The department continues to move forward with significant accomplishments over the past 12 months. We have completed a new petrology teaching space for the program that is spectacular, purchased two new field vehicles with trailers for the program and spent most of the fall semester working on remodeling space for installation of our new Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICPMS) which is currently being installed (see photos). The remodeling projects always seem simple when first conceived and always seem to turn into nightmares upon execution. The petrology lab has octagonal tables so the professor can actually get around to each student without climbing over others. This lab, with its new design, has become the favorite of both the faculty and the students in the program. Built into the petrology lab is an attached petrology/petrography research suite with room for laying out research projects. The ICPMS laboratory remodel worked out extremely well and gives the department one of the most impressive suites of geochemical instrumentation at any undergraduate institution in the country, including a clean lab for isotope work. We also have a joint proposal with other science departments to replace the SEM with a newer model with advanced analytical capabilities.

This year we welcomed a new hydrogeologist into the program, Dr. Katherine Grote, who comes to us from Berkeley with a PhD in geological engineering. Katherine is in charge of the hydrogeology program and is filling John Tinker’s shoes. She immediately started working with students on collaborative research and has a summer project funded through the Wisconsin Water Resources Institute to examine spring flow and chemistry in the western part of the state. We also have a new Dean for the college, and for the first time in my 22 years at Eau Claire, it is a scientist. Don Christian comes to us from University of Montana with research experience as a field biologist so he understands the concept of field-based instruction and research.

All of the faculty and staff continue to be very active in collaborative research with undergraduates, one of the marks of excellence of the geology program. Last summer the department employed 17 students on summer research projects including field projects in British Columbia, Manitoba, South Dakota, Maine, and Montana. Twenty-five students participated in Student Research Day on campus and ten students presented at scientific conferences. We continue to be very proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni.

State budgets in Wisconsin continue to be problematical with the university continuing to take budget and position cuts while tuition continues to rise. The university seems to be an easy target when reducing budgets because student fees are not considered taxes by most voters. Alumni of the program were very generous last year and this greatly aids our ability to send students to professional meetings. Over the next year we are going to try to get alumni support for student scholarships within the program. Please consider supporting student scholarships.

As always, we encourage you to stop by the department when you’re passing through town. The department continues to improve, primarily with the help of dedicated faculty and extramural funding from the federal government. If you call ahead of time I’ll schedule a tour of the facilities. You will be impressed with the progress. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,
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UW-Eau Claire
Alumni Store
Visit the new online UWEC Alumni Store for great alumni apparel and gifts. You'll find sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, golf accessories and more!

To start shopping, go to http://www.uwec.edu/Alumni/store.htm

Special Thanks...
To Connie Olson, UWEC Publications — Thanks for your creativity in helping us make this such a ‘good-looking’ newsletter.

To Ron Weegman, 1981 — For sharing the geology humor materials with us (“A guide to Geologic Literature” and “You might be a Geologist if...”).

Rocky Mountain Field Studies Summer 2004
by Bob Hooper
Lori Snyder and Bob Hooper ran the Rocky Mountain Field Studies course once again in summer 2004. We had an excellent group of students with about 50% geology majors and 50% non-majors for a total of fifteen students. We decreased the group size because we are now limited by the vehicles we can use. From now on we are only taking two vehicles: the 15 passenger van and the pick-up truck which we use to pull a trailer. Weather for summer 2004 was spectacular with lots of relatively firm snow in the high mountain backcountry areas. We had lots of sun and temperatures in the mid-60’s throughout the trip, spiced with a hint of hail, sleet and snow.

One hike on Togwotee Pass where we usually see lots of grizzly bear sign turned a little more exciting as the sign turned into a very large grizzly bear sow with two very young (and cute) cubs. The details of a close encounter with a female grizzly bear trapped between a rock and a hard place vary depending upon your position on the trail. For those of us up-front it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see a grizzly bear up close! For those nearer the back of the line, it was an opportunity to see a grizzly bear scare the crap out of 15 other people. No one was physically marred by the experience but it did leave a few mental scars. The students quit asking us to show them bears immediately after the encounter and they were far more compliant about keeping a spotless camp. Lori and I never again had to remind the students to make noise while hiking, keep food away from their tents, to change clothes before bed and to stop using that strawberry shampoo! The wolf numbers in Yellowstone have really improved over the past couple of years (improved if you’re not an elk). We were able to stop along the Lamar River Valley and watch the alpha male from the Soda Butte Pack strip the meat from an elk while wolf puppies played in the background.

We’ve added a hike to the base of the Huckleberry Ridge welded tuff on the top of Mt. Everts over the last couple of years and this has turned into one of the geology highlights of the trip. This is a spectacular outcrop of several hundred feet of densely welded tuff with a great vitrophyre near the base. As always there are too many tales from each trip to recount and the experiences just keep mounting as the years go by. This trip continues to be a great experience for the students as well as a continuous learning experience for the faculty. There are still a few wild areas in the country where grizzly bears run wild and the wolves stalk the ungulates. We both feel that these areas are very special and need to continue to be preserved. I know at least fifteen students every year that would agree.

FIELD CAMP II— Summer Interim 2004
by J. Brian Mahone, Instructor
The aging but ever-so-quaint Castoria Inn of Boulder, Montana, once again provided a central base for our Field Camp II excursion this year. This year, Mahoney led the first half of the course, and Colin Shaw ran the second half of the course. We had a robust group of mostly graduating seniors, and interest and motivation was high, as long as the slave driver occasionally gave them some peace. The weather was by and large excellent, and the exercises worked quite well. The quality of work was very high, and the aggregate amount of field experience everyone in the program receives seems to be a benefit to all! Phil Hinger came out to provide his expertise for the intrusive rocks at Doherty Mountain. We may alter the Doherty Mountain exercise a bit, as a lot of ground needs to be covered in a short time, and integrating mapping teams’ data has proven difficult. For some reason, a few teams grumbled about hiking for two hours to get to their section of the map area! Whatever doesn’t kill us makes us stronger!
FIELD CAMP I ~ January 2005

by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor

This was the fifth year that Field Camp I was run in New Mexico, and it was once again a resounding success! J. Brian Mahoney and Lori Snyder ran the course, and Emily Hauser provided field assistance and computer expertise. Catherine Wanek and Pete Fust were gracious hosts, as always, and the Black Range Lodge again proved itself a premier base for field camp. The Black Range recently achieved a new form of notoriety, as it appeared on the Ghost Stories series on TBS, which told the tale of the ghost of a one-armed handyman who reportedly wanders the halls during the wee hours of the morning...and we always thought it was the late night GIS crowd...We were also treated to a wonderful concert at the Hillsboro Community Center by folk/classical duo named Acoustic Idleon. The rocks were excellent, and the enthusiasm was quite good for the duration. Everyone seemed to enjoy the rocks, the climate and the scenery, so the course was a success once again. Kevin Gostomski was the designated videographer, and his take on the course should be very interesting to see! A note for the alums: this was the last year on the Micron computers, as a successful grant proposal will be used to develop a new, wireless field computer laboratory!

UW-Eau Claire students do geological research in remote British Columbia

by DJ Slater (Reprinted from Leader Telegram)

The summer months for most students mean working a full-time job or just hanging out in their hometown.

UW-Eau Claire senior Suzie Reed, however, spent last summer in what seemed like the middle of nowhere.

Reed spent her time with five other UWEC students and three faculty members doing research in British Columbia, and it turned out to be the experience of her life.

“It was the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” Reed said. “I’ve gone all over the United States, but it was definitely the most amazing thing...to be out there.”

J. Brian Mahoney, a geology professor at UW-Eau Claire, said the British Columbia trip included two parts. One group went to Stewart to map the area, update the geological statistics and gather mineral data, while the other went to Bella Coola, to do bedrock mapping, he said.

“It’s all very steep, mountainous, glaciated terrain,” Mahoney said. “The area’s just absolutely spectacular.”

The group left Eau Claire on June 18, arriving in Vancouver shortly afterward, he said. Then they drove into British Columbia until they ran out of road. From that point on, all their traveling came via helicopter.

The lifestyle during the trip caught UWEC junior Adam Kjos’ attention, he said. Some of the food was carried with people while the main supply was flown in via helicopter when they ran short, Mahoney said. For communication, Kjos said they used satellite phones.

“It wouldn’t trade it (the trip) for anything in the world,” Kjos said.

UWEC Vice Chancellor Andy Soll said such trips benefit the university’s reputation and show the quality of its instructors.

“It just a real sign that we have an outstanding faculty,” Soll said.

After returning on Aug. 25, Mahoney said the group discovered numerous data that will help further benefit society.

“We’re able to really fine tune our interpretations as to how the (earth’s) crust has evolved through time,” he said, “and that’s going to have important ramifications...for society.”

A BRIEF GUIDE TO GEOLOGIC LITERATURE

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writings, are defined below for your enlightenment.

It has been long known:  
I haven’t bothered to check the references

It is known:  
I believe

It is believed:  
I think

It is generally believed:  
My Colleagues and I think

There has been some discussion:  
Nobody agrees with me

It can be shown:  
Take my word for it

It is proven:  
It agrees with something mathematical

Of great theoretical importance:  
I find it interesting

Of great practical importance:  
This justifies my employment

Of great historical importance:  
This ought to make me famous

Some samples were chosen for study:  
The others didn’t make sense

Typical results are shown:  
The best results are shown

Correct within order of magnitude:  
Wrong

The values were obtained empirically:  
The values were obtained by accident

The results are inconclusive:  
The results seem to disprove my hypothesis

Additional work is required:  
Someone else can work out the details
Hello alumni! It has been a busy year for the UWEC Geology Club. The school year kicked off with Christina Piper as our president. She did tremendous work within the club to jumpstart activities. Under Christina’s leadership the club held multiple fundraisers during the fall semester. We were actually able to provide some financial support for six members of the club to attend the GSA meeting in Denver, Colorado, last November. The students all had a wonderful experience...In fact, most of them said that attendance at the meeting made them become better students. The club also sold rock hammer holders and t-shirts for fund-raisers.

When Christina graduated in December, she turned the reins over to the current president, Krystina Engebos. Since then the club has been active in several ways. We have initiated tutorial sessions for all geology students and any other students enrolled in geology classes. These sessions take place every Monday night and have proven to be very successful. It is truly rewarding to watch someone who is unfamiliar with geology begin to understand what makes this science so fascinating.

Besides the tutorial sessions, Geology Club has been busy promoting some of the speakers for the Earth Science Seminar Series (see the upcoming articles on Guest Speakers). The Geology Club has also sponsored a few of our own discussions. Most recently we had an informal discussion with Sarah Weaver-Moore, a graduate from the geology department in 1996. We discussed how skills learned as a geology major are a valuable foundation for becoming a successful environmental lawyer.

As summer quickly approaches, the department has found the need to celebrate yet another successful academic year. To honor our achievements over the past year, we have decided to throw the first annual “formal” Geology Department banquet where all of these students, faculty, and staff come together for a night to celebrate what we’ve accomplished. Everyone is looking forward to an entertaining night.

This is just a small compilation of what we’ve been doing in the past year. To keep updated on what’s going on with the club, you can visit our website at http://www.uwec.edu/Geology/club/.

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**Geology Club**

*by Krystina Engebos, Geology Club President*

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### You Might Be a Geologist If...

1. You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
2. Your rock collection weighs more than you do.
3. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
4. You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
5. You don't think of "cleavage" the same way everyone else does.
6. You have ever uttered the phrase "have you tried licking it" with no sexual connotations involved.
7. You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
8. You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
9. You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
10. Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
11. You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type of rock as the side you're parked on.
12. You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world globe.
13. The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
14. You have ever found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn't really a weapon.
15. You have ever taken a 22-passenger van over "roads" that were really intended only for cattle.
16. You consider a "recent event" to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
17. You have ever had to respond "yes" to the question, "What have you got in here, rocks?"

---

**Recent Geology Graduates**

*Summer 2004:*
- **Nikki Athnos**, General Geology
- **Joshua Le Duc**, General Geology

*Fall 2004:*
- **Danielle Aanenson**, Math major w/Geology minor
- **Karilyn Dayton**, General Geology
- **Ryan Dayton**, General Geology w/Physics minor
- **Christopher Fell**, General Geology
- **Leslie Haralson**, Communications major w/Geology minor
- **Morgan Herrick**, General Geology
- **Breck Johnson**, Environmental Science major
- **Aaron Kent**, Environmental Science major
- **Robert Krenos**, General Geology
- **Christina Piper**, General Geology
- **Lindsey Prell**, Geography major w/Geology minor
- **Robert Servais**, General Geology

*Spring 2005 (unofficial list):*
- **Kevin Gostomski**, General Geology
- **Lisa Grosvoid**, General Geology
- **Emily Hauser**, General Geology
- **Daniel Hennessy**, General Geology w/Anthropology minor
- **Johanna Lanter**, General Geology
- **Jessica Lopez**, General Geology w/Spanish major
- **David Mans**, General Geology
- **Kali Pacz-Gracyzky**, Hydrogeology w/Geography major
- **Suzie Reed**, General Geology w/Journalism
- **Angela Remer**, General Geology w/Spanish major
- **Ryan Schriner**, Environmental Science major
- **James Watkins**, General Geology w/Math minor

*Summer 2005 (unofficial list):*
- **Scott Formolo**, General Geology w/Physics minor
- **Jennifer Thornburg**, General Geology w/Anthropology minor
- **Jeremy Treague**, General Geology w/Computer Science major
Cale Anger, with Katherine Grote, “Geostatistical Prediction of Soil Texture from Soil Water Content Estimates.”
Scott Formolo with Phillip Ihinger, “Sector Zoning in Hydrothermal Apatite Crystals.”
Scott Formolo and Guy L’Esperance (Geography major) with Brady Foust and Lisa Theo (Geography & Anthropology), “Cartographic Analysis of 2004 Presidential Election in Atlanta, Georgia.”
Emily Hauser with Brian Mahoney and Bob Hooper, “Magmatic Evolution of the Whitesail Lake Map Area British Columbia.”
Christopher Kohel with Phillip Ihinger and Brian Mahoney, “Geology and Geochemistry of the Sagebrush Creek Stock: Constraints on the Timing of Late Cretaceous Magmatism and Deformation in the Rocky Mountain Foreland.”
David Mans with Kent Syverson, “Deglaciation History of the China Lake Area, South-Central Maine, Based on Glaciomarine Sediments and Newly Obtained C-14 Ages.” Received Fifth Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences category (see photo). Dave will also present at the North-Central Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, May 19-20, 2005.
Suzanne Reed and Adam R. Kjos with Lori D. Snyder and J. Brian Mahoney, “Representative Stratigraphic Section of Lower-Middle Jurassic Hazelton Arc Volcanics of British Columbia.”
Jennifer Thornburg with Robert Barth (Geography & Anthropology), “X-ray Fluorescence Analysis of Pipestone from Barron County, Wisconsin.” Jennifer also presented at the Wisconsin Archaeological Meeting in Madison, WI, on April 23, 2005.
Jeremy Treague with Harry Jol (Geography & Anthropology), “Three-dimensional Subsurface GPR Visualization for an Archaeological Site (Qumran, Israel) and a Geomorphic Site (Michigan).” Jeremy will also present at the North-Central Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, May 19-20, 2005.
James M. Watkins with Phillip Ihinger, “Geochemistry of Tertiary Magmas from the Black Hills Magmatic Province: Comparisons with the Central Montana Alkaline Province and Tectonic Implications.”

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.
Strumness & Ciardelli Presented the “Excellence in Geology” Award in 2003-04

The “Excellence in Geology” Award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major, both in coursework and in faculty/student collaborative research. The winners for 2003-2004 of the Geology Excellence Award were Laura A. Strumness and Mark C. Ciardelli.

Laura Strumness (written by Bob Hooper, former advisor)
Laura transferred to Eau Claire from UW-Madison her sophomore year. Madison transfer students are becoming increasingly common and represent a fine source of talented geology majors. They seem to be finding their way up the road to Eau Claire primarily to be involved in undergraduate collaborative research and end up very satisfied with the experience. In moving to Eau Claire, Laura actually moved closer to her home in Strum, WI. Laura started a research project to investigate the geochemistry of contaminated mine sediments in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River valley during her sophomore year, and for three years (including summers), she concentrated primarily on analytical work involving lead and zinc speciation in these mine tailings. During her senior year, Laura was awarded the Kell scholarship for her research efforts. This scholarship is the largest and most prestigious scholarship awarded at UW-Eau Claire, and Laura was the first geology student to win this award. Laura presented her Coeur d'Alene research as a poster at the spring joint conference of the American Geophysical Union and Canadian Geophysical Union in Montreal, Canada (2004) and also at a poster session in the Wisconsin Capital Rotunda in Madison, an event scheduled to showcase the significance of undergraduate collaborative research for politicians. Laura is currently attending graduate school at the University of Montana in Missoula where she is continuing her studies in geochemistry.

Mark Ciardelli (written by Phil Ihinger, former advisor)
Mark Ciardelli came to Eau Claire from Wisconsin Rapids, WI, and quickly impressed us with his sharp intellect and committed work ethic. Mark's research involved a project concerning growth of stalactites and stalagmites (speleothems) inside caves. There has been much excitement in the scientific community recently, because speleothems can hold important information regarding paleo-climate. The link between buried caves and surface temperatures is made through groundwaters. The isotopic composition of rain (the source of groundwater) reflects global temperatures because the source of atmospheric water is the ocean, and the isotopic composition of the ocean varies with the volume of ice stored on the ice caps in the Arctic and Antarctic. Getting the age of a particular speleothem deposit has remained problematic, however, and little is known regarding the growth dynamics of cave deposits. Mark has applied micro-infrared studies of calcite crystals within speleothems to set constraints on the growth rates of the individual crystals that make up the deposits. Mark's results to date are exciting and potentially groundbreaking; molecular water inclusions are ubiquitous in cave calcite and show systematic variations that depend on their rate of growth. His studies may offer important new clues into the timing and extent of global climate change. Mark is continuing his academic studies by pursuing graduate work in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was a pleasure to mentor Mark in his project, and we miss him much up here in Eau Claire!

FORMER AWARD RECIPIENTS:
1995-1996: Kristin Weaver and Chad Underwood
1996-1997: Sarah Weaver and Mark Holmes
1997-1998: Tom Danielson and Michelle Haskin
1998-1999: Mae Willkom and Beth Wenell
1999-2000: Jean Morrison and Carrie Rowe
2000-2001: Katie Thornburg and Karl Beaster
2002-2003: Sarah Gordee and Ben Paulson

Prindiville Presented with Newly Established “Service” Award

The “Annual Award for Service” recognizes the exceptional service that a graduating geology major has done for the department. Our first recipient of this award was Sarah A. Prindiville.

Sarah Prindiville (written by Nancy Amdahl)
Sarah came to us from her hometown of West Allis, WI. She was enrolled in Brian Mahoney's physical geology course during her first semester at UWEC. By the middle of the semester, Brian had Sarah working on collaborative research projects with him. From then on, she became a frequent flyer within the Geology Department. Sarah volunteered to be a teaching assistant in several introductory lab courses, assisted with field trips, led study sessions, etc. She was heavily involved in the Geology Club; she was the President during her senior year and the Treasurer the other three years. She made her services readily available for those that needed her assistance, whether it was driving a vehicle for a field trip at the last minute, crushing some rocks, scheduling a guest speaker, tutoring a new student, etc. Sarah graduated last spring and is now working for EarthTech, an environmental consulting firm in Milwaukee, WI, where we are sure she is continuing to do what she does best—helping others!

LOST & FOUND
Please look through this list to see if you can help us locate any of our missing alums.
If found, please contact Kent Syverson (syverskm@uwec.edu) or Nancy Amdahl (amdahlnj@uwec.edu or 715/836-3732). Thank you!
Paul Graham, 1993
Dean Greener, 1990
Justin Humenik, 2000
Nicholas Loomis, 1995
Karen Mc Adam, 1984
Janet Nisiewicz, 1993
Ryan Schmiege, 2002
Matthew Udovitsch, 2000
Sarah Uvodich, 2000
Isaac Vandergon, 2002
Greetings!  I joined the Eau Claire geology department in August as the new hydrogeologist, and it’s been a busy year so far. I’ve spent the last seven years in the Bay Area of California, first as a graduate student and then as a hydrogeologic consultant, so Wisconsin was a big change for me. My husband, son, and I moved to Eau Claire two weeks before classes started in August, and life has seemed very fast-paced ever since. I taught Water Resources and Physical Hydro in the fall and am now teaching Environmental Geology and Chemical Hydro. I found that I really like teaching and introducing an unsuspecting generation of hydro students to the joys of flow equations, computer models, and the intricacies of Excel. I am currently enjoying a much-needed spring break, which I celebrated by learning how to operate the snow-blade on our lawn tractor to remove the foot of snow that fell on our driveway the Friday spring break began. I really do like living in Wisconsin...

Although preparing for new classes consumes most of my time, I am also squeezing in some research. Cale Anger (sophomore) is working with me on a vadose-zone project to map soil texture using geophysical data and geostatistics, and two other hydro students and I will be working on a project to locate springs and map their recharge areas in St. Croix County this summer for the Wisconsin DNR. I’m looking forward to working on the spring project, getting to know more of Wisconsin, and meeting some of the local groundwater community. I’ll also continue doing research in my main area of expertise, using geophysics for hydrological site characterization.

KAREN HAVHOLM, Professor
havholm@uwec.edu

Since last I wrote I finished up my sabbatical with the submission of two papers and several research reconnaissance trips. Then I dove back into teaching and found myself (even after so many years) feeling rusty in the classroom! Now I’m back into the swing of things and have a couple of students starting to work on new projects. Senior Jill Krezoski and I will join a colleague from the U.S.G.S. to examine some Mississippian eolianites in Pennsylvania early this summer. Lynn Galston, a freshman Blugold Scholar, and I will be examining the Devils Island Sandstone in the Bayfield area (long considered an equivalent to the Hinckley Sandstone in Minnesota) to determine whether its environment of deposition is the same as the recently re-interpreted Hinckley Formation. We have applied for funding to continue our work in Manitoba, so we hope to spend some time up there with geography faculty Garry Running and Doug Faulkner, Geology/Geography major Mark Nelson and Geography major/Geology minor Ashley Wong.

ROBERT L. HOOPER, Professor
hooper1@uwec.edu

Since the last newsletter not much has changed in my life. I continue to serve as Chair of the department for the fifteenth year. I am also continuing to pursue research projects on environmental geochemistry of the Coeur d’Alene mining district and clay mineralogy. Last summer I spent five weeks with Mahoney in British Columbia mapping Jurassic island arc volcanics and associated plutons in the Coast Range north of Bella Coola, BC, at a 1:50,000 scale. This is a spectacular area of pristine wilderness accessible only by helicopter. We had great mapping weather and lost only half a day due to rain during the five week period that I was in the field. I learned a great deal about volcanics during this project and only started to feel comfortable with the geology during the last couple of weeks. We were working in a huge area with substantial glacial ice cover. The only rock exposed is along ridges usually above the glaciers or around ice that has recently retreated. The valleys are filled with alluvium and salmon-eating grizzly bears, so we stayed upstream.

Ginger and I have been quite busy with our new puppy over the past year. Tournameline (var. schoir) is a jet-black Labrador and Golden Retriever mix with lots of energy. She gets me walking every morning and Nancy claims that this has improved my attitude at work. I have been busy setting up the new petrology lab, working on the ICPMS remodel and teaching the Min/Pet I, Geochemistry and the introductory courses. I have also been very active in trying to move the university forward, a task about as easy as steering an aircraft carrier with a paddle. GSA this past year was in Denver and we were able to touch base with lots of alumni. Plan on attending some of the professional meetings and we’ll get together for a beer. I hope to see you either as you pass through Eau Claire or at one of the conferences. As always, I just love to show alumni around the department since we continue to improve both the facilities and the instrumentation at Eau Claire. Please keep in touch.

PHILLIP D. IHINGER, Associate Professor
ihinger@uwec.edu

The Ihinger research group has been very active this past year. We presented our research at the joint Cordilleran-Rocky Mountain Section of GSA in Boise, ID, the national GSA in Denver, CO, and the national AGU in San Francisco, CA. Seven posters were presented at this past UWEC Research Day, including collaborative research with Scott Formolo (2005), Lisa Grosvold (2005), Breck Johnson (2004), Christopher Kohel (2005), Ryan Prechel (2005), and James Watkins (2005). Breck has already started graduate study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Scott and Jim are excited about begin-
ning graduate work this fall at the Colorado School of Mines and University of California-Berkeley, respectively. Their research projects range in topics from crystal growth dynamics of quartz and apatite to the tectonic evolution of the North American Cordillera. We will be presenting two posters that constrain the time of growth of natural hydrothermal quartz crystals at the North-Central GSA meeting in Minneapolis in May. Look at the department website for a movie that simulates the growth of these crystals. My students continue to take full advantage of the financial support of the National Science Foundation for both research and equipment. We are very proud of the high-quality scholars we have brought to campus to give talks on scientific research as well as to discuss life in the real world as consulting geologists. Our students benefit so much from these interactions, and I encourage you all to stop by and talk to us. I look forward to meeting you at an upcoming conference near you soon!

On a personal note, the Ihinger’s were thrilled to welcome Evelyne “Evie” Victoria Turner Ihinger to our family on February 4, 2005. She is such a cutie! Evie’s big sisters, Ghislaine and Mati, have been a great help with the new little one. Evie’s big sister, Ghislaine, and Mati, have been a great help with the new little one.
students at the Rocky Mountain GSA sectional meeting in Boise in May 2004. I hope that several proposals pending or in preparation will fund continued research into the tectonics of the southwestern United States. Shaw, C.A., Heizler, M.H., Karlstrom, K.E., 2005. 40Ar/39Ar Thermochronologic Record of 1.45-1.35 Ga Intracontinental Tectonism in the Southern Rocky Mountains: Interplay of Conductive and Adveective Heating With Intracontinental Deformation, in Karlstrom, K.E. and Keller, G.R., eds., The Rocky Mountain Region — An Evolving Lithosphere: Tectonics, Geochemistry, and Geophysics, American Geophysical Union Monograph 154. McCoy, A.M., Karlstrom, K.E., Williams, M.L., and Shaw, C.A., 2005. Proterozoic ancestry of the Colorado mineral belt: 1.4 Ga shear zone system in Colorado: in Karlstrom, K.E. and Keller, G.R., eds., The Rocky Mountain Region — An Evolving Lithosphere: Tectonics, Geochemistry, and Geophysics, American Geophysical Union Monograph 154. Karlstrom, K.E., Amato, J.M., Williams, M.L., Heizler, M., Shaw, C.A., Read, A.S., Bauer, P. 2004. Proterozoic tectonic evolution of the New Mexico region: a synthesis; in Mack, G.H. and Giles, K.A., eds., Geology of New Mexico, A Geologic History, New Mexico Geological Society Special Publication, Fiftieth Anniversary Volume. New Mexico Geological Society Special Publication, p. 1-34. LORI D. SNYDER, Senior Lecturer snyderld@uwec.edu Although startling to me, the 2004-2005 academic year marks my 10th year at UW-Eau Claire! The years have passed quickly and it is gratifying to see so many of our students achieving professional and personal success. I spent summer 2004 with students Morgan Herrick, Adam Kjos and Suzie Reed in northwestern British Columbia. We worked in conjunction with scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada on a targeted project to study mineral potential in one of the most remote areas of North America near the Iskut River. Mesozoic rocks in the area host a number of base and precious metal deposits, including the world-class Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide (VMS) Eskay Creek gold deposit. The primary purpose of the project is a detailed assessment of regional volcanic facies trends within the Hazelton Group in order constrain the evolution and potential metallogeny of the Hazelton volcanic arc system. Morgan Herrick is working on the petrography and geochemistry of subvolcanic plutons to help document the petrogenetic evolution of the Hazelton arc. Adam Kjos and Suzie Reed are documenting a stratigraphic section with similarities to the Eskay Creek deposit host rocks. The academic year has marked some changes in the Department of Geology with the addition of both faculty and equipment. I continue to teach Physical/Environmental Geology and Geology of National Parks. Not surprisingly, Rocky Mountain Field Studies had another successful and enjoyable trip. Be sure to read the Geology 303 section in this volume for an account of an up-close and personal wildlife encounter! We sure hope you stop by and say hello when you’re in the area - you all are certainly one of the things that keeps us enthusiastic about our career choice. KENT M. SYVIERSON, Professor syverskm@uwec.edu Greetings from Eau Claire! I am in my 13th year at UW-Eau Claire, and I am still alive and kicking (just not kicking as fast - I turned 40 in August!). Lila and kids are doing well. My oldest daughter entered middle school this year, and my “baby” just turned seven years old. So I guess that they are getting old too…! I returned to southern Maine last summer to work for the Maine Geological Survey. My field area was located between Augusta and Waterville in the China Lake region. My research student (a 6’6” bodyguard, Dave Mans) and I studied glacial-marine sediments, and we saw some amazing deltaic forest beds and esker deposits. My family also enjoyed the time in Maine. Highlights included visiting friends from two years ago, seeing Pemaquid lighthouse (the one on the Maine quarter dollar), and spying a baby loon on its mother’s back. We visited Boston, New Hampshire, and Montreal on the way home. On the Wisconsin research front, my Chippewa County glacial geology report and map were accepted for publication by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. In addition, my overview article about the glacial history of Wisconsin was published as a book chapter by Elsevier. In addition, I have been preparing for a May 2005 glacial geology field trip associated with the North-Central Geological Society of America meeting in Minneapolis. I was promoted to full professor rank in August. Then I spent much of fall semester fighting a messy, nasty First Amendment issue on the UW-Eau Claire campus that was reported in newspapers around the country (do a Google search…). That issue required a huge amount of time, but the Chancellor eventually retreated somewhat from the initial position and sent the matter back to committee. Then the Chancellor decided to take a UW-System job in Madison on March 1, so gains from last fall were lost. Such is life. Work on this issue has continued this spring. I always enjoy seeing alumni when they swing through Eau Claire! Also, please continue to send news items to keep the newsletter up-to-date and interesting…!


JOHN R. TINKER, JR., Professor Emeritus tinkerjr@triwest.net Hello to all present and former UW-Eau Claire geology students. I hope your experience at UW-Eau Claire is helping you with your career, family, friends, and life in general. I miss the daily interaction with all of you. I just returned from a visit to Texas where the temperature was in the 80’s and the vegetation was green. It was a good change from Wisconsin’s winter but now things here in Eleva, WI, are beginning to spring to life for a new growing season. I have no complaints. Retirement is fun! I am still playing the role of a very small-scale farmer and trying to keep in shape by exercising my new dog. I still do some consulting but only when the work finds me. My next non-geology project involves taking down an old grainery in North Dakota and rebuilding it here in Wisconsin. Work begins the end of April. If I do not fall off the roof or hurt myself in some other way, I will then take down an old barn in North Dakota and rebuild it in Wisconsin. Hunting in North Dakota this past year was a success for both deer and pheasants. My family is fine and both Christine and I spend joyful time with our four grandchildren.

I send my prayers to you and hope you are in good health. If I do not write next year, I fell off the roof of the barn!

RONALD P. WILLIS, Professor Emeritus willisrt@charter.net On March 1st, I had my left shoulder replaced. I was home from the hospital a day later determined to do the therapy prescribed and regain the motion and strength of my arm/shoulder as soon as possible. Unfortunately, a few days later I had a heart attack! I spent a week in the hospital before they let me go home. Now I am taking cardiac rehab three days a week, plus one day of therapy for the new shoulder. It hurts a little bit, but I insist on being optimistic about the future. Life continues to be good...regardless. Increasing age with the accompanying weaknesses is certainly the greatest challenge I have ever
faced. I would much rather be facing a room full of geology students—or preferably facing several weeks with them out in the wilds of Wyoming. Gosh, I miss that sweet life! I so greatly enjoyed working with my students. The full extent of my appreciation increases with each passing year. Thanks to each and every one of you. Memories are quickly becoming my most precious possessions.

NANCY J. AMDAHL, Program Assistant  
amdahlmj@uwec.edu

I didn’t have any problem using up that three weeks of vacation this year! In April we visited a friend in Carthage, MO, home of the Precious Moments Museum—what an amazing place! Then we spent the weekend in Branson and checked out a few shows. In August we drove to Ontario for a week-long fishing trip. We stayed at an awesome resort, the weather was beautiful, we were on a gorgeous body of water...however, the fishing was quite unsuccessful. Then in December we went downhill skiing with a bunch of friends on Mt. Heavenly, on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. We had a great time and the weather was absolutely gorgeous! Unfortunately, it was the first time that I had been skiing in 13 years, and about my fourth time ever skiing! Needless to say, it was quite interesting...especially since we spent the entire first day skiing the blue diamond hills and we actually reached the highest elevation on the mountain (10,040') by about 2:00! I survived, but I was so happy to still be in one piece by the end of the day that I decided to spend my second day on mostly green slopes—much more enjoyable (and less painful)!

Most of January/February was spent sitting on bleachers—supporting my nephew in high school wrestling. The bleacher-butt was all worthwhile though—he finished the season as the State Champ at 112# and his team placed 2nd in the State (Div. III)!

As far as work goes, you may recall that last year I was all excited that the Geology Department Office was going to be remodeled...As I suspected, the project managed to fall off the radar screen. However, we have recently been informed that we are now showing back up on the radar, so we’ll see what happens.

As always, the highlights of my days at work are often hearing from former students—whether by email or a surprise visit—so please keep up the good work! :)
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, $3812 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund! Please understand that all gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated! Please consider giving something back to your undergraduate department.

Due to state budget cuts, the department has determined that it is necessary for us to start encouraging our alumni to consider donating to the department’s advancement fund. Therefore, we have been working with the Foundation Office to learn more about establishing new scholarships. If you would happen to be interested in establishing a scholarship within the Department of Geology, here are a few basic guidelines from the Foundation Office:

- All gifts to the UWEC Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. You may use cash, checks, credit cards, stocks or other tangible assets to fund a scholarship.
- There are two types of scholarships: the annual scholarship, which is funded each year, and the endowed scholarship, where principal is invested and only the income is used for the annual scholarship award.
- A minimum commitment of $500 is required to establish an annual scholarship fund.
- A minimum investment of $10,000 is required to establish an endowed fund; there is no maximum
- The name of the scholarship is determined by the donor(s). Most name a scholarship after their family or the name of a loved or honored one. Some have endowed scholarships in the name of a favorite professor.
- The donor(s) may help develop scholarship criteria with the assistance of a development officer.
- IRS regulations prevent donors from designating family members as recipients or from selecting the recipients themselves. Donors may be notified of the finalists and will be notified of the recipients. Preferences rather than requirements are most often expressed. Preferences may involve academic major, financial need, international study, academic promise, first-year student or upper division status.

If you would like more information about establishing an annual or endowed scholarship, please feel free to contact the Foundation Office at 715/836-5630. We ask that if the UWEC Foundation Office calls you asking for a donation, 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.

### DONATION SLIP

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.

——— Yes, I wish to support the Geology Department through my tax-deductible gift of $__________ (if check is used and enclosed, make payable to UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.)

Name __________________________________________ __________

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City ______________________ State ______ Zip __________

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Please indicate below how you wish your contribution to be recorded:

——— Record jointly with my spouse (Spouse’s name) __________

——— Record in my name only __________

Credit Card Gift ___ VISA ___ MasterCard ____ Discover ____ American Express

Number __________________________________________ Exp Date __________

Signature __________________________________________ Date __________

——— My employer (or my spouse’s) will match this gift. Employer: ______________________

——— I have made plans to benefit the Geology Department through my estate. Please have someone contact me.

——— Please send me information about how I might make provisions in my estate to benefit the Geology Department.

Mailing Address: UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Schofield Hall 214, 105 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004. Or give immediately by going to http://www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm

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Kimberly (Ball) Kaiser (1996). Kim finished her master's degree in Environmental Science-Policy & Law at the University of Idaho last spring. Kim’s thesis research was entitled “Estimating streambank erosion in the Big Lost River in order to develop more quantitative sediment TMDLs (total maximum daily loads).” She currently works at the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality where she specializes in groundwater monitoring. Kim announced, “My husband Doug and I are expecting our first child in August! We are still skiing and kayaking in our free time and enjoy living in the greater Yellowstone area.”

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg is the Associate and Global Marketing Team Leader at Golder Associates Corporation, along with Managing Editor of Golder’s “Technically Speaking” newsletter. This quarterly newsletter includes articles showcasing innovative and technically challenging projects that Golder employees have worked on throughout the world.

Jody (Brandrup) Dahlman (2000). Jody and Dan recently moved back to the Midwest. Unfortunately, the company they worked for (Apogent) was bought out by another corporation. Dan was laid off due to the merger, so Jody decided to leave her position as well so they could make a fresh start. “We chose to come back here and be close to our family and friends.” Dan commented. “We are hoping to purchase a home north of Minneapolis.” Jody is currently working at a law firm in downtown Minneapolis.

Brad Burton (Assistant Professor, 1997-2001). Brad continues to enjoy his geologist position with Shell Canada in Calgary.

Kirsten Cahow-Scholtes (1997). Kristen is a Water Resources Specialist for the Bad River Natural Resources Department in Washburn, WI. Kristen commented, “I got married in March and we are expecting a baby in June, so lots of new things going on. I’m also still working on the dreaded thesis. I have a September deadline, so I plan on being done by then.”

Gary Genteman (1984). Gary has been a Senior Project Hydrogeologist at Sigma Environmental Services since 1992. Some of his current projects include contamination at a road salt storage site and contaminated soil management resulting from a major road construction project. “My big news this year is that I’ve recently become engaged. Mary Jo is an I.T. Trainer for a large hospital corporation and she also teaches part-time at Milwaukee Area Technical College. We plan to marry in early fall and live in Milwaukee.”

Sarah Gorde (2003). Sarah is hoping to complete her master’s thesis this May from the University of British Columbia. Her research area is in west-central British Columbia on the western edge of the Stikine Terrane. Sarah explained, “I am reconstructing the tectonic/volcanologic environment of this complex package of rocks through detailed field mapping, volcanostratigraphic studies, U-Pb dating and lithogeochemical analysis, and hope to facilitate exploration for ECT-VMS mineralization in southwestern Stikinia.” Sarah has been back to Eau Claire a few times in the past year to visit family and friends, and her highlight is spending time with her one-year-old nephew, Reed.

Michelle Haskin (1998). Michelle is teaching in the Earth ...organizing about a dozen TAs every term, so that keeps me on my toes.”

Chris Elvrum (1992). Chris is a Water Supply Planner for the Metropolitan Council in St. Paul, MN. “It’s a nice mix of hydrogeology and planning/policy,” Chris remarked. “In 2004 I served as President of the MN Ground Water Association, the second year of a 3-year term on the Board.” Chris and his wife live in St. Paul, and they have one child (and soon to be two)!
and Ocean Sciences Department at the University of British Columbia. Besides restructuring labs and setting up distance education courses, Michelle explained, "One of the courses I team-teach and am the administrator for has over 1200 students a year and requires organizing about a dozen TAs every term, so that keeps me on my toes." Michelle also informed us that she will be getting married this June. Her fiancé will be defending his PhD this spring, so it sounds like life is a bit hectic for them right now.

**Dave Hodek (1995).** Dave is an environmental/civil engineer with ProSource Technologies in Coon Rapids, MN. He commented, "I have been working on some really cool redevelopment/brownfields projects, but I won't bore you with the details. The only real newsworthy thing in my life is that Teresa and I are expecting our first child on June 6th. So it's been a year of anticipation, worry, and watching way too many of those graphic 'miracle of birth' videos in birth class. Check in with me later in the year to see if I've survived our own 'miracle of birth.'"

**Mark Holmes (1997).** Mark is a hydrogeologist for the Arizona Department of Water Resources in Phoenix. Mark explained, "The Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) is going to be restructuring into a well permitting and review section, and I have been asked to lead this section. I have accepted the challenge and look forward to it. We will be providing water quality data to groundwater models and working with the public regarding concerns of water quality."

**Matthew Hostak (1989).** Matt is an Air Pollution Engineer position with the WI DNR in Oshkosh. In his spare time, he continues to become a more experienced "salvager" of old houses.

**Joel Hyzer (2003).** Joel is a Law Enforcement Park Ranger at the Rocky Mountain National Park. On October 9, 2004, Joel and April (Johnson, see next news item) were married in Madison, WI. In a few months, they plan to move to Grand Lake, CO, the west entrance of RMNP.

**April (Johnson) Hyzer (2002).** April is an Environmental Compliance Consultant with CBM Associates, Inc., in Laramie, WY. CBM is involved in the compliance monitoring and regulation of water produced from coal bed methane development in Wyoming. "It's a great company to work for and I encourage anyone interested to check out its website at www.cmbainc.com." April and Joel also welcome any visitors. "It is absolutely beautiful here. If you are in the area, look us up. We would be so excited to see some familiar faces."

**Breck Johnson (2004).** Breck graduated last December and immediately headed to the University of North Carolina where he was accepted into the Department of Geological Sciences graduate program.

**Dale Kerner (1996).** Dale continues to enjoy life in Boise, ID, and his work with Brown and Caldwell, an environmental consulting firm.

**Paul Knippel (2002).** Paul is a marine services representative. He wrote, "Another March finds me in the Pacific Northwest enjoying a record-breaking winter. We have been lamenting the lack of snowfall in the North Cascades, but enjoying an unseasonable amount of sunshine. There is snow to be found in the higher elevations of the backcountry, and I have been able to ski every weekend since November." Paul said his continuing education has included glacieter travel, crevasse rescue, avalanche rescue, and wilderness first-responder training. "Best wishes to all," from Paul.

**Josh Kohn (2000).** Josh works for Infrasource Underground Power, where he installs underground utilities, such as electrical services to new homes and street lighting. "I just returned from my second trip 'Down Under.' I spent five weeks traveling across Australia with two friends. I am in the process of applying again to work in Antarctica this upcoming winter for Raytheon Polar Services." Josh said that when he's not busy working or traveling, he enjoys playing bass in a local band in the Twin Cities.

**Lisa Kraft (1999).** "I'm still living the good life in Colorado!" Lisa remarked. "I have a great new job with Colorado State Parks and the Colorado Forest Service where I manage fuel mitigation projects in all 42 state parks." According to Lisa, fuel mitigation involves reducing combustible material using prescribed burns, and creating defensible spaces in the parks to reduce fire danger and reduce hazards. In her spare time, Lisa still enjoys skiing. "I'm getting real good in the bumps!" Lisa declared. "I spent two weeks at home in Madison this fall, so I drove up to Eau Claire to visit a few professors. I even drove out to Dr. Tinker's house. Man I sure miss him!"

**Stephanie Larsen (2001).** After completing her master's degree at UW-Madison, Steph decided to take a break from schooling. She was excited to find a position working with the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. Stephanie visited UWEC last fall with hopes of organizing a team of people in Eau Claire to be active in conservation and environmental policy issues. She explained, "The goal of the Conservation Team is to make environmental issues a bigger issue in the public mind than they currently are, and to put some pressure on decision makers to create environmentally responsible laws."

**William Lazarz (1998).** Bill is a project manager in hydrogeology with West Central Environmental Consultants.

**Taryn Lopez (2003).** Taryn is a graduate student at the Department of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences at Michigan Technological University. Taryn commented, "I was a TA last semester for a general non-major geology class and I really enjoyed it, which is good because right now my ultimate goal is to teach." Taryn attended the IAVCEI Conference (a major volcanology conference that occurs once every four years) last November in Chile. She commented, "It was a great learning experience for me and I got a lot of good feedback on my thesis poster, so I'm pretty excited about things." Taryn collaborated on an NSF proposal with hopes of traveling to Cerro Negro, Nicaragua, to do some field work this spring.

**James Markle (1969).** Jim moved to New Mexico shortly after graduating from UW-Eau Claire, and continues to enjoy life in N.M. He has worked at the National Labs in Los Alamos for the past 14 years.
Tim Masterlark (1994). Tim recently accepted an assistant professor of geodynamics position with the Department of Geosciences at the University of Alabama, to begin in the fall of 2005. He commented, "I am eager to enter the academic arena and build a program for active deformation." Tim was also recently invited to participate in a "Science Expedition" to better understand the December 2004 M9 earthquake and the source of the devastating tsunami responsible for 300,000 lives. Tim explained, "The goal of the expedition is to better understand and simulate the physics behind the destructive earthquake-tsunami system. The expedition, which is scheduled to begin mid-May of 2005, will be documented by National Geographic, Discovery USA, and BBC. If you want to see what I have been up to on the research side, visit my website (http://edc.usgs.gov/Tectonic/)."

"On a personal note," Tim admits, "Trisha continues to do the real work by keeping things running smoothly at home and making sure my feet are planted in reality. In addition, our annual UW-Eau Claire geology alumni camping session was, once again, an unusual experience. Territory disputes among the local silverback gorillas were successfully diffused with bourbon and shishkebabs."

Kristine Mercer (1997). Kristine wrote, "A little more than a year ago the fragile, declining health of my mother, in addition to my own recovery from uterine cancer surgery, caused me to make the decision to leave the WI DNR. It was a good decision in retrospect, but difficult at the time." Kristine's mother has since passed away, and she has been very busy taking care of her mother's belongings and estate. "I am doing well and enjoying doing things with my kids and grandkids that I haven’t been able to do in years," Kristine commented. "My own health is good and I am savoring life a day at a time. I would love to hear from any old friends with whom I have lost touch."

Greg Michael (1996). Greg told us, "Between my two boys and motorcycling, life couldn’t be better!" Greg lives in Wauwatosa, WI, where he is a senior hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. "Isaac (10) and Brendan (8) are growing like weeds and like any parent, I think they’re outstanding specimens of human beings!" Besides spending most of his free time traveling and camping with his sons, Greg plans to do some extensive motorcycling tours this coming year.

"I am eager to enter the academic arena and build a program for active deformation." Tim Masterlark (1994)

"I am doing well and enjoying doing things with my kids and grandkids." Kristine Mercer (1997)

Todd "Pyro" Myse (1995). Todd recently acquired a new position with the Water Resources Branch of ENSR, which required that he relocate from Vermont to New Hampshire. "I think I’ve found a really good fit. Now, instead of being next to a gas station or working in a brownfields environment, my outside office consists of wandering in the woods next to mountains (since springs are found close to them!), doing surface geophysical work, etc.—it’s been great! The company does a lot of fracture hydrogeology, and that is why I wanted to work here." Before starting this new position, Todd was able to enjoy a month of "play time." He explained, "I spent some time back in The Motherland (WI) and then headed out West. I hit an awesome small bluegrass fest in Casper, WY, then I traveled through the Tetons and Yellowstone. I continued on to Helena, MT, to hang with Ann (Melby) and her family. We had a great time visiting, camping, hiking, and backpacking. I was honored to be on Ayden’s very first backpacking trip!"

Jamie Oakley (1995). Jamie is a project manager for GeoEngineers, Inc. in Anchorage, AK. He explained that GeoEngineers recently acquired assets of a geophysical firm. "Thus, we have been given the chance to learn and work with all kinds of new toys," Jamie said. "This is exciting because it creates a whole new range of disciplines and new challenges for me to pursue." Outside of work, Jamie enjoys snowboarding, cross-country skiing, fishing, hunting, rafting and camping. "Feel free to contact me if you are in the neighborhood," Jamie noted.

"The company does a lot of fracture hydrogeology, and that is why I wanted to work here." Todd "Pyro" Myse (1995)

"Between my two boys and motorcycling, life couldn’t be better!" Greg Michael (1996)
Laura Strumness (2004). Laura is a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of Montana in Missoula. “School is keeping me busy along with teaching introductory geology labs,” Laura commented. “However, I can say that living in the mountains isn’t such a bad life.” Laura plans to begin work on her thesis research this summer which will focus on geochemical analyzes of phosphorous and molybdenum in hot springs in Yellowstone National Park and the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia. She explained, “I am hoping to spend most of my summer in Yellowstone, and make the trek to Russia in the fall.”

Paula Sumpter (1983). “After three years it was time to leave Colorado and come home to Wisconsin.” Paula remarked, “It was hard to leave the mountains behind, but it’s good to be back in metro Milwaukee with family, friends, and all kinds of water!” Paula described 2004 as being “a very personal renovation project” for her. “My former classmates will remember that cute little limp that I always had. Well, years passed and joint failure ensued, so I finally had both hips replaced. They tell me some non-standard parts were required and I’m quite a little miracle of modern medicine. It has been a long recovery, but I have my legs under me again and a backside full of shiny new titanium! I haven’t tried to get on an airplane yet. I don’t even want to imagine what sort of search that will entail.” Paula is in the process of looking for employment and getting settled in Waukesha, WI.

Jennifer (Tobias) Borski (1996). Jenna and her husband Jerry are new parents to little Madeline Willow, who was born on February 18, 2005. “We’re excited to be parents, and you can be assured that our daughter will be scratching and licking rocks well before the normal 6th grade science class!” Jenna remarked, “Madeline surprised us a full four weeks early, and came into the world without a car seat, bedroom, or any clothes ready for her. The 0-3 month outfit we had for her trip home from the hospital in is still a few weeks (maybe months) big for her.” In addition to motherhood, Jenna continues to enjoy her hydrogeologist position with the Wisconsin DNR in Oshkosh. “I’ve enjoyed working with the chem hydro classes at UW-Oshkosh. I have presented in their classes and I have brought the students to some interesting sites. However, contact with students was a good reminder of just how wonderful it is to receive a paycheck and have a house. Stability is good.”

“...I can say that living in the mountains isn’t such a bad life.” Laura Strumness (2004)

David Tomten (1980). Dave is a geologist at US EPA, Region 10, in the Idaho Operations Office, where he coordinates much of EPA’s work related to mining in Idaho. Dave commented, “It’s hard to imagine that it has been nearly 25 years since I graduated. UW-Eau Claire is a great school and I appreciate the people that make it so.” David’s second child, Erik Alfred, was born on January 3, 2005. Dave said that he looks forward to showing his son around the area on his annual trips back to Eau Claire.

Chad Underwood (1996). Chad is a Geotechnical Engineer with GME Consultants in Minneapolis, MN. He mentioned that within the past year he has taken both the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Principles and Practice (PG) tests. Chad remarked, “Other than work and studying for exams, my wife Alison and I spent some time last summer ‘studying’ coastal geology processes in Cancun, Mexico. In fact, the ‘coastal geology’ was so great, that we’re trying to figure out where we can take our next beach vacation! I guess you know you’re getting older when your idea of a great vacation is lying under an umbrella on the beach as opposed to a week of backpacking in the Rocky’s without a shower.”

Reno Walsh (1995). Reno is the Travel Manager for a company known as Off the Beaten Path, which specializes in distinctive outdoor journeys. Reno told us about a personal month-long vacation he made with two friends to Mexico. “I climbed Iztac and Orizaba, the 7th and 3rd tallest peaks in North America. Each incorporated some low-grade mountaineering on glacier! Of course the volcanic landscape was incredible as well as the rural cultures found near these remote peaks. We managed to surf the rest of the month away on the shores of the Pacific from a small town known as Zipolite.”

Charles Walter (1990). Chuck is the Director of the Stormwater Department for the City of Tampa, FL.

Kristin Weaver-Bowman (1996). Kristin continues to enjoy teaching at Cal State-Fullerton where she teaches geology courses such as Earthquakes and Physical Geology. Kristin will also be teaching an Earth Science for Education Majors course next fall. “This will involve new and exciting material for me,” she remarked. Kristin and her family (husband David and 1-year-old son Xander) took a road trip from California to Buffalo, NY, to visit Dave’s family last summer. On their way back, they drove through Wisconsin to visit Kristin’s family and UW-Eau Claire.

Sarah (Weaver) Moore (1996). Sarah and her husband KG welcomed Samuel Grey Moore into their family on February 15, 2005. Sarah and KG have been living in Ponta Delgada, Azores, since last fall and plan to be there through the summer of 2006. “Life here has been great—it’s very slow and, for the most part, uneventful, which is nice. Our Portuguese is coming along well...either that or the folks that we hang out with are very kind and patient. I suspect it’s the latter.” Sarah and baby Sam were in Minnesota and UW-Eau Claire in mid-April.

Ron Weegman (1981). Ron recently transferred from Lafayette, LA, to Houston, TX, to take the Global Technology Support Manager position within Pathfinder Energy Services. “The best part of spending the past four years in Lafayette is that I met and married a wonderful Cajun girl, Patty.”

Melissa Weisheipl (2002). Mel is a sales representative for Young’s Market Company. “I’ve moved on from selling booze by
the glass to the bottle,” she joked, “and no, I don’t get any discounts. Sorry!” Mel continues to enjoy living in sunny California. “Especially if the rain ever stops!” she remarked.

Beth Wenell (1999). Beth and Dave are the proud parents of a baby boy, Anders David. Beth continues to enjoy doing design work. “It is actually keeping me busier than I want to be,” Beth admitted, “but I really enjoy the work and I’m thankful for a little extra income.”

Eddy Wieland (1994). Eddy is working for the U.S. Coast Guard’s Civil Engineering Unit in Cleveland, OH. “I’m designing aid-to-navigation structures and inspecting communication towers for the Great Lakes and Central East Coast Areas.” Eddy explained, “If the planets line up, I should have my PE certificate by summer.” Eddy and his wife Sandy have three children, Thomas (2.5 yo), Calvin (1.5 yo) and Owen (1.5 yo).

Mae Willkom (1998). Mae is a hydrogeologist with the WI DNR in Eau Claire. “I was finally able to achieve full-time permanent status last November,” Mae commented. “So, state budgets willing, it looks like I may finally have settled in for the long term.” Mae said the highlight of her year was taking a vacation in France last April to visit her daughter who was studying abroad. “We spent three nights in Paris, then took the bullet train south for five nights in Nice and Cannes. Lots of good food, shopping, and lying in the sun!”

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“Tell us what you are doing so that we can include you in our next newsletter. Please send updates to Kent Syverson (syverskm@uwec.edu) or Nancy Amdahl (amdahlnj@uwec.edu) via email or snail mail address below. Please includes the following information:

Name ____________________________  
Date _____________________________  
Address (If different than the mailing label we used )  
_________________________________  
_________________________________  
_________________________________  
E-mail Address ____________________  
Home Phone _____________________  
Year of Graduation ________________  
Major(s) _________________________  
_________________________________  
Present job/title ___________________  
Advanced Degree(s) _______________  

News for the next department newsletter (NOTE: if you send us news, and then something major in your life/job changes by March, feel free to get in touch with us so we can update your news item. Our newsletter goes out every May.)

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Return to:  
Department of Geology  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004  
Phone: 715/836-3732  
Fax: 715/836-5627
New Earth Science Seminar Series

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. This past fall, Dr. Harry Jol from the UW-Eau Claire Department of Geography and Anthropology and Dr. Phil Ihinger started a guest speaker series to provide students with chances to interact with geologists in regulatory agencies, industry, and academia. The bad news is that we do not have much money to offer for covering 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!

If you live in the area or are just visiting the area and are interested in attending any of our talks, you are more than welcome to join us. Here is the link to the Earth Science Seminar Series schedule: http://www.uwec.edu/jolhm/seminar_series/. This link can also be found from the homepage of our website. A special "thank-you“ goes out to all of our professional guests (see list below)!

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 Earth Science Seminar Series)!

UW-Eau Claire Alumni:

Stephanie Larsen, 2001 graduate, presented “Politics for the Naturalists: How to Protect the environment when you’d rather be hiking” on 9/30/04.
Sarah Weaver-Moore, 1996 graduate, presented “From UW-Eau Claire Geology to an Environmental Law Career,” as a casual round-table discussion with geology students on 4/19/05.

Guests sponsored by the Earth Science Seminar Series—see article above:

Harvey Thorleifson, Director, Minnesota Geological Survey, presented “Indicator mineral methods in mineral exploration, and their application to the discovery of diamonds in Canada” on 2/18/05.
Tom Hickson, University of St. Thomas, presented “Using a deformable swimming pool to understand alluvial stratigraphy: Jurassic Tank and LAB (Leeder, Allen, Bridge) models” on 3/11/05.
Jim Boulter (Chemistry) and Paul Thomas (Physics and Astronomy), UW-Eau Claire, presented “The Atmosphere and Surface of Titan” on 3/31/05.
Kent Syverson, UW-Eau Claire (Geology), presented “Glacier Bay as a Modern Analogue for the Deglaciation of Maine” on 4/1/05.
Matt Boyd, Lakehead University, presented “Ice Age Lakes and Early Human Societies: Geoarchaeological Perspectives on Glacial Lake Agassiz” on 4/15/05.
Tim Demko, University of Minnesota Duluth, presented “Ground Penetrating Radar Imaging of Fluvial Architecture and Assyrian Archaeological Sites, Upper Tigris River Valley, SE Turkey” on 4/29/05.

Chris Swezey, United States Geological Survey, will present “Later Quaternary Geology of the Northern Sahara” on 5/4/05. Chris also held a round-table discussion with the geology students entitled “Working for the U.S. Geological Survey” on 5/2/05.

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 opportunity.

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/askanalum/ to register.

For questions, please contact Eileen Oswald at (715) 836-5359 or via e-mail at oswaldek@uwec.edu.

Thanks to the following folks for already registering for the Ask An Alum program:

Kristen Gunderson
Tyler Mace
Gregory Michael
Eileen Kramer
Gregory Small
Troy Thompson
Michael Palet

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Can You .....

DIG It Newsletter
Department of Geology
Annual Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2005

www.uwec.edu/geology

Editors: Nancy J. Amdahl and Kent M. Syverson
Phone: 715-836-3732 Fax: 715-836-5627