Chevron Texaco. He commented, “I’m still working in New Orleans, trying to find enough natural gas to keep everybody up north warm for the winter.” Roger said he enjoyed his years at UWEC and the department, “Mostly, I remember spending a lot of time learning the basics-describing and analyzing rock and mineral samples. You never know about the geology business...A friend of mine retired to open up a dinosaur dig! He is doing real well.”

Josh Kohn (2000). Josh has been working for Mueller Pipeliners, an underground utilities contractor, in the Twin Cities for the past three years. Josh remarked, “I work hard for eight months of the year, and then have Christmas until May off since the ground is too hard to install underground utilities.” In the winters, Josh takes advantage of his time off by traveling around the world. “This March I am going on a mission trip to Mexico with a group of men from my church to build two houses in a small village near Pico de Orizaba, the third highest mountain in North America, which I hope to climb on my day off.” Josh has hopes to work at the McMurdo science station in Antarctica next winter over his 2004/05 break. Josh said, “Long term, I have been thinking about coming back to Eau Claire to do the fast-track to the teaching program and get certified to teach high school earth science.” Besides work and travel, Josh also keeps himself entertained with ultimate Frisbee leagues, disc golf, and attending concerts and movies.

Ric Kopp (1975). Ric recently started a new position as the Vice President of Exploration and Production for Elk Resources, Inc., in Englewood, Colorado.

Lisa Kraft (1999). Lisa continues to map power lines, but she is hoping to attend Colorado University in Denver for a master’s degree in Recreation Planning in the fall. She recently purchased a condo in Lakewood, CO. Lisa commented, “It is near I-70 and Green Mountain, so it makes for quick trips up and down the mountains.”

Stephanie Larsen (2001). Stephanie obtained a master’s degree in geography from UW-Madison last summer. She wrote, “I am currently taking a year off from my PhD program to re-evaluate my goals and heal some of the burnout I’ve been experiencing. Instead, I’m working as a policy intern for the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute on
issues of sustainable agriculture. I’m also doing research for the UW Biological Systems Engineering Department, where I am helping plan a conference about bio-refining agricultural products in Wisconsin. I’ve recently been to Cuba with a group from Madison to learn about the agricultural system there. It was an eye-opening trip and a nice respite from January in Wisconsin!”

Taryn Lopez (2003). Taryn received a fellowship from Michigan Technological University to work on her master’s degree. She will be studying sulfur gas fluxes at a fumarole field in Santa Ana Volcano, El Salvador. “Apparently I couldn’t get away from the geochemistry research!” Taryn joked. “I’m excited, though, and I think it will be challenging and it will give me an opportunity to do field work in Central America, and there has been very little research done at Santa Ana.” Taryn commented that she has adjusted well to life on the U.P. “Besides having to shovel every day, I’m enjoying the snow and have recently taken up snowboarding.

Tyler Mace (2000). Tyler accepted a new position in Calumet, Michigan, this spring. His new company does thermal dynamic analyses using software based in C++. On the home front, Tyler and Jen are new parents! Samuel Christopher Mace was born November 19, 2003, at 11:53 a.m. and weighed in at 8lbs. 12.6oz. Tyler proudly admits, “He’s a cutie!”

Amy (Marcon) Lesik (2002). Amy has been with the WDNR in Eau Claire for the past three years. She is currently holding two LTE positions at the DNR. She is a Water Resources Management Specialist where she is responsible for planning and conducting lake monitoring with the DNR’s Regional Lake Planner, and she is also a Water Management Program Assistant where she is responsible for helping administer DNR Chapter 30 Waterway and Wetland Regulations. Amy married Jayson Lesik in December 2003. Jayson graduated from UWEC in 2001 with a degree in ELED, and he is currently a middle school teacher and coach in Elk Mound, WI. Amy and Jayson also recently purchased their first home, where they live with their two six-month-old Lab puppies, Samson and Spencer.

Greg Michael (1996). Greg is a senior hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, PECFA Site Review Section. Greg and his two boys are busy enjoying life’s simple pleasures. They had plans to head to North Carolina to visit family over the kids’ spring break. Greg commented, “Rock Fest tickets in hand and motorcycle is up and running, so I’m getting ready for summer. I’m also cycling out to Ottawa for Canada Day (July 1st) and I’ll be in Philly for the 4th.”

Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy continues his position as Lost Foam Supervisor at Mercury Marine. He explained, “We have had a busy year, even though we didn’t travel much this year as we normally do. However, we are eventually planning to make trips to Kentucky and New York this year, and to top it off we’re heading to Hawaii at the end of the year!” Jeremy is also a new father! He remarked, “Our second child, Adria Elise, was born on May 30, 2003. Isabelle, our older daughter just entered kindergarten this past fall. My wife, Shawna, is also preparing to enter nursing school next fall.”

Irvin Mossberger (1994). It has been a busy year for Irvin. He explained, “I took and passed the Wisconsin Professional Geologist exam in March 2003, and received my license shortly thereafter. I became manager of Twin Ports Testing’s Environmental Department (where I’ve worked the past 6 years) in November. I now supervise five employees, two doing air monitoring and the other three working on soil and ground-water contamination projects. I also took a business communications class and attended the WGWA and MGWA field trips. I took trips to Georgia, Florida, and my wife’s homeland of Bulgaria. In my rare spare time, I am canoeing and overhauling and riding a couple of 1970’s bicycles (including an English racing bike). I also attended the annual camping session with some Geology Dept. alumni at Devil’s Lake State Park over Labor Day weekend. Interestingly, we spotted a silver-backed ape on one of the picnic tables in our campsite-bellowing, beating his chest, and sipping some bourbon!”

Todd “Pyro” Myse (1995). Todd is a research hydrogeologist with the Army Corps of Engineers. He said, “I’m still plugging away at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), and it has been another educational year. During summer 2002, I spent another 1.5 months up in Fairbanks, Alaska, doing field work. I really enjoy it because it is the only time of the year that I actually get to do field work, and when it is light 24 hours a day...there’s plenty of time to do field work! This year I installed some deep wells into fractured bedrock. The idea was to isolate some active fractures or fracture zones to collect hydro-logic parameters and chemical data. It was very exciting to finally use some of the knowledge I gained from my master’s research!” Todd is also extremely active with the Vermont Sierra Club on public land issues. In addition, he is a volunteer and a board member for COVER, a non-profit organization that works with the elderly, low-income, and handicapped people who need help with home repairs. As far as vacations, Todd explained, “I was able to go across The Big Pond and visit my sister and her family in England for a week. I also had a very nice visit with Ann Melby, Darin (her husband), and their new little one, Ayden, for a week. That little Ayden is going to be an outdoorsy guy! He even did some paddlin’ with us up in the northern woods of New Hampshire.”

Michael Palet (1996). Mike owns and operates his own financial services agency in Chicago, IL. Mike wrote, “As a Financial Services Professional, I’m constantly challenged by the heat and pressure of an unpredictable market. A rock steady strategy has been the best way to get through the mass-wasting of a stock portfolio. I’m sure we all experienced some tremors within our portfolios. You know, as I’m composing this letter it occurs to me that I might have just found a new niche...writing investment newsletters for rock heads. I still have Geo Lingo in my brain.” Mike said his greatest venture for 2003 was relocating to Chicago. He joked, “I still bleed Green and Gold, and hanging out with all these Bear fans is wearing on me.” Mike invites any visitors in the area to drop him a line, “We’ll go out and ‘rock’ the town.”

Benjamin Paulson (2003). “Four days after I walked down the aisle to pick up my diploma, I loaded everything that I could fit into my 92 Ford Taurus station wagon and headed across country to pursue my education...destination: Bellingham, WA,” Ben wrote. “I am currently attending Western Washington University and am working towards a master’s degree in geology.” The tentative title of Ben’s thesis is “Along-strike variations in magmatic arcs: insights from the Jurassic Bonanza arc, Vancouver Island, Canada.” He explained, “On the west coast of Vancouver Island there is almost continuous along-strike exposure of the volcanic portion of a Jurassic island arc system. My field work this summer will try to correlate the stratigraphy and collect

“I use some of my geology brain cells (atrophied from five years of engineering).”

Dave Hodek (1995)
numerous samples for geochemical analysis. My goal is to document any along-strike variations in the geochemistry which may shed light on processes that occur in the subduction setting.” Along with his own graduate courses, Ben is also a teaching assistant for several introductory geology lab sections.

Michelle Peterson (1999). Michelle is the office manager/Senior Project Manager for AMEC Earth & Environmental in Fairbanks, Alaska. Michelle states, “This year the big news for my family is that we moved from Portland, OR, to Fairbanks, Alaska! Employee departures opened up opportunities for my husband and me, so we took the opportunity to experience life in Alaska. Today, as I write this, it is -39C, which is pretty darn cold, even for Alaska. As the office manager, I have spent most of my time in the office in Fairbanks, so I have seen relatively little of the state. My husband, Brian, however, has driven to Alaska twice (he moved us), and has flown all over western and southwestern Alaska to complete fieldwork. Needless to say, I’m a bit envious! Our ‘kids’ (two cats named Magniv and Sylvie) made the trip with us and seem to be managing all right. They are NOT very fond of the cold weather though, and haven’t been outside in months. We are impatiently waiting for the beautiful Alaskan summer weather to arrive...sometime in May!”

Christina Pint (1999). Tina finished her master's degree in geology from UW-Madison in 2002. Since that time she has been working as a hydrogeologist with Barr Engineering Company in Minneapolis, MN. Tina commented, “I am slowly adjusting to life as a consultant, although I thought working on the weekends was over once I left grad school! Most of my time at work is spent groundwater modeling, but I do get to go play out in the field just enough to feel like a real geologist.”

Elizabeth Prucher (1980). Libby received her PhD from the University of Michigan in 1999. She now lives in Lakewood, CO, and works in the Argon Geochronology lab at the USGS.

Heidi Rantala (1997). Heidi (a.k.a. our “bug nerd”) is now working her way to her PhD at the University of Alabama. She explains, “In June I’m off to Vancouver to present last year’s data at the annual meeting of North American Benthological Society, and then straight to Alaska for a summer of sampling on the tundra. Yippee!!! That is the reason I came to school down here!” Heidi will be studying small headwater streams on the tundra to determine their roles in nutrient spiraling and energy (i.e. food web) transfer to the larger stream network. “I am hoping to include a cross-site comparison between streams on three glacial surfaces of different ages and a bedrock surface.” Heidi joked, “I just HAD to sneak some geology in there!” "Other than school,” she admits, “I have no life. My boyfriend still lives in Iowa (it’s hard to find a job for a limnologist down here!), the dog is still nuts and I wish I were home.”

Kitt Siegfried (2002). Kitt is a hydrogeologist with the WDNR in Eau Claire.

Lisa (Sobczak) Robinson (1998). Lisa is the customer service department at Hach Company in Loveland, CO. She explained, “The year 2003 started off as a tough one, getting layed off from my job with Valleylab after moving into our newly built home. While looking for new employment, I took the month off to landscape and accomplish some much-needed organization. I was grateful to find a job within the first month of looking at the Hach Company, just seven miles away. I’m working with customers to solve any kinds of problems regarding waste water and drinking water using instrumentation from our company. I really enjoy the water-quality industry, and Hach is a great place to work. My husband and I spent the summer finishing our basement while taking breaks to do some windsurfing and rock climbing. Doing all the construction ourselves, we look back at how much we’ve learned, and we can now enjoy the fruits of our labor. We’re looking forward to our annual trip to the Caribbean for some scuba diving this May.”

Mike Thompson (1991-1996). Mike was a geology major at UWEC for several years before he transferred to UW-Stout and graduated in 1999. He is currently teaching 3rd grade in Abbotsford, WI. Mike is also in the process of working on his master’s degree in administration from UW-Superior. “I am also still in the Guards,” Mike commented, “In fact, I got called up for this war on terrorism and spent a year at Fort Bragg, NC, from September 2002 to August 2003.” Mike has since been married (to Lisa, another teacher at Abbotsford) and they are expecting their first child. They currently reside in Stratford, WI, but Mike said that once he obtains his MS they are willing to relocate for a principal’s position. Mike told us about his new hobby. “I started panning for gold while I had free time in NC. It was a blast to be digging in the dirt again! To this day, my rock hammer is always in my truck under the seat just in case I see some rocks. I find myself stopping at road cuts every few months reliving my
days as a geology student...seeing if I can still ID rocks. While I was in the Guards, the guys in my unit would always ask me ‘Hey Thompson, what’s this rock?’

Katie (Thornburg) Stariha (2001). Katie had a busy spring and summer ’03...She married her high school sweetheart, Justin, in June, went on honeymoon in July, graduated from UW-Madison with her MS in Geology in August , and started a new job in August! Katie is Grant Coordinator and Ground/Surface Water Specialist for the St. Croix Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. She commented, “I am really enjoying my work. In my spare time, Justin and I enjoy taking walks through the woods with our 6-month-old Golden Retriever puppy and playing on the many northwoods lakes in the area. Currently, we are being kept busy building our home this spring...so that’s what we will be up to for the next 6...9...12...24 months!”

Jennifer (Tobias) Borski (1996). “Last year will be tough to beat,” was Jenna’s comment when we last heard from her in January. She continued, “It was a whirlwind of parties, showers, my wedding, a honeymoon, and all the chaos that comes with such an event.” Jenna and her husband, Jerry, were married outdoors on his parents’ 30 acres, and for their honeymoon they went on a two-week tour of Yellowstone, Glacier and Banff. “I was looking forward to showing my farmer/firefighter husband the beauty of these places from a geologist’s perspective,” Jenna commented, “but as iron would have it, he showed it to me from a firefighter’s perspective! The fire at Yellowstone was just calming down and Glacier had 99,000 acres in flames, some just across our cabin on Lake McDonald. It was quite a surreal honeymoon. There is something unsettling about staying at a place with the fire hose laid outside your cabin ready to be used at a moment’s notice! Being out west brought back so many memories...Thanks to all the professors that did and still do offer field trips. With budgets getting tighter, I assume there is pressure to discontinue or minimize these expenses. While there is always the geology to learn, there is so much more to experience during the journey and I hope that these field trips are able to continue.” Jenna continues her position as a hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin DNR. She also continues to work with Habitat for Humanity. She remarked, “I’ve moved farther away from the construction side of it and into the policy/business side. I still remain very much tied to the families and enjoy being able to wrap up the paperwork for a family in time for them to have pie at their new house on Thanksgiving.”

David Tomten (1980). David is a geologist and project manager at the US EPA, Region 10. He explained, “I split my time between Superfund work at old hard rock and phosphate mine sites and review active and proposed mines.” David and his wife are proud to announce that they had a baby girl last spring, Mira Audrey. “As it turns out, she is a Packler fan,” Dave joked. “We are all doing well, just a little more tired than usual. We have had to temporarily cut back some of our pastimes such as kayaking, mountain biking, and skiing. All in all, life is good.”

Chad Underwood (1996). Chad continues to work for GME Consultants, Inc, in Minneapolis, MN, as a project engineer/manager. He commented, “It was a big adjustment going from a large company to a relatively small one, but I’m really enjoying the change so far.” His wife, Alison, is teaching for the Minnetonka, MN, school district. Chad said, “We went on a road trip around Lake Superior last summer and we (I mean ‘I’) enjoyed seeing some interesting geology, although I should note that Alison came out big in our agate hunt–she found one and I didn’t find any! My geology alumni encounters are becoming a little less frequent; however, I did have one surprising encounter last summer. I was doing reconnaissance at a site in Minneapolis for a geotechnical exploration, and I ran into fellow UWEC geology graduate Aaron Walczak at the site (actually, Aaron and I go all the way back to junior high!). It turns out that his office is only about a half mile from mine. Small world! If any of you other alums are in the area, look me up!”

Aaron Walczak (1998). Aaron is a Geologist for Liesch Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Minneapolis, MN. “My life is pretty good,” Aaron remarked, “I’m married now, but no kids (no plans)...only two dogs, border collies.”

[Editor’s note: Aaron was very kind to our department this year. He sent us a cash donation, along with a surprise holiday package full of hand lenses, field books, some field radios, and a rock pick hammer.]

Reno Walsh (1995). Reno is a sales manager and tour guide for Off the Beaten Path, LLC, out of Bozeman, MT. He re-marked, “Life is good. The fish are biting and the rock is dry for climbing. I recently returned from spending a few months in Central America, surfin’ and such. I also did some backpacking in the jungles of Costa Rica and Belize, visited some impressive Mayan ruins in Guatemala and spent some time in Oaxaca, Mexico.”

Kristin Weaver-Bowman (1996). Kristin had an eventful fall/winter. On August 3, 2003, she gave birth to son, Alexander William Bowman, and then started teaching part-time at California State University-Fullerton in the fall. Kristin admits, “Being a new mom and teaching at CSUF is keeping me busy.” She said that little Alexander is a healthy, happy little boy and a real trooper. She explained, “In his first few months he has gleefully put up with exploring volcanoes and faults in Owen’s Valley, CA, as well as the streets of Paris, France. In fact, shortly before I sat down to write this note, little Xander had his first ride on the Metro and visited Jim Morrison’s grave at Pere Lachaise. This past December, he also met some fellow Blugold geo-types at the AGU meeting in San Francisco and he heard some embarrassing stories about his mom and her undergraduate adventures.” Kristin invites any visitors to the Fullerton, CA, area to look her up.

Sarah (Weaver) Moore (1996). Sarah is a contract attorney for Holland & Hart LLP in Denver, CO. Sarah explained, “A lot has changed since the last newsletter. In August, my husband, KG, accepted an offer to work for the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer. KG’s new job brings us first to Washington DC for his training, and in August 2004 we ship out to our first post in Ponta Delgada, Azores. After two years in the Azores, we will bid on our next post. In the meantime, I have been doing part-time contract work for my law firm. KG and I just started taking Portuguese classes. We are very excited about the new adventure. I will keep you posted.”

Melissa Weisheipl (2002). Mel continues to enjoy her work at a sports bar in Irvine, CA, at the Irvine Marriott, where she was recently promoted to Lead Supervisor. Mel admits, “It’s great to be able to write your own schedule–it gives me the ability to have all weekends off to enjoy the wonderful Southern California weather.” Mel returned to Eau Claire for Christmas in 2003 and she said “I came to the conclusion that I really do hate winter, and I don’t plan on ever moving back! Hopefully, I will use my degree some day, but I’ve just kind of put it on the back burner and am enjoying life right now. Running a bar is my little nth
Attention Geology Alumni:

Remember the difficult process you went through as a student, trying to determine what you wanted to do with your life and how to get there! Remember the time and energy you put into your job search? Wouldn’t it have been nice to have had the opportunity to contact professionals working in a variety of careers and locations to help you learn what you really wanted in a job? The Ask An Alum program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire gives students that chance.

Ask An Alum, co-sponsored by Career Services and Alumni Relations at UW-Eau Claire, was developed to connect students with UW-Eau Claire alumni and friends who are currently working in a variety of occupations. Students can search the database of alumni to learn about college and the career paths alumni have taken. The student can also receive contact information and meet with the alumni on an individual basis, or job shadow the alumni in their workplace, discuss responsibilities and other aspects of their jobs and to get a feel for that specific work environment. Alumni involved in the Ask An Alum program can assist students in exploring career fields, developing realistic views of different work environments, and becoming comfortable with networking and informational interviews.

Career Services is currently building the database of alumni from all University departments and we would love to have you represent the Geology Department. If you are interested in participating in the Ask An Alum program, please check out our website at www.uwec.edu/asp/askanalu/ to register.

ALUMNI NEWS (Continued)

in the world and will hopefully own my own bar someday soon.” Mel encourages her classmates to stay in touch.

Beth Wenell (1999). Beth continues to work as a graphic designer, both part-time at a local print shop and freelancing. Beth and Dave went on a 4200-mile road trip in September that took them to Teddy Roosevelt, Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks, as well as the Black Hills. Beth described, “It was a whirlwind two weeks that we will never do again! We would most like to return to Glacier, where the snowy weather didn’t dampen the beauty or our day hikes. (Ironically, we only saw glaciers in the Tetons.) Shortly after our return from vacation, a local print shop offered me a design position. This was an interesting opportunity because I was pretty content with freelancing, but I couldn’t turn down an opportunity to learn more. A couple of months after this job began we learned that our family will have a new member this summer. After three years of trying, we are very excited and humored by the timing: the baby’s due date is July 4th, opening day of Dave’s busiest summer camp sessions!”

Mae Willkom (1998). Mae is a hydrogeologist for the WDNR in Eau Claire. “Much is the same,” Mae commented, “Same husband, same kids, same house, same dog. Spending a lot of time jazzercising and horseback riding...trying to fend off middle-age. We’re planning a trip to Europe in April.”

Tim Zimmer (2002). Since graduation until a few months ago, Tim had been working for an engineering firm in Madison, WI. He recently started a new position as an environmental geologist with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. in Pewaukee, WI. Tim and his girlfriend, Amy Buttner (UWEC, MA, 2003), reside in Milton, WI. Amy is a Spanish teacher at both of the high schools in Janesville.

LOST & FOUND

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

We have been very fortunate in the past few years in finding people. This is the shortest list we have had since we started with the newsletters!

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

Scott Eades, 1999
John Jefferson, 1977
Traci Kromenaker, 1993
Nicholas Loomis, 1995

ROADSIDE GEOLOGY JUST RELEASED!

Description of the publication (taken directly from Roadside Geology text):
Robert H. Dott, Jr. and John W. Attig write Roadside Geology of Wisconsin to help residents and visitors alike "envision mastodons roaming in front of glaciers 12,000 years ago, feel storm waves pounding sea cliffs 500 million years ago, and hear volcanoes exploding 1,900 million years ago." With lively prose, detailed maps, black-and-white photographs, and shaded-relief images, the authors succeed in their goal, unraveling the 2,800 million years of geologic history recorded in Wisconsin’s rocks. Introductory sections describe the geology of each region, and thirty-five road guides locate and interpret the rocks, sediments, and landforms visible from the state’s highways, including the Great River Road in the Mississippi Valley. Roadside Geology of Wisconsin delves further into the geologic history of specific sites such as Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the Wisconsin Dells, the geologically renowned Baraboo Hills, and more than twenty-five state parks. Features of and access points to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail are noted.

The lead author, Dr. Robert Dott, is a renowned sedimentologist at UW-Madison who has done much research on the Baraboo quartzite and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks in Wisconsin. Dr. John Attig is a glacial geologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and is widely respected for his glacial research in Wisconsin and Scandinavia.

Product Details

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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 some-
thing 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 .....