First of all, I want to thank all of the alumni who generously donated to the department last year. The financial support of alumni is becoming increasingly critical as the State of Wisconsin reduces funding for higher education to balance the state budget. Most of the money donated to the Geology Advancement Fund goes directly back into the support of undergraduate students. Your support has largely been used to help our students present their undergraduate research results at regional and national meetings. This past year alumnus Greg Beckstrom and Golder Associates started our first geology scholarship (see page 5) and we have started another scholarship to support geology students with field camp expenses (Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship; see page 3). This scholarship is named in honor of two of the founders of our department’s field geology program, Drs. Paul Myers and Ronald Willis. I hope you’ll consider helping the department get the field camp scholarship fund off the ground.

We have a new administrative assistant in the program and welcome Lorilie Steinke as our newest colleague. Lorilie took over because Nancy Amdahl, my long-term savior and confidante, took a promotion at the university and became the new Dean assistant for the Graduate School. I cried when Nancy told me she had this opportunity, but supported her taking this new position to advance in the classified staff hierarchy on our campus. Nancy still visits the department and I still get a chance to visit with her, although that does mean venturing into Schofield Hall because her office is up there on second floor among all of the other big-shots on campus. Nancy has her eye on one of the larger 2nd floor offices overlooking the central campus mall and I would bet money that she wins this space within a few years. Lorilie came to us with excellent recommendations from Central Stores, and she has been in the university for 16 years (see her letter of introduction on page 6). She is doing a great job of filling the void left by Nancy’s departure. We are pleased to have Lorilie on board! Lorilie gets the advantage of the new department office we constructed last summer with a nice view out over the woodlot and is learning the quirks of the department. For the first time ever the department office has matching professional office furniture!

The department continues to get a great deal of support from the college dean, provost, chancellor, and other administrators at UW-Eau Claire. With this help we continue to improve opportunities available to our students. The department remains one of the strongest programs at UW-Eau Claire and offers our students top-quality classroom, field, and undergraduate research experiences. Improvements this year include the addition of two enclosed trailers (for field gear) to the department fleet of vehicles, partially re-working the introductory laboratory spaces to make them more user friendly, finishing the installation of our high-resolution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICPMS), and the recent hiring of an instrument technician to help take care of the high-vacuum equipment in the sciences (electron microscopes, scanning tunneling microscopes, ICPMS, etc.). We now have access to a Geoprobe unit through the Geography Department.

(Letter from the Chair continued on page 3)
Spring break trip 2006 – Montserrat volcanism!

by Kent Syverson

Many students travel to places such as Florida, Cancun, etc. for spring break. However, twelve UWEC geology students and three faculty members experienced a spring break that was a little “hotter” than those places. Hotter as in 600 degrees C hotter as they observed active pyroclastic flows issuing from the Soufriere Hills Volcano in Montserrat! Brian Mahoney led the Geology 343 field trip, and participants observed spectacular pyroclastic and lahar deposits from the recent volcanism. In addition, participants snorkeled and explored the carbonate reefs of Antigua in the eastern Caribbean.

Bob Hooper’s letter from the chair and personal news item contain more details about their adventure. [Editor’s note: This trip was a far cry from the glamorous spring break trip I took to Minneapolis one year when I was an undergraduate….!]

I repeat — this is NOT Cancun! Ash plume at Montserrat.

This is NOT Cancun…!

Lava dome and pyroclastic flow at Montserrat.

The Montserrat crew.
Paul E. Myers and Ronald P. Willis Field Camp Scholarship established

by Kent Syverson

When you reflect on your geology undergraduate experience, what memories stand out? For many geologists, field camp comes to mind. Field camp was intense (the geologist’s equivalent of boot camp), but the hard work, camaraderie, obstinate cacti, cliffs, rattlesnakes, dehydration, rock falls, wrong turns, etc. provide the wonderful stories that make geologists such interesting people! True, being lost, thirsty, and pushed to your limits are not generally fun at the time, but the passing of time somehow makes those field camp memories take on a rosy hue…!

The rising cost of tuition and transportation has made field camp increasingly expensive for our students. Not only do students spend much money on field camp expenses, but they also have less time to work jobs in order to cover their expenses. Sadly, some students have not been taking our Field Camp II course for short-term financial reasons.

In order to confront this issue, the department recently established a new field camp scholarship honoring Drs. Paul Myers and Ronald Willis. Paul and Ron were instrumental in establishing field camp experiences in the western United States that cemented our reputation as a field-based, hands-on geology department. Ron started the field camp program in the Bighorn Basin and the western flank of the Bighorn Mountains in 1970. They camped in tents all the time. Later field camp projects expanded to Cottonwood Canyon and Sheep Mountain Anticline, as well as some mapping in the Wind River Mountains near South Pass. Paul started the field camp in Boulder, MT, and he seems to recall that the first year was a grand adventure – living in “trailers” with no window screens while huge mosquitoes swarmed up from Boulder Hot Spring…! The field camp projects in Boulder were an outgrowth of his research with the USGS in that area.

The firm foundation of field studies developed by Paul and Ron has been maintained and expanded in subsequent years. We now run two field camps that each last three weeks. Field Camp I is offered every January in Kingston, New Mexico. Field Camp II is still offered in alternating years in Boulder, MT. Students learn basic field mapping skills in addition to computer (GIS) skills. Students still come away with the stories and memories – some things never change!

It is our hope that alumni will donate to the Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship Fund to sustain student field camp opportunities in the future. Our goal is to defray some of the costs for several students each year. Please consider giving back to the department in this way.

Letter from the Department Chair (continued from page 1)

for shallow subsurface drilling, coring, and sampling. Katherine Grote is planning some hydrogeology experiences around the use of this Geoprobe. We have had an active Friday afternoon geosciences seminar series this past year with some excellent speakers. This has enhanced the intellectual climate in the program. Phil Zinger has also taken on the responsibility for the department website and has greatly improved the content and layout of the department web-page. Check out our new website! It includes many pictures of our current students enjoying the field components of the program and also pictures of some of our newer instrumental laboratories.

It has been a few years since we last had a spring break trip in the department, but this year Brian Mahoney and Lori Snyder re-initiated this concept by organizing a visit to the Soufriere Hills Volcano on Montserrat and the carbonate reefs and limestone of Antigua in the eastern Caribbean. Twelve students participated and the Soufriere Hills Volcano was active and cooperative. Students were treated to the spectacle of small pyroclastic flows, numerous phreatic eruptions and occasional dustings of ash associated with small lava-dome rock-falls. The group spent two days with staff from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory learning about volcanic hazards and the impact of this eruptive cycle on the population of the island of Montserrat and also spent a couple of days snorkeling/diving on active coral reefs. This was a great and international geology experience for our midwestern students and a very successful trip that is sure to be repeated in future years.

Overall, the department is very healthy and the students continue to get a world-class education at our state regional comprehensive university. We look forward to hosting alumni visits to the department so please stop by whenever you are passing through town. There may be some new faces in the department, but we’re still as welcoming as ever!

Geology Club banquet held

In May 2005 the Geology Club began what it hopes to be a new tradition in the department. The Geology Club sponsored a geology banquet at the American Legion on Water Street. The event was well attended by students, friends and family of students, and faculty. After a social hour and a fine banquet, graduating seniors Jim Watkins and Kevin Gostomski entertained us with skits and songs that pertained to life in the UWEC Geology Department. Their act was humorous and well received! The Geology Club has another banquet planned for May 2006, and we hope that this event is as successful as last year’s inaugural event!
Once again, as with many years past, Bob Hooper and Lori Snyder set out from Eau Claire with fifteen helpless college students packed into vehicles, all of them anxious for the wonderful experience ahead. We leave on time, all is going according to plan, we get to Badlands National Park, pull out our sleeping bags, and then...it begins to rain. Yes, Rain, and its friends, Snow and Sleet, become our close companions this year. But in the face of adversity, we try to rise to the occasion (when we aren’t huddled under trees!) In all seriousness, in spite of the less-than-stellar weather, the trip was fantastic. We visited classic geologic features such as the Piney Creek Thrust Fault and Specimen Ridge in Yellowstone, and also visited lesser-known sites such as Ten Sleep Canyon. In fact, the view from the top of Ten Sleep Canyon was one of the best we have had. Wildlife was abundant and we saw wolf pups at Yellowstone playing on a hill. Unfortunately, last year’s wolf pups experienced a 70% mortality rate last summer from the introduction of parvovirus by dogs. We hope they do better this year. It appears the bear population, however, is doing well, as evidenced by very fresh, very large tracks. We decided not to follow them this year...!

Field trip down memory lane... by Kent Syverson

Ever tell stories to your spouse, kids, grandkids, relatives, and friends about the "good old days" when you went on geology field trips to neat places? Ever wish that you could return to those "good old days" even for one day? You have that chance on Saturday, June 10, 2006! Kent Syverson will lead a day-long environmental geology field trip in the Chippewa Valley region. Stops will include bedrock favorites such as Dells Dam, Big Falls, Jim Falls; environmental stops such as Onyx Sevenmile Creek Landfill and discussions of hydroelectric power generation; as well as results of recent glacial geology research in Chippewa County, including a preview of the new WGNHS Chippewa County glacial geology map and stops at a gravel pit and the Chippewa Moraine Visitor’s Center.

The field trip will depart from the UW-Eau Claire Phillips Parking Lot on June 10th at 8:30 a.m. (coach bus boarding at 8:15 a.m.), and arrive at campus at 4:45 p.m. You will need to provide your own sack lunch. A detailed itinerary is available upon request. The trip costs $55/person. For registration information, visit UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education at http://www.uwec.edu/ce/geofieldtrip/, call: 715-836-3636 or toll-free 866 UWEC4CE (866-893-2423), or e-mail: ce@uwec.edu.

Bring a child, spouse, and/or friend and relive the glory years!
Beckstroms Establish Golder Scholarship
(modified from UW-Eau Claire News Bureau press release)

Two UW-Eau Claire alumni from Minneapolis have partnered with their employers to establish the first UW-Eau Claire scholarship for students majoring in geology.

Greg and Julia (Weinstein) Beckstrom made an initial $1,000 gift to establish the Golder Associates Scholarship (named for Greg’s employer, which matched his gift). While establishing the scholarship with the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Greg learned that Cargill, Inc., Julia’s employer, also would match the gift, significantly increasing the value of the scholarship. The beneficiary will be an outstanding geology major with a strong academic record and financial need.

“Participating in field experiences around the country is an important part of the geology curriculum, so geology majors have extra financial demands,” said Kent Syverson, professor of geology. “A scholarship of this magnitude will have a huge impact on students and the department.”

Greg, who graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a B.S. in Geology in 1984, heads global marketing for Golder Associates, a group of consulting companies specializing in ground engineering and environmental services. Julia, a 1985 management information systems graduate, is an IT manager with Cargill.

Greg has maintained a strong link with the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department over the years, which led to the creation of the annual scholarship.

“I have incredibly fond memories of my undergraduate experience,” Greg said. “As a residence hall adviser, I met Julia during a staff get-together. Both Julia and I feel strongly about helping UW-Eau Claire and were thrilled to work with the Geology Department on the scholarship.” Throughout his career, Greg has stayed in touch with the department.

“I always maintained contact with the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department, stopping in to see Dr. Paul Myers and Dr. Robert Hooper every few years,” he said. “The department also has done a wonderful job of keeping me in touch with others via the departmental newsletter.” Additionally, Greg was asked to participate in the department’s Earth Science Lecture Series.

Greg approached the department with the idea of setting up a student scholarship. “I have been privileged to use my undergraduate education throughout my entire career, first in the oil exploration business and then in the environmental consulting business,” Greg said. “Now I want to give back to the department that gave me my start.” The Geology Department thanks Greg and Julia for their generosity!

Kawatski wins first Golder Associates Corp. Scholarship

David Kawatski, a junior-to-be geology major from Mosinee, WI, has been awarded the first Golder Associates Corp. Scholarship. Dave has established a fine academic record at UW-Eau Claire while becoming involved in many activities such as the Geology Club, Singing Statesman, UWEC men’s soccer club, and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. In addition, Dave has been conducting research with Phillip Ihinger on the growth rates of quartz crystals. Congratulations, Dave!

This $2000 scholarship, established last fall by Greg and Julia Beckstrom, is for comprehensive geology majors who have completed Mineralogy-Petrology I, have developed an excellent academic record, and have demonstrated a financial need.
LORILIE M. STEINKE, Academic Department Associate  
steinkim@uwec.edu

Greetings! I am the new Geology Department Associate. In January of 2006 I transferred to the department after 16 years in the Central Stores Department on campus. It has been a very interesting change of pace for me. I’ve really enjoyed working on the newsletter with Kent and reading all the updates from alumni. Please keep sending us news and updates as everyone in the department appreciates hearing from you!

Most of my free time away from work is spent with my husband and two daughters. We recently moved into a new home and have spent countless hours working on our yard. Our biggest project has been putting in a goldfish pond, which has been a true labor of love!

KATHERINE GROTÉ, Assistant Professor  
grotekr@uwec.edu

In the past year, I continued to refine my teaching skills and started to establish my hydro research program at UWEC. I spent a significant portion of last summer searching for springs in west-central Wisconsin with Abbey Graves (2005) and Ben Vanderwoude (2006). This project continues this year with new students (Jeremy Hinke (2007), Mike Molnar (2006), and Michele Skahaug (2006)) who are involved in a mix of field and office work as we use discharge rates, age determinations, and groundwater chemistry to delineate the recharge zones for these springs. This project is funded by the Wisconsin DNR in response to legislation to protect spring recharge areas.

Cale Anger (2007) and I are working on another research project using large data sets of geophysically-obtained soil water content estimates, in conjunction with sparse point measurements of soil texture, to improve the estimation of soil texture across large areas. We presented initial results from this research at the Dec. 2005 AGU in San Francisco, and presented more results from the past few months at the North-Central GSA meeting in April (Akron, OH). My third research project, undertaken with the help of Anna Baker (2008) and Treven Wisz (2009), seeks to establish a technique for estimating nitrate concentrations in soil water using geophysical techniques. Anna and Treven began this project by analyzing other researchers’ data, and are now starting lab work using time domain reflectometry to establish petrophysical relationships for nitrate estimation in a variety of soil moisture and texture conditions.

Adding a little excitement to my first year here, Eau Claire was the host to the annual state-wide Wisconsin Groundwater Festival in April 2005. Many brave student volunteers from UWEC helped teach groundwater lessons to the 500 5th and 6th graders who converged on Eau Claire, and I had fun training the UWEC students and teaching the middle school kids. This was also a good experience for me (as a newcomer to the area) in that I was able to work with many people outside of the university, and I continue to be impressed by the commitment to environmental education of so many individuals in our community.

KAREN HAVHOLM, Professor  
hatholkg@uwec.edu

This fall I taught the Earth Science course for education majors, as usual, but this spring I am trying Something Completely Different. I am working in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, the office on campus that funds faculty/student collaborative research, organizes Student Research Day, and helps faculty apply for extramural grants.

Chris Lind, former head of the office, retired, and I am filling in until summer when a new person will be hired. It has been a good change of pace for me. Speaking of Research Day, students working with me will present results of work on projects concerning Proterozoic rift sediments in the Bayfield area (Lynn Galston), Mississippian coastal plain sediments in the Appalachians (Jill Krezoski), and Holocene sediments of the Canadian plains in Manitoba (Ashley Wong and Mark Nelson). Each locality has evidence of streams and dunes interacting with each other. This summer we’ll be back in Manitoba and Bayfield to complete the research. The Appalachians project will have to wait until next summer because I work in the Research Office for part of the summer, and there just isn’t time for everything.

ROBERT HOOPER, Professor  
hooperrl@uwec.edu

This has been a very busy year at Eau Claire as I served as Chair of the department, served as the Chair of the search committee for a new UW-Eau Claire chancellor, taught full-time, and remained involved in several research projects. I spent much of last summer either teaching in the field or mapping in the field, so I had lots of exercise and spent considerable time outdoors. This academic year has been almost the opposite, with almost all of my time spent behind a computer console in my office. Over spring break I tagged along on the department field trip to Montserrat to see the recent pyroclastic and volcaniclastic sediments from the Soufriere Hills Volcano. This was a tremendous learning experience on several fronts. These andesitic volcanics are the same types of deposits that we are mapping in the Whitesail Lake research project north of Bella Coola, BC. Volcanics are difficult to work with even when they’re only ten years old, so imagine the puzzle after a few million years of diagenesis, green-schist facies metamorphism, and structural deformation. The lack of lateral continuity within these volcanic units is astounding as they both erode and fill narrow valleys near the volcanic peak. The other thing I learned on this trip is that air travel in the Caribbean is a little more laid-back. If you travel through San Juan, Puerto Rico, you should plan about three days between connections, otherwise you’ll probably miss your next flight.

And, if by some miracle you do get a flight number that matches your ticket, remember that all seats are first-come, first-served, so rush the line to guarantee at least a shot at a seat inside the plane!

The family is doing fine. Matthew and Jennifer both finish college next year and that happily represents a milestone in terms of freeing financial assets for more frivolous expenditures. While college is indeed expensive, as I can personally attest, it is probably the best investment a family can make in terms of the future success of children, so I am not really complaining about the high cost of college tuition. Tourmaline the puppy has become Tourmaline the dog, and she’s already been on a couple of geology field trips. Having a dog has happily placed realistic limits on the amount of time spent at work each day, and it has probably been good for my mental health. Brian Mahoney has additional money to support another field season in BC, so I’m back to the field for another summer and had better get in physical shape for both Rocky Mountain Field Studies and mapping in BC. I am not spending much time in Eau Claire this summer, but if you are in town, stop by and somebody will be tending the department. We have made lots of progress improving the department facilities, and you will be surprised by the new, pleasant department office. We enjoy keeping in touch with alumni, so please keep us in your thoughts and write to us about your recent activities!

PHILLIP HINGER, Associate Professor  
ihinger@uwec.edu

Here we are, already at newsletter time! Our group has remained active this past year. We presented our research on water in miner-
als at the North-Central GSA in Minneapolis (with Lisa Grosvold, 2005, and Ryan Prechel, 2005), on our characterization of the magmatism and structural deformation of the Rocky Mountain foreland (with Joe Nawakisi, 2005; John Stolz, 2005; Christopher Kohel, 2006; Kate MacLaurin, 2006; and Adam Kjos, 2006) at the national GSA in Salt Lake City, UT, and on our work on the tectonic evolution of the North American Cordillera (with Jim Watkins, 2005, and Breck Johnson, 2004), also in Salt Lake City. In addition, four posters will be presented at this year’s UWEC Research Day, including collaborative research with Christopher Kohel (2006), Kate MacLaurin (2006), Adam Kjos (2006), Travis Pickering (2006), and David Kawatski (2008). We will be presenting our results on impurities in gemmy quartz crystals at the 8th International Symposium on Crystallization in Glasses and Liquids at Jackson Hole, WY, in September.

On a personal note, I am delighted to watch my girls grow up, strong, independent, and proud. Ghislaine is enjoying her sophomore year at Memorial High School, Matti now takes the bus to kindergarten, and Evie is now a vocal member of the toddler’s room at day care. I could not be a more contented father! Meanwhile, I very much enjoyed meeting many of you at the NC GSA in Minneapolis and Salt Lake City. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future!

STEPHANIE MAES, Lecturer

I joined the Geology Department as a Lecturer in Spring 2006, to fill in for Karen Havholm. Since January, I have been teaching Geology 106, the Earth Science course for elementary education majors. Over the next few weeks I look forward to taking the students in the field to explore Eau Claire’s geology. My students are anxious to get out of the lab room, and I know this will be a learning experience for us all.

When not tied up with preparing for class, teaching, meeting with students, and grading, I am attempting to finish my Ph.D. dissertation at UW-Madison. My dissertation research (when I find time to do it) focuses on documenting magmatic structures in mafic-layered intrusions to understand their emplacement and evolution. My research combines many different geological tools, such as field mapping, mineral fabric analysis, and electron microprobe analysis with a variety of magnetic techniques to study magma-flow patterns, fabric development, and internal structure of mafic intrusions. As well as adding to our understanding of the evolution of mafic intrusions, this interdisciplinary approach may shed light on the formation and location of ore deposits commonly associated with these types of intrusions.

Thank you to everyone in the Geology Department for making me feel so welcome since I arrived and making my experience here a great one!


J. BRIAN MAHONEY, Professor

mahoneyj@uwec.edu

As a geologist deeply involved with geochronology and earth history, I know that it is simply not possible for time to be flying by as rapidly as it appears! Every time I turn around, I am getting more deeply involved with fantastic projects involving energetic, intelligent students and highly motivated faculty and colleagues determined to produce cutting-edge research. Our department is a hotbed of activity and energy, and we continue to offer our students unparalleled opportunities in experiential education and collaborative research. I am becoming increasingly convinced we provide one of the best undergraduate geology experiences on the continent, and I am proud to be a part of this department! We are producing some very high-quality graduates that I look very forward to interacting with for years to come.

It has once again been a very busy year. The combination of new analytical techniques and an explosion of interest in bedrock mapping and resource assessment has driven an extremely active research agenda. My ongoing work in Late Cretaceous basins in Baja Mexico and British Columbia is leading to some amazing insights into orogenic exhumation patterns and the dynamic linkage with basin subsidence. New advances in Laser Ablation ICPMS have allowed collaboration with the University of Arizona in highly productive research: we produce 1598 U/Pb detrital zircon ages in a 96-hour session in late November. These analyses would have required several months using SHRIMP or other techniques!! The next year will see significant production of Nd isotopic values and Ar/Ar k-spar analyses, which will provide an unprecedented record of basin development along the Late Cretaceous western margin of North America.

The explosion of interest in the geologic evolution of British Columbia continues. We were able to procure funding ($275,000) from Geoscience BC for bedrock mapping of the western Whitesail Lake map area in west-central British Columbia. This is an all-out effort combining research teams from UW-Eau Claire, the Geological Survey of British Columbia and the University of British Columbia. Last year Bob Hooper and Lori Snyder participated in the project, along with UWEC students Adam Kjos and Kate MacLaurin. The countryside is very, very remote, and contains some spectacular scenery and geology. Our field crew will be bigger this year, the last year of the project, and we are keeping our fingers crossed, as we have a huge amount of territory to cover and short time to cover it!

All aspects of the geologic industry are just booming – petroleum, resources, environmental – it is truly an amazing time. Our industry and graduate school placement is stellar, and we anticipate growth in the department over the next few years. This really is a very unique department, and we continue to grow, with new instrumentation (HR-ICPMS), technical support (Jill Ferguson joins the Materials Science Center in July), and an ever-expanding repertoire of field trips and other opportunities. It is because of our students and alumni that we continue to strive for the best! 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!

LORI SNYDER, Senior Lecturer

snyderld@uwec.edu

I hope this spring finds you all healthy and happy. Life at UW-Eau Claire keeps moving along, and even with substantial budget cuts, we are managing to maintain a vibrant department. My year has been filled with teaching and other enjoyable activities. This past summer began with Geology 303 (you can read all about this year’s trip in the separate news item), continued with teaching Environmental Geology, and finally went on to mapping in remote areas of British Columbia with Bob Hooper, Brian Mahoney, and students Adam Kjos and Kate MacLaurin. We had great weather in British Columbia, and it turned out to be a very productive field season. Department of Geology alumna Suzie Reed and current student Adam Kjos presented their work from summer 2004 at the national GSA meeting in Salt Lake City last October. In January, I spent some time with the Field Camp Crew in Kingston, New Mexico. Remember, if you are in the area, stop by the Department and say hello!
Greetings! I am now in my 14th year at UW-Eau Claire, and I am still enjoying teaching and collaborative research with undergrads. We held an alumni reunion at the North-Central GSA meeting in Minneapolis. I saw many familiar faces, met some new faces, and had a great time! Mark Holmes (class of 1997) came all the way from Arizona for the big event! (Mark said he came home to visit his parents, but we know better...)

Spring semester was spent preparing for NC GSA. Students David Mans and Josh Kinsman presented research posters about work in Maine and Antarctica, respectively. In addition, I co-led a glacial geology NC GSA field trip May 21-22. Approximately thirty professional geologists from the Midwest attended the trip through Polk, St. Croix, and Chippewa Counties. The field trip went well. The only problem was that the trip ended on Sunday evening and then on Monday afternoon my family and I flew to Scotland for seven weeks.... I did my packing on Monday morning....

My entire family and I left for our big Scotland adventure on 5/23/05. I taught oceanography in the Wisconsin in Scotland program near Edinburgh. We lived for six weeks in our own palace built in 1703. (OK, we had to share it with other faculty and students, but it was still nice!) My family enjoyed feeding the horses and chickens on the estate. We attended a local church and made several good friends. We visited numerous castles, Arthur’s Seat, Siccar Point, Rosslyn Chapel, Isle of Skye, Loch Ness, Stirling, Hadrian’s Wall, and York. The highlight of Scotland was visiting Siccar Point – the North Sea site where geology pioneer James Hutton described the classic angular unconformity in the late 1700s. I took my class to Siccar Point on a sunny day when the waves were crashing on the shore – spectacular!

We spent three fun days in Iceland on our return trip. We saw the rift, lava flows, Geysir (the Icelandic geyser that gave us the English word), hot springs, and puffins. I enjoyed the beautiful waterfalls and glaciers. While eating lunch overlooking Solheimajokull, I told the family that some tourists walking on the pitted outwash plain in front of the glacier were in danger of “being slimed.” And sure enough, a man sank over his knees into the quicksand-like material. He was “slimed,” and my credibility with the family unit skyrocketed for at least 15 minutes! We returned to Eau Claire on July 24th.

Things are moving along this academic year. I am still a First Amendment rabble-rouser who “encourages” UW-Eau Claire to respect First Amendment rights. Progress has been made on this front (thanks to UW System intervention). Karen Havholm and I have been working with Geography faculty to develop an interdisciplinary geomorphology degree. I have been studying the origin of the Blue Hills Felsenmeer State Natural Area in Rusk County with student Andrew Thompson. The Blue Hills Felsenmeer is a 300-m-long valley that is completely lined with angular boulders 0.7 m in diameter. It seems out of place in Wisconsin...! Andrew presented this research at NC GSA in Akron, OH.

My family is doing well. Soon I will have an official teenager – proof that I have been in Eau Claire a long time! We are staying in Eau Claire this summer to enjoy family and friends. This summer I will teach Environmental Geology and continue my research in the Blue Hills Felsenmeer region. If you are in the area, please swing by the department!


Emeritus Faculty News

Paul E. Myers, Professor Emeritus. Over ten years ago I “retired” from teaching at UW-Eau Claire — and slipped silently into the oblivion of Geologic History. Donald Willis and I are the oldest “living fossils” surviving from the “formative years” of our department’s dim Precambrian. You probably thought that there were no fossils from the Precambrian. Ha!

Ron and I belong to that rare extinct species, Professori antiquensis. And for your information, we’re still able to climb a hill, raise a hammer, and bust a rock, even if we don’t remember exactly what to do with it. If you’d like to hear some juicy stories about the “Olden Days,” just invite us to one of your erudite gatherings. You’d be surprised at the hair-raising adventures we had on our many field trips and field camps. These stories have “improved” with retelling. Can you believe that we actually offered a complete Geology major with only 3 full-time faculty members? I’ll never forget trying to teach Paleontology when Ron Willis was someplace overseas looking for oil. Challenging! Made me mad to see how tanned and relaxed he was when he returned to teach the next semester.

To dispel any illusion that emeriti faculty spend their time sleeping in recliners all day, I should tell you that I got real tired of cutting and hauling firewood, pulling snow off the roof, and installing interior trim, and retreated back to teaching at Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont (“Earth Resources”, “Geology of National Parks”, and “Geology & Man”). When I tell my colleagues, they look at me funny, and I know they’re thinking, “This guy has gone goofy - pumice for brains!” And that’s not all: besides teaching two days a week, I spend a lot of time writing nasty letters to the editors of Vermont newspapers, raising hell at town meetings, and mapping the local geology which is exceedingly complex. I won’t bore you with the details, but just invite you to drop in sometime for a tour, good food, and warm camaraderie. My wife Welthy and I are living in our cozy solar-wind house, driving our slick little Prius, and playing host to folks from all over. So, if you really want to “get away from it,” come and see us. I’d just like you to know that New England is STILL part of the United States. Phone: 802-824-6626. myerspe@starband.net

John Tinker, Professor Emeritus. Hello everyone! I hope all of you are in good health, happy with your work, and are enjoying life and family. I walk for my good health, retirement is fun, and my life and (Emeriti Faculty News continued on page 11)
Donations to the Department

The Geology Department is facing financial challenges due to state budget cuts. The department has determined that it is necessary for us to start encouraging our alumni to consider donating something back to your undergraduate department. Your support is greatly appreciated! Please consider giving 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, twenty-seven individuals/companies donated $5500 to the Geology department accounts (see page 10)! 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 funds. 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. 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.
- 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.

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 funds! If you work for a corporation or a geology-related firm, please inquire if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.

Our Geology Department Advancement Fund is the primary support fund for the department. It is used to support a wide range of activities in the Department including student travel to national meetings, special research and instructional equipment, faculty recruitment, and the seminar program. If you choose, your gift can also be applied in part or total to individual scholarship award funds. See information above for minimum commitments for establishing your own scholarship. Undesignated funds will be credited to the Geology Department Advancement Fund.

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 __________________________________________ ________________

Address

City____________________ State_______ Zip__________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geology Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancement Fund-Undesignated (#279)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund (#1633)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Emeritus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund-Unnamed (#1632)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9
The Earth Science Seminar Series has been a wonderful addition to the Geology Department. The seminar, co-sponsored with the Geography Department, has brought excellent speakers to campus. This provides faculty and students with the opportunity to interact with other scientists working on a broad range of research topics, and it also allows us to "show off" our department and research equipment to the visitors…. Below are the talks presented during this academic year. Seminars for next fall will be posted at http://www.uwec.edu/jolhm/Seminar_Series/. In addition, if you live in the area and would like to receive e-mail announcements about upcoming seminars, please contact Dr. Garry Running at runningg@uwec.edu. If you work for a company that would like to sponsor the seminar series or contribute money to defray speaker costs, please contact us!

Bob Hollon and Michael Kolis, Curriculum and Instruction, UW-Eau Claire, "Teaching and Learning Science: Why are some ideas so difficult? Critical Barriers to Real Understanding," 9/15/05.

Basil Tikoff, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Baja-BC at Last: Deformation in the Western Idaho Shear Zone," 9/30/05.


Rinita Dalan, Minnesota State University-Moorhead presented "The Search for a Soil Magnetic Signature of Human Occupation," 10/7/05.


Bryan Shuman, University of Minnesota, "Tracking the Effects of Past Climate Changes in North America," 11/18/06.

Christine Dalenta, University of Hartford, and Harry Jol, UWEC Geography Department, "Holy Sites/Sights: Photography, Archaeology, Earth Science," 12/2/05.

Chris Lind, UWEC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, "Travel to the Antarctic Peninsula," 12/9/05.

Paul Morin, University of Minnesota, "Visualization in the Earth Science Classroom," 1/27/06.

Robert Hooper, UWEC Geology Department, "The Critical Role of Colloids and Nano-Crystals in Sequestering Metals in Low-Temperature Environments: New Insights on the Fate of Metals in Environmental Systems (Size Does Matter)," 2/10/06.

Valetta Scott, Hosky, Barton & Wyatt, Inc., "To Build or Not to Build: Feasibility Study for an Earthfill Dam in a Seismic Zone," 2/24/06.


Richard Ojakanjas, University of Minnesota-Duluth, "Was North America Once Part of Finland? (2300 Million-Year-Old Glacial Deposits and Paleosols)," 4/21/06.


Stephanie Maes, UWEC Geology Department, "Emplacement Dynamics of Layered Mafic Intrusions: An AMS study of the Sonju Lake Intrusion, Northeast Minnesota," 5/12/06.

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since April 2005.

American Transmission Co.
Karl Beaster
Greg and Julie Beckstrom (with employer match)
BHP Billiton Petroleum Inc.
Cargill, Inc.
Chevron Texaco
Joseph Drapeau
Dawn Gabardi
Golder Associates, Inc.
Jane Grosvold
Kristen Gunderson
Curtis Heuer
Mark Holmes
Matthew Hostak
Mark Kiessling (with employer match)
David Meyer
Curt Peck (with employer match)
Phelps Dodge Foundation
Todd Renville
Glenn Reynolds
Dave Risch (with employer match)
Paula Sumpter
Cheryl Therrien
Chad Underwood
Kristin Weaver Bowman
David Wolfe
Richard Zahorik

RECENT GEOLOGY GRADS

FALL 2005
Abby Graves, General Geology
Joseph Nawikas, General Geology
John Stoltz, General Geology
Jacob Brzeskiewicz, Geography major w/Geology Liberal Arts Minor
Carissa Pannell, Biology major w/Geology Liberal Arts Minor

SPRING & SUMMER 2006 (unofficial list)
Ryan Brintingale, Geology Liberal Arts w/Math Minor
Christopher Kohel, General Geology
Gillian Krezskoi, Geology Liberal Arts and History Majors
Shawn Lyman, General Geology
Benjamin Vanderwoude, Hydrogeology
Ashley Wong, Geography Major w/Geology Liberal Arts Minor
Jennifer Hubbard, Geology Liberal Arts w/Chemistry Minor

Lopez and Watkins Presented the “Excellence in Geology” Award in 2004-05

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 of the Geology Excellence Award for 2004-2005 were Jessica Lopez and James Watkins.

Jessica Lopez (written by Karen Havholm, former research collaborator)
Jessica hails from Glendale, WI. She discovered geology after she was well on her way to a degree in Spanish, so she decided to complete a major in each. Jessica joined the SCAPE (Study of Cultural Adaptation in the Prairie Ecozone) project, which focuses on understanding the interaction of plains people with their environment. She did summer field work in the glacial Lake Hind basin in southwestern Manitoba with Karen Havholm and Garry Running (Geography and Anthropology) and a diverse team of archaeologists, anthropologists and geoscientists. Moving cubic meters of sand with a shovel, she worked out details about the stratigraphy of sediments exposed by the Souris River and advanced the interpretation of landscape change throughout the middle and late Holocene. With her sense of humor, she also kept the field team in good spirits. Jessica is finishing up her first year as a geology graduate student at UW-Madison, working with Alan Carroll to develop a provenance and basin history for quartzose estuarine sediments in Northern Patagonia, Argentina.

James Watkins (written by Phillip Ihinger, former research collaborator)
Jim came to Eau Claire from Spooner, WI, after having spent a year in the engineering program at UW-Madison. While majoring in geology here at UWEC, Jim continued to build his foundation in quantitative analysis (he was a math minor), while maintaining his stellar GPA. Jim completed several important research projects while at UWEC. His field work (completed during the summers of 2003, 2004, and 2005) included work on the Sweetgrass Hills and the Highwood Mountains of Montana, and on the Black Hills and associated intrusions of South Dakota and Wyoming. His lab work included analyses on the XRF, FTIR, and construction of the experimental petrology facilities in Phillips 116. Jim was involved in seven UWEC Research Day Posters, and together, we have presented four papers at national meetings. In recognition of his accomplishments, Jim was selected as the lone recipient of UWEC’s most prestigious award, the Kell Container Scholarship for Faculty/Student Collaborative Research (which provided Jim with full tuition, room, board, and funds for research). In addition, Jim was the president of the SGE Honors Society for two years, and his creative talents delighted the Eau Claire community every week through his satirical comic strip, the Mash Pit. Jim is attending UC-Berkeley to pursue geology graduate studies under the mentorship of Donald DePaolo and Michael Manga. It was a pleasure to mentor Jim throughout his undergraduate career, and I will miss him much here in Eau Claire!

FORERMIN 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 Gordes and Ben Paulson
2003-2004: Laura Strumness and Mark Ciardelli

Piper wins Annual Award for Service

The “Annual Award for Service” recognizes the exceptional service that a geology major has done for the department. This year’s recipient was Christina Piper.

Christina Piper (with information supplied by Nancy Amdahl)
Christina Piper won the second “Annual Award for Service” in the Geology Department. Christina grew up in Eau Claire, attended Eau Claire North High School, and then took a detour to Minnesota State University-Mankato before coming back to UWEC. She took Lori Snyder’s Physical Geology class during her first semester, and she was hooked as a geology major. We are thankful for that! It is difficult to put a finger on all the things Christina did for the department. When something needed to be done, she was there. She served as a go-fer, helped with the “Rock Tour” Geology Club T-shirt, worked with others to bolster the Geology Club, etc. Her presence is missed around the Geology Department! Christina is currently living in Massillon, Ohio.

FORMER AWARD RECIPIENT
2003-2004 - Sarah Prindiville

Emeriti Faculty News (continued from page 8)

family keep me busy. My third grandson, Jack Christian Tinker-Sackett, was born last January and both baby and mother are in good health. I send my warm regards to each of you.

Ronald P. Willis, Professor Emeritus.
Ron writes that he and his wife Thorie are in the midst of a permanent move westward. They will be moving to Idaho in June. He also adds that the weeks spent camping at Cottonwood Canyon and the Big Horn Mountains, measuring and describing the Paleozoic and Mesozoic exposures, and then mapping the Horseshoe Bend and Sheep Mountain areas were truly fantastic. “I still have on my wall several arrowheads I found among the sagebrush there,” Ron says, and notes that those precious memories are perhaps the main reason for their decision to move westward. willisrt@charter.net
Ian Anderson (2004). Ian proposed to Christina Piper (2004) in February with a large amphitheater cluster. Christina was thrilled! They are planning to marry in Costa Rica and hold a reception in Eau Claire in 2007. Ian is enjoying his new job while Christina is still job searching.

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg is the Associate, Senior Consultant and Head of Global Marketing for Goldcorp E&P. He did his internship in Ashland, WI, where he conducted research on the evolution of the Yukon-Tanana terrain, which involves zapping zircons with lasers.

Jesse Bernhardt (2004). Jesse recently completed a Student Conservation Association internship in Ashland, WI, where he conducted forest inventories for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. "Working for a government agency provided some interesting opportunities. I was trained as a wild land firefighter to assist with prescribed burns, and went to San Antonio, TX, last September to assist the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina," he reflects. Jesse started grad school at UW-Milwaukee this January in the GIS certificate program. This summer he will be working for the Crawford County Land Conservation Department using GPS/GIS to create a geodatabase of the county’s non-metallic mining sites.

Nicole (Bergstrom) Kane (2002). Nicole is a Team Leader for the Humana Claims Recovery Department in Minneapolis. The company performs a variety of environmental services, most notably drilling, monitoring well installation, and sampling. His wife Cheryl, also a UWEC graduate, is a special education teacher at Coafield, TN. Their oldest son Justin is a student at ETSI in Johnson City, TN, their middle son Corey is a mechanic for TDOT in Knoxville, and their youngest son Terry is enrolled in the criminal justice program at ITT Tech in Knoxville.

Lace Carpenter (1994). Tracey is working as a hydrologist for the Arizona Department of Water Resources in Phoenix, AZ. She bought a house there last year, and that has kept her very busy.

Tim Coffey (1981). Tim is a senior geologist with Science Applications International Corp. The company performs a variety of environmental services, most notably drilling, monitoring well installation, and sampling. His wife Cheryl, also a UWEC graduate, is a special education teacher at Coafield, TN. Their oldest son Justin is a student at ETSI in Johnson City, TN, their middle son Corey is a mechanic for TDOT in Knoxville, and their youngest son Terry is enrolled in the criminal justice program at ITT Tech in Knoxville.

Josh Carlisle (2002). Josh is employed at CBM Associates, Inc. of Laramie, WY, an environmental consulting firm that specializes in water resource issues for the oil and gas industries across the western U.S. He is currently managing a staff of eleven multidisciplinary scientists in the Environmental Planning and Permitting Department. His family recently moved to Laramie, so he “won’t have to deal with the 140-mile commute any longer,” something he did for three years.

Tracey Carpenter (1994). Tracey is working as a hydrologist for the Arizona Department of Water Resources in Phoenix, AZ. She bought a house there last year, and that has kept her very busy.

Kristie Franz (1995). Kristie is working toward her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at the University of California-Irvine, and planning to complete her degree in the spring of 2006. If you’d like to see what Kristie has been working on, her website is http://hydis8.uci.edu/kristie/.

Scott Galetka (1998). Scott is working in Merrill, WI, as a GIS Project Coordinator for Lincoln County.

Lisa Grosvold (2004). Lisa was hired last fall to be a geologist with Newmont at its Phoenix open pit gold mine near Battle Mountain, NV. "Before an area is blasted, a few hundred holes are drilled and I have to determine if they’re oxide or sulphide ... finding beautiful minerals in nature without having to pay for them!” Lisa Grosvold (2004)
are drilled and I have to determine if they’re oxide or sulphide,” she explains. Soon she will be planning where the bore holes are drilled and performing geologic modeling. She enjoys “finding beautiful minerals in nature without having to pay for them!”

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen is a Project Manager for Earth Tech, Inc. in Milwaukee, WI, where she continues to work on Environmental Management Systems and investigation/remediation projects. Kristen reported that “my big event in 2005 was a weeklong trip to Reykjavik, Iceland, for the Iceland Airwaves music festival. It was the perfect vacation for me—great music and great geology. What else can this girl ask for?”

David Hodek (1995). Dave is working as a Civil/Geological Engineer for ProSource Technologies. He writes that he has had the opportunity to do some “real” geotechnical engineering. He designed a rip rap protection plan for a pipeline crossing the Mississippi River. Dave and his wife Teresa welcomed daughter Sonja to their family last year. He reports that the birth couldn’t have gone better and Sonja has been an absolute joy to have around.

Mark Holmes (1997). Mark works as a Water Resource Manager in the Town of Chino Valley, AZ. “Our community population has grown by 50% in the last three years, so consider trying to keep up with that in water and sewer infrastructure,” states Mark. He has been writing a new water master plan, conservation plan, and drought plan for the area, and is also producing a “Water 101” educational video series that focuses on water conservation, home water audits, and town ordinances dealing with water. Next year he will be budgeting for additional water resource positions and will send those job postings our way.

Matt Hostak (1989). Matt continues to work for the DNR as an air pollution engineer in Oshkosh, WI. Matt’s newest interest is excavating old outhouse pits for artifacts and valuables. To the skeptics, he adds, “You’d be amazed at the cool stuff that comes out of the hole!”

Adam Jacobson (2003). Adam is working as a hydrogeologist at Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure of La Crosse, WI. Although Adam just began work at Shaw, he says that “already I have been exposed to many aspects of the environmental consulting world that most entry-level employees would never see.” Adam notes that there are three UWEC graduates working out of his office (Ryan Sauter, Paul Overlien, and himself), and hopes to have more someday!

Breck Johnson (2004). Breck is currently a Master’s degree candidate at UNCW - Chapel Hill. He and his wife, Erin, live in Chapel Hill with their two dogs. “My thesis project focuses on the generation of K-feldspar megacrysts in the Tuolumne Intrusive Suite, Yosemite National Park, California,” he writes. Breck will be presenting a poster on his preliminary results in Anchorage, AK, at the GSA Cordilleran meeting in May.

Drew Kennedy (2003). Drew is working for Tetra Tech EM, Inc. in Sacramento, CA. He does environmental assessments, remediation projects, and water/soil monitoring. “I like the work enough, but I would still like to teach,” he notes.

Mark Kiessling (1995). Mark, his wife, Savona, and their three children, Rosemary, August, and Samuel, have been residing in Morenci, AZ, for the past eight years. Mark says that he has left the geology department at Phelps Dodge for a position in management, thus contributing to overall company overhead! “Mostly I use mathematics and statistics to solve business problems and improve business performance. The environment is fast-paced and I have been on a substantial learning curve since I made the change. I miss doing the geology, but am enjoying the new challenges.” Mark and Savona have also been enjoying introducing their young kids to the joys of hiking in the desert.

Larry Kinsman (1994). Larry is the owner of ORIN Remediation Technologies in McFarland, WI. His company specializes in chemical containment and remediation.

Melissa Klinger (2001). Melissa is working for Devon Energy in Oklahoma City, OK. She began working there while writing her MS thesis, which she successfully defended at the University of Idaho last September. She works in the Permian Basin in West Texas and has opportunities to visit drilling rigs. She adds, “after reading the ’05 newsletter I would almost re-take Mineralogy just to use the remodeled labs!” Mel is also very excited about getting married this coming August to a petroleum geologist she met in grad school.

Josh Kohn (2000). Josh is employed at Xcel Energy, where he has just finished his 5th year. He wrote to us while enjoying his winter months off, submitting this report from Hawaii where he was on a short-term mission trip to help a small church with repairs and landscaping projects. He had the opportunity to explore the entire island of Maui before heading to Honolulu, where he attended the NFL Pro Bowl. After Hawaii he will head to Japan for two weeks. Weather permitting, he hopes to climb Mt. Fuji. His band Be My Emergency just recorded its first CD and the group is “looking at playing a gig in Eau Claire sometime in the near future.”

Kevin Krenik (1982). Kevin is a geological advisor for Exxon Mobil Production Company. He is currently engaged in the exploration for, and development of, oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico shelf. He has been with Exxon/ExonMobil for over 20 years and still finds the job to be challenging and enjoyable. “When I first hired, the price of oil was headed toward $10/barrel and most companies were laying off geoscientists by the herd,” he notes. “These days, with oil hovering around $60/barrel, most companies are struggling to keep staff from jumping to other companies for better salaries.”

Ann (Melby) Kron (1996). Ann is working as a Hazardous Waste Permitter for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. “We’re still living in Helena and enjoying it,” she writes. “We have two sons now, Ayden (3), and Schuyler (1). They keep us on our toes! We get them out hiking as much as we can, and I was proud when I told Ayden to be careful climbing some rocks and he exclaimed, ‘This isn’t a rock, Mommy, it’s an OUTCROP!’” Ann adds that her job involves overseeing remediation of soil and groundwater contamination, as well as dealing with hazardous waste generation issues at a refinery, a creosote tie-treating plant, and a pesticide-formulating plant. “I have been getting into the financial assurance aspect of clean-ups, which is an interesting piece of the ‘clean-up puzzle.”

Excavating old outhouse pits for artifacts and valuable... “you’d be amazed at the cool stuff that comes out of the hole.”

Matt Hostak (1989)

“This isn’t a rock, Mommy, it’s an OUTCROP!”

Ann (Melby) Kron (1996)
Jessica Lopez (2005). Jessica is attending graduate school at UW-Madison. She spent six weeks in Argentina completing field work and writes that the “deserts of northern Patagonia are a great place to do field work because of great rock exposure, dry heat, clear days, and cool nights.” She adds that after the initial transition period she feels better about graduate school and has a better focus and direction after a very positive field experience.

Taryn Lopez (2003). Taryn is finishing her Master’s degree at Michigan Tech. Last summer, she worked as a Research Assistant at the Cascades Volcano Observatory, and this January she spent three weeks at the Cerro Negro Volcano in Nicaragua where she measured the temperature and sulfur output of volcanic gases. She adds, “I definitely still have the Eau Claire-Geology field ethic ingrained in my head, as every morning I wanted to be on the road by 8:00 or I would feel like we were burning daylight!”

“Taryn Lopez (2003)"

Todd “Pyro” Myse (1995). Todd works for ENSR’s Water Resources Division. “I do a lot of fracture work, which I love,” he notes. Todd has been able to do some surface and downhole geophysics as well as conduct some packer tests to determine the hydrogeologic properties of certain fracture zones. He’s enjoying life in the Northeast and notes that anyone visiting the area should feel free to look him up. “I’ll be happy to show you some trails, tunes, and tasty brews!”

Jamie Oakley (1995). Jamie works for Geo-Engineers, Inc. in Anchorage, AK. “We are very busy with offshore domestic and international geotechnical and geophysics projects,” she notes. Jamie invites any interested candidates to visit www.GeoEngineers.com to view job openings, as the current workload is greater than their staff. joakley@geoengineers.com

Heidi Rantala (1997). Heidi spent last summer in the Alaskan arctic, researching the influence of lakes on stream ecosystem processes for a dissertation project. She hopes to get her Ph.D. from the U of Alabama in Spring 2007. [Editor’s note: Heidi sent KMS a Fred Meyer Foods pen. Alumni of his classes will know this was a wicked thing to do…!]

Ben Running (2004). Ben worked for a year as a geologist at Secor International in San Diego, CA. This spring, he accepted a five-month Student Conservation Association position in Salmon, ID, where he will use GPS to monitor invasive plants throughout the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. He writes that he is “excited about this position and excited to get out of southern California.”

Ryan Sauter (2004). After a post-graduation trip to Europe, Ryan took a job with Tracer Research/Paxair testing tanks and pipelines throughout California, Florida, and all along the East Coast. He proposed to Lynn Freude and they were married July 9, 2005, in Tomahawk, WI. After getting married, Ryan decided it was time to get off the road and find a job with a consulting firm. He is now employed at Shaw Environmental in La Crosse, WI. “Since I did so much growing up in 2005, I decided to jump right in and complete the transformation by buying a house in the area,” Ryan notes. “Ownership is quite an adventure, but then again, there isn’t any better way to justify drinking beer on a Saturday than fixing something.”

Lisa (Sobczak) Robinson (1998). Lisa has been working in Laboratory Technical Support and Training at the Hach Company in Loveland, CO, for more than three years. “I’ve recently taken on more responsibility as a technical trainer for Hach’s sales force and external customers,” Lisa notes. “I really enjoy my new responsibilities and I have a new-found appreciation for educators. I didn’t realize how much work it was to prepare for classes.” In addition, Lisa and her husband, Matt, recently purchased some land west of Loveland with a beautiful view of Devil’s Backbone. They’re looking forward to starting the building process in the spring of 2007.

Paula Sumpter (1983). Paula reports that she “has been home nearly a year and is pretty settled in and gainfully employed” in Waukesha, WI.

Jeremy Tregue (2004). Jeremy is working as a full-time information technology consultant for ZyQuest, an IT consulting company in the Fox Valley area. He also continues to work as an independent IT consultant on his own time and is now engaged to Cheryl Frank. “Cheryl and I have been good friends since the day we met one another (second day of our freshman year of college in Eau Claire), and we have been dating for over a year now. We are planning to tie the knot in May 2007, at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens.”

Chad Underwood (1996). Chad’s former employer, GME Consultants, Inc., recently merged with American Engineering Testing, Inc. in St. Paul, MN. He passed his exams and is now a Professional Geologist and Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota. Chad writes that he and his wife Alison attended the UWEC Geology alumni event in Minneapolis last year and had a great time. He looks forward to more alumni activities.

Jim Watkins (2005). Jim is currently enrolled in grad school at the University of California-Berkeley. He has been using corn syrup tank experiments to look at plumes interacting with subducting slabs. He is now a teaching assistant for his advisor’s Earth Evolution course. Jim writes, “‘The weather is beautiful, the campus is amazing, and the resources are unbelievable. I definitely picked the right school!”

Ron Weegman (1981). Ron is currently working as a global technology support manager in Houston, TX. He reports, “As you all know from the news, it is a very good time to be in the oil patch. The job opportunities are unlimited both domestically and international. The supply of people can’t keep up with the demand.”

Sarah (Weaver) Moore (1996). Sarah and her family are living in Ponta Delgada, Azores, and recently received a new State Department assignment in Brasilia. They will move to Brasilia, which was their first-choice location, in December 2006. Sarah writes, “We’re pretty excited and would like to remind you all that visitors are always welcome.”

Kristin Weaver-Bowman (1996). Kristin reports that she and her husband Dave are still teaching at California State University in Fullerton. “I am enjoying teaching Earth and Space Science for Future Teachers and continue to work with my colleagues to develop new activities for our introductory-level geology classes,” she says. Kristin splits her time between teaching and being a stay-at-home mom. “Our son, Xander, likes preschool and is growing like a weed!”

Mae Willkom (1998). Mae is a hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin DNR. She is still doing a lot of dog walking and horseback riding and has gotten hooked on yoga.

Dave Winter (1992). Dave is working in Dubuith, MN, as an Operations Manager/Geologist for EMR, Inc.
**Student Research Day – Spring 2006**

by Lindsay Heiser

The Fourteenth Annual UW-Eau Claire Student Research Day was held May 1st 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!

*Note: 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.*

Cale Anger with Katherine Grote, "Characterizing Soil Texture using Geostatistical Methods with Geophysical Data." Cale also presented at the North-Central GSA meeting in Akron, OH, April 20-21, 2006.

Anna Baker and Treven Wisz with Katherine Grote, "Development of a Petrophysical Model to Monitor Nitrate in the Unsaturated Zone."

Brandon Barber with Robert Hooper, "TEM Analysis of Metal Sequestration in the Coeur d'Alene River Valley, Idaho."


Lynn Galston with Karen Havholm, "Re-evaluation of Depositional Environment of Devils Island Sandstone in Northern Wisconsin."

David Kawatski with Phillip Ihinger, "Quantifying Crystal Growth Rates in the Natural Environment."

Adam Kjos and Catherine MacLaurin with J. Brian Mahoney, "Eruptive Activity of Montserrat: Examination of Deposits and Eruption Style."


Christopher Kohel with Phillip Ihinger and J. Brian Mahoney, "Structural and Magmatic Evolution of the Helena Salient, New Mapping and Spatial Geochemical Analysis in the Devil’s Fence Anticlinorium." Winner of second place award in the Natural Sciences division.


Gillian Krezoski, Michele Skahaug, Amanda D. La Gesse, Matthew Hysen, Krystina Engebos, and Jeremy Hinke with J. Brian Mahoney and Lori D. Snyder, "Geologic History and Carbonate Systems of Antigua in the Lesser Antilles."

Amanda La Gesse with J. Brian Mahoney, "Materials Analysis for the Production of Glass."

Shawn Lyman with Colin Shaw, "The Grizzly Creek Brittle/Ductile Shear Zone: Paleomagnetic Insights into Deformation Chronology."


Michael Molnar, Jeremy Hinke, and Michele Skahaug with Katherine Grote, "Identification and Characterization of Springs in West-Central Wisconsin."

Travis Pickering with Phillip Ihinger, "Geochemical Characterization of Tertiary OIB Magmas in the Central Montana Alkaline Province."

Suzie Reed and Adam Kjos with Lori Snyder and J. Brian Mahoney, "Record for Mesozoic Orogeny and Bact-arc Basin Formation and Magmatism in Western Stikinia, Evidence from Strata at John Peaks, Eastern Iskut River Area, Northwestern BC." Presented at the National GSA meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, October 16-19, 2005.

Andrew Thompson with Kent Syverson, "Origin of the Blue Hills State Natural Area #74, Rusk County, Wisconsin." Andrew also presented at the North-Central GSA meeting in Akron, OH, April 20-21, 2006.

Kin-Yan "Ashley" Wong and Mark Nelson with Karen Havholm and Garry Running, "Late Holocene Landscape Development, Atkinson Site, Glacial Lake Hind Basin, Manitoba."
Can You .....