Robert Hooper steps away from chair position after 20 years

by Kent Syverson

Bob Hooper has stepped away from chairing the Geology Department in order to do what he loves – teaching geology to undergraduate students at UW-Eau Claire. Bob, chair of the Geology Department since 1990, has taught hundreds of students in courses such as Mineralogy/Petrology I, Geochemistry, Physical Geology, Rocky Mountain Field Studies, and Field Camp.

Under Bob’s leadership, the Geology Department enhanced its reputation university-wide and nationwide. Bob was instrumental in writing NSF grants to buy major scientific instrumentation in Phillips Hall and lay the groundwork for the Materials Science Center. The equipment did not sit idle because the department became a leader in faculty-student research.

Robert Hooper steps away from chair position after 20 years

When I interviewed at UW-Eau Claire in 1992, it was Chair Robert Hooper who picked me up for the interview. During my entire time at UW-Eau Claire (other than a few semesters while he was teaching in Scotland or on sabbatical), Bob has been my chair. He has done an amazing job as Chair for two decades.

When Bob stepped away from the chair’s position after fall semester, the Interim Chair job fell to me. What a job it is.... It is a rather intimidating task, but I will do my best to lead the department forward.

Fortunately, the department is well positioned. The department has an amazing staff committed to undergraduate teaching and collaborative research. In addition, we hired a new faculty member, Dr. Scott Clark, to fill the position vacated when Karen Havholm assumed the leadership of the university research office on campus. Dr. Clark has a Ph.D. in low-temperature geochemistry from the University of Illinois, and he has been working in a geoscience education postdoc position at Michigan State University for two years. Scott will be an excellent addition to our faculty. We also have a skilled technician, Dr. Jill Ferguson, to help keep the equipment operational.

However, challenges loom as well. UW-Eau Claire still hasn’t adopted an official Blugold mascot. The budgetary situation in the State of Wisconsin is not very promising. And even more seriously, transporting students is becoming more problematic for course-related field trips. It appears that the university is going to eliminate its fleet operations. We are still allowed to rent 15-passenger vans from private firms (when available), but the cost is approximately 2.5x more expensive for local trips. Transportation costs for upper-division field trips are escalating as well, so special course fees are increasing at an alarming rate. I thank all alumni who have contributed to the Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship fund in order to reduce costs for deserving students in Field Camp II. We hope to help more students each year through this scholarship. Thanks also to contributors to the Geology Advancement Fund. Alumni donations are becoming more and more critical to support departmental efforts.

At this point in my career, my first geology students at UW-Eau Claire are becoming well established in their careers (and their lives in general!). This is the rewarding aspect of being in the university – interacting with high-quality students and watching them grow. Keep up the good work, and fly the Blugold banner high!

Sincerely,
Kent Syverson

Bob Hooper steps away from chair position after 20 years

Letter from the Chair 2010

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As you know, student-faculty collaborative research is a mark of excellence in the Geology Dept. at UW-Eau Claire. We thought you would enjoy this showcase of research action shots from the past year! Faculty mentor initials are in parentheses.

1. Jessica Meyers in the high country of Terrace, BC. (GSP, JBM)
2. Zoned fluorite crystal from Illinois studied by Jae Erickson.
3. Moving out! Julia Potter (center) with Brian Mahoney in BC.
4. Sometimes it rains in the field! Brennan Kadulski in coastal BC. (JBM)
Research results!

Of course, dissemination of research results should be the culmination of any research project. The vast majority of our research students present at professional meetings, thanks to generous contributions from alumni like you!
Lori Snyder and Bob Hooper once again led an exciting trip to the Rocky Mountains in summer 2009. The weather was actually quite cooperative except in Yellowstone where we had low clouds that made some of the hikes impossible. We got in our Mt. Washburn hike right before it started snowing, but Mt. Everts was in the clouds every day. As usual, the weather in the Tetons was great and the crowds were minimal. There was much residual snow, but that didn’t influence most of the exercises other than getting really wet boots if you didn’t have gaiters on. We had a nice wolf encounter right below on overlook on the Lamar River Valley, but of course I left the camera in the van so I can’t prove it. Interest in the course remains very high, but it didn’t get offered this year (2010) because of department schedules.

The “Excellence in Geology” Award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major, both in coursework and faculty/student collaborative research. The winners of the Geology Excellence Award for 2010 are Jae Erickson and Crystal Nickel – congratulations!

**JAE ERIKSON**
*(written by Kent Syverson)*

Jae Erickson of Ashwaubenon, WI, earned the Excellence in Geology award for his excellent academic record and his crystal growth research with Phil Ihinger. Jae used the micro-FIR to study a beautiful fluorite crystal with purple and colorless bands from the Cave-in-Rock Fluorspar District in Illinois (see “Spanning the Globe” research photo collection). This study evaluated fluid evolution associated with the ore district mineralization. Jae completed this project by making a fine oral presentation in the “Ore Deposits of the Central U.S.” special session at NC/SC GSA in Branson, MO. While at UW-Eau Claire, Jae was an enthusiastic participant in varsity track (a pole vaulter). Jae has accepted a job in the oil industry.

**CRYSTAL NICKEL**
*(written by Katherine Grote)*

Crystal Nickel of Lake Mills, WI, earned the Excellence in Geology award based on her outstanding academic record and her three years of research experience using geophysical techniques for vadose zone characterization. Crystal began her research as a sophomore working in an off-campus laboratory to investigate the sampling depth of the ground penetrating radar (GPR) groundwaves as a function of frequency and soil conditions. After this project was completed, Crystal worked on a plot-scale study monitoring infiltration with GPR and time domain reflectometry (TDR). She also worked on a field-scale experiment using GPR and low-frequency electromagnetic techniques to monitor the three-dimensional water content distribution in a Wisconsin orchard. Crystal has progressed tremendously in her research; she began by helping prepare soil (i.e. shoveling!) as a sophomore, and is now designing and implementing her own experiments, including programming data loggers, wiring TDRs, designing sophisticated data analysis techniques, and building experimental equipment. Her future graduate advisor will be very pleased with her!

Crystal’s research results have been presented at local through international venues, with presentations at AGU, GSA, the WI Ground Water Association (WGWA), and the UWEC Student Research Day. Crystal has won two outstanding poster awards at WGWA and one at UWEC Student Research Day. She is also a co-author on a recently accepted manuscript to *Water Resources Research*, which is internationally recognized as the premier journal of hydrological research. Crystal is continuing to work on GPR research for the summer of 2010, and then will seek a job in industry for a few years before going on to graduate school.

**LIST OF PREVIOUS EXCELLENCE IN GEOLOGY AWARD WINNERS**
*(continued on page 11)*
**ALUMNI NEWS**

The latest and greatest news from UW-Eau Claire Geology Alumni and Friends.

Amahl, Nancy (Program Assistant 1995-2005). Nancy continues to enjoy her position on campus as the assistant to the Graduate Dean. “I don’t feel like I have much for news,” Nancy commented, “I could always blab about how much fun I am having with our cute little boy (He’s a hoot!), but no exciting travels or new additions to the family this year! 😊”

William “Billy” Bergh (1997). Billy is the owner of Geo Tech Soil & Site Evaluation, LLC, Geo Tech is a soil testing, septic system design, maintenance and inspection company. Additionally, the company services and maintains over fifty residential and commercial aerobic treatment units throughout northwestern Wisconsin. The company was founded in 1995 while Billy attended UW-Eau Claire, and he is currently in the process of transferring partial ownership. The transfer will allow him to focus on other business interests including resort properties, new home construction and condo development, most recently, the purchase of the 18-hole Lake Hallie Golf Course. He is looking forward to the new ventures, but will greatly miss working solely in the business he has nurtured for the past 15 years.

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg writes, “During the last year I’ve been spending my time between Minneapolis (where I live) and San Francisco, CA, & Houston, TX, where Chevron has their major operations. We are doing a fair bit of work for them in Australia, Central Europe, South Africa, and the US. On a personal front, some readers of this newsletter have been tracking my progress in our quest to visit Major League Baseball ballparks. We have finished our journey by wrapping up ballparks #29 and #30 by seeing games last August in Kansas City and St. Louis. My son and I are now considering if we should start visiting hockey arenas.”

Lung Chan (former faculty member, 1984 to 1994). Dr. Chan is currently teaching in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Chan received the inaugural University Distinguished Teaching Award (UDTA) for his exceptional accomplishments in teaching, engagement with students and their learning, curriculum design, renewal, and innovation at the University of Hong Kong. He was honored at the annual award presentation ceremony on January 28, 2010. The UDTA is a new award introduced in 2009 to recognize a teaching staff member who has made outstanding contributions to the scholarship of Teaching and Learning at both the Faculty and University level. Congratulations, Lung!

Gary Genteman (1984). Gary and his wife, Mary Jo, had twins (boy Zachary and girl Jenna) born in October of 2008! He has been working with GZA GeoEnvironmental in Waukesha since November 2005. He is working on a mix of environmental and mining projects. Whatever free time he has left is spent between hunting, fishing and competing in Sporting Clays.”

Abbey Graves (2005). Life is treating her well in San Diego where she has been working at Brown and Caldwell Consultants since April 2006. She has learned much about the consulting industry and now realizes the importance of writing skills, which were taught well by Mahoney. She writes, "The disappointing part of consulting is you don’t get to look at rocks very much. The best I have seen since the UWEC Geology program is a cemented gravelly sand. Outside of work, San Diego is great. I haven’t learned to surf yet, but it sure is nice living a few miles from the beach. My fiancé and I will be getting married in September.”

Harrison Griffin (1996). Harrison is a realty specialist at the BLM-Anchoragge field office.

Steve Hoaglund (2007). Steve is currently in his last semester at UMD and will be graduating in May. He spent the summer of

**Recent Geology Graduates**

**Fall 2009**
Nicholas Borchardt
Bryan Hardel
Adam Krieger
Aaron Rowland
Adam Stapleton
Bridget Wolfe

**Spring & Summer 2010**
(unofficial list)
Jae Erickson
Brooke Fahrenkrog
J.R. Guy
Nathan Heuer
Mitchell Korth
Crystal Nickel
Christopher Olson
Isaac Orr
Elizabeth Teutschmann
Susan Weber

Class of 2010 at the Geology banquet. L to R: Crystal Nickel, Jae Erickson, Brooke Fahrenkrog, Chair Syverson, J.R. Guy, Christopher Olson, and Isaac Orr.

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“**We have finished our journey by wrapping up ballparks #29 and #30.**”

Greg Beckstrom (1984)

“**The disappointing part of consulting is you don’t get to look at rocks very much.**”

Abbey Graves (2005)
The Seventeenth Annual UW-Eau Claire Student Research Day was held April 26-28, 2010, in Zorn Arena on the UW-Eau Claire campus. This event showcases 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.


Giselle Conde, Daniel Steltz and David Kawatski with Phillip Ihinger, “How Fast Did That Crystal Grow? Quantifying the Growth Rate of Natural Quartz Crystals.”


STUDENT RESEARCH DAY (continued on page 14)
Hired a masterpiece of TDR probes and design experiments. They also programmed equipment (we now have an amazing, fully research veterans, so they were given new au-
direction. Most of the students were seasoned be outside after a couple of years in the lab, radar (GPR) groundwaves and time domain much of last summer working on a plot-scale Crist, Crystal Nickel, and Anya Benda spent field work phase of the project last summer off-campus lab closed, we moved into the search has continued at full speed; after our relieved) to find that it's over already. Re-
and full that I am slightly surprised (albeit

As usual, the past year has been so busy and full that I am slightly surprised (albeit relieved) to find that it's over already. Research has continued at full speed; after our off-campus lab closed, we moved into the field work phase of the project last summer and this school year. Bridget Kelly, Taylor Crist, Crystal Nickel, and Anya Benda spent much of last summer working on a plot-scale experiment to monitor an infiltration front using multi-frequency ground penetrating radar (GPR) groundwaves and time domain reflectometry (TDR) probes. It was good to be outside after a couple of years in the lab, and the students enjoyed the new research direction. Most of the students were seasoned research veterans, so they were given new autonomy to design and construct experimental equipment (we now have an amazing, fully modular and adjustable GPR sled system) and design experiments. They also programmed and wired a masterpiece of TDR probes and multiplexers and learned how to apply a uniform infiltration front to an area (much more difficult than it sounds!). Along with advances in water resources science, we learned that gophers are mysteriously compelled to chew buried TDR probes, very few sprinklers emit “uniform” spray, and almost everything can be fixed with zip ties if necessary. After the successful conclusion of the summer infiltration study, we performed a field-scale experiment using multi-frequency GPR and low-
frequency electromagnetics to monitor the three-dimensional water-content distribution in a local orchard. Graduate student Shane Peterson joined us for this experiment, and his efforts were much appreciated. In addition to the GPR-based experiments, I also worked with students Adam Krieger and Raymond Johns on a local project to investigate geologic and anthropogenic factors influencing nitrate contamination in Eau Claire County.

After the field work was over, we spent a busy academic year processing, interpreting, and presenting research results. Students and I presented research at NC/SC GSA in Branson, Soil Sciences of America Bouyoucos Conference in Albuquerque, USDA PI meeting in Flint (MI), the Wisconsin Ground Water Association (WGWA) Annual Meeting in Waukesha, and UWEC Student Research Day, for a total of nine presentations. Crystal Nickel, Taylor Crist, and Shane Peterson won an Outstanding Student Poster Award at WGWA and took third place in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences category at UWEC Student Research Day. We also submitted two manuscripts, one to the Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics and one to Water Resources Research. Both manuscripts have been accepted pending final revisions, so these are major accomplishments for our research team. I am so fortunate to have such a dedicated, intelligent team of students working with me!

In addition to research, life in the classroom and on the home front is going fine. My son Joel (7) is forcing me to remember long-neglected soccer skills, while daughter Elly (3) is continually amusing/frustrating us with her increasing speech skills at bedtime. Both loved our camping expeditions last summer, and this summer we plan to continue that tradition.

Thanks to those alumni who have written and/or stopped by for a visit this year. It's always great to talk to you and to catch up on your lives after UWEC!

KAREN HAVHOLM, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research havholmk@uwec.edu

Hi, all. I am still working in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and still finding it interesting and challenging most days. A faculty committee is considering what kinds of changes might be made to Student Research Day in the future as it continues to grow. And one of these days you, as alumni, will be getting an email asking you to respond to a survey about whether doing research as an undergraduate student (if you did) affected your life and career. So you can be thinking about it!

For family news, Glenn and I continue to enjoy living in Eau Claire, getting our exotic travel by visiting our daughter, wherever she is. Currently she is in Elko, Nevada, on a training rotation at Barrick's Goldstrike open-pit gold mine. We just returned from a visit, which included a tour of the mine and the autoclave processing plant, as well as seeing a little more of northern Nevada.

A highlight of the trip to Nevada actually occurred in the MSP airport as we got ready to fly out. We stopped for a bite to eat and quite fortuitously sat down next to Karl Beaster who was there between flights! We had just a few minutes to reminisce about working on the Hinckley Sandstone project a few years back and to get a little caught up with each other’s news. It is always wonderful to see how and what our former students are doing, so please do keep in touch.

ROBERT HOOPER, Professor hooperrl@uwec.edu

After a year-long sabbatical (AY 08/09) I resumed teaching full-time. Fall of 2009 I taught Mineralogy and Petrology I, and in the spring I taught Geochemistry and Physical Geology. I co-instructed field camp with Geoff Pignotta over the January term, so I put in a little field time this year. The sabbatical really made me focus on what’s most important about UW-Eau Claire, and that is the students. I resigned from being Chair this year and cut back on university service to focus only where I can really make a difference. Life is just too short to spend it on committees that never produce any student benefits. I did some traveling, including some great skiing in Breckenridge (the snow was perfect this year). I was certified as an open-water diver, so now trips to the Caribbean will always include some dive-time. For the first time since 1986, we are not offering the Rocky Mountain Field Studies course, and I'll greatly miss both the field time and the alumni contacts that often occur in the field. I have been working with the USGS and a couple students on Cr and Ni contamination in air and soil samples from California using the TEM, and this project is becoming very interesting. I love it when alumni stop by the office, and I’m always eager to show off all of our changes and new instruments.

PHILLIP IHINGER, Professor ihinger@uwec.edu

Greetings from the Ihinger research group! Despite the upheavals in GE reform, prep-

FACULTY NEWS (continued on page 8)
ration for the construction of new campus buildings, and the battles associated with saving our university fleet, we managed to continue researching a wide variety of cool petrology-related topics.

Student research collaborators include: 1) Giselle Conde (2012), who was awarded a Supplementary Underrepresented Minority Research Grant to my ACS-Petroleum Research Fund for research on crystal growth. Giselle has been amazingly productive and presented her research (in collaboration with Ellery Frahm of UMN-Twin Cities) both at the Goldschmidt Conference in Davos, Switzerland, and at the Portland GSA meeting (an oral presentation). Her UWEC Student Research Day poster won first prize in the Natural Sciences category, making it two consecutive first prizes at Research Day for petrology-related projects! 2) Daniel Stelz (2009; in collaboration with David Kawatski, 2008), also funded by my PRF grant, made further insights into the characterization of the thermal evolution of hydrothermal quartz crystals, which was also featured at the Goldschmidt Conference in Davos; 3) Jae Erickson (2010) presented his research on hydrous impurities on fluorite crystals from MVT-type ore deposits at the NC/SC GSA meeting in Branson, MO (Jae also won the Excellence in Geology award – see a statement of his achievements elsewhere in this newsletter); 4) Christopher Olson (2010) and J. R. Guy (2010) continued their spectacular characterization of the magmatic evolution of the Mineral Lake LMI Intrusive complex; 5) Christopher Spencer (2011) undertook the task of modeling the evolution of mafic magma chambers to test our hypothesis for the origin of granite; and 6) Brandon Holt (2112) and Jason Garcia (2011; in collaboration with Dr. Paul Thomas in Physics) made significant advancement in manipulating the massive CitComS simulator for mantle convection. Meanwhile, I was delighted to present an invited talk on quantifying the growth rate of crystals last month (May) at the annual American Ceramic Society Meeting in Corning, NY.

My family is preparing to move into a new home much closer to the University, and my three daughters, Ghislaine (a junior at Macalester College), Mati (now age 9), and Evie (now age 5) continue to grow up way too fast. I am managing to find the time to enjoy their childhoods while I have the opportunity!

J. BRIAN MAHONEY, Professor mahoney@uwec.edu

This has been a truly landmark year in my personal and professional life. I was Interim Chair last year, during which time the University underwent a major internal review. Teaching a full load, continuing a significant amount of collaborative research and being Interim Chair was a little bit over the top. I wish Kent Syverson the best of luck in his new role as Department Chair.

Summer 2009 was spent doing field work in Montana, mapping for the USGS EDMAP program, and working with the British Columbia Geological Survey mapping coastal northwest British Columbia. The coastal work was quite interesting and very different than anything I had done before. We worked from a mother ship (the Phoebe) that anchored in sheltered bays for several days at a time. We would launch Zodiaks each day, and map the coastal exposures on the islands and peninsulas east of the Coast Plutonic Complex. Very interesting work, and a very cool way to do it. The weather cooperated magnificently, a true rarity in NW BC. The natural surroundings were astounding, and I can never express the feeling of floating in a Zodiac on the edge of the continent while watching a mother humpback whale teaching her calf to breach the surface and jump out of the water. Quite spectacular. The North Coast project has one more year left, and we look forward to more coastal adventures.

I continue to be involved in a considerable number of detrital zircon analyses, and have accumulated a significant backlog of data that will get published in the coming months. As part of the North Coast project, my students (Brennan Kadulski and Julia Potter) and I did a significant amount of LA-ICPMS geochronology and geochemistry over the academic year.

On a different note, I have been advocating an international immersion experience known as the Thematic Interdisciplinary Experiential Semester (TIES) for several years now, and the program was just approved for a three-year pilot. The first program, TIES: Argentina, is slated for Spring Semester 2011, and I will be spending the entire semester in Mendoza, Argentina. This is a spectacular opportunity for both our students and the university, and I am keeping my fingers crossed that the first pilot goes off perfectly. The second TIES program is in Vietnam, and the third is slated for Cuba. Please see http://www.uwec.edu/bc/ties for details.

This past year has been professionally and personally tumultuous. I have undergone a long overdue reorganization of priorities, and have recognized that I need to distribute my time, energy, and efforts in a more equitable fashion. I am enjoying the changes that I have undergone, and look forward to continuing to allow my personal and professional life to evolve to a more copacetic level. It is sometimes useful to seriously reevaluate your position in life.

Please stop by and say hello whenever you are in town, or near any of our diverse field areas. Hope all is well.

GEOFFREY PIGNOTTA, Assistant Professor pignotta@uwec.edu

This past year has been busy; as usual, but very rewarding. I have really enjoyed teaching all of my classes this year and have had wonderful students to work with — both majors and non-majors. I especially enjoyed teaching Field Camp I in New Mexico (with Bob Hooper) for the first time after having participated the last two years. I definitely look forward to keeping up the field camp tradition in New Mexico. Off-campus life has also been rewarding in that Tania and I are expecting our first child in August of 2010. We are both very excited for our new arrival and have been busy planning and renovating our house. Hopefully the house renovations will be completed before August!

Expeditions last summer to the Terrace and Kitimat areas of British Columbia were tremendous. New rocks and problems to think about…! Students Bryan Hardel and Jessica Meyers joined me in Terrace to investigate the relationship between magmatism/volcanism, deformation, and economic mineralization within Paleozoic strata in the Terrace area. These rocks might host volcanicogenic massive sulfide deposits. Brian Mahoney, Liz Balgord, Julia Potter and Brennan Kadulski also stopped by at points during the summer to help out with field work. It was very exciting to start new research in a totally new geographic and geologic area. Currently we are finishing up this project and I am now pursuing additional research directions in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia.

This summer I will once again spend some time in Bella Coola, B.C., to collect additional samples needed for an NSF proposal. This study will investigate how strain is accommodated in space and time within plutons of continental margin arc systems such as the Coast Plutonic Complex. In this proposal, I will also request funding for new equipment at UW-Eau Claire to analyze and quantify crystal shape and crystal fabrics using a new SEM to be acquired by the Materials Science Center. These acquisitions will also be excellent additions for teaching structural geology and investigating crystal plastic deformation in rocks.

Over the past three years I have come to know numerous UW-Eau Claire Geology alumni, and I look forward to seeing you again at conferences or when you stop by the department!

LORI SNYDER, Senior Lecturer snyderld@uwec.edu

Wow, hard to believe that I received my 15-year service award — and I’m not quite sure how I feel about it yet. One thing I do know — interacting with students during those years has been rewarding. My new course (Geology 122, The Future of Global Energy) has also been a terrific experience. In terms of this year’s activities, Geology 303 last summer (see item in this newsletter) was interesting as always. But the big trip was three
weeks spent in Jamaica and Cuba. It’s gratifying and humbling to know that there are ways of living a fulfilling life that don’t include excessive consumption. The people were extremely gracious and they rely on the goodwill of others. I’m not sure of the exact number of flat tires we experienced (around 6 or so). But every time, the first person to pass us would stop and offer to help. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and, remember, stop in and see us anytime!

LORILIE STEINKE, Academic Department Associate steinklm@uwec.edu

Hello again from the Geology Department! As usual this year has been very busy. I truly enjoy the day-to-day interactions I have with our students. That is definitely the best part of my job! On a personal note, my daughter Morgan will be a junior in high school this fall and Margo will be a freshman. The summer schedules are busy with softball, band, and volleyball, but with Morgan driving now we should be able to manage things quite nicely. Please remember to keep in touch and let us know what you are doing. It is great to hear from our graduates.

KENT SYVERSON, Professor syverskm@uwec.edu

Greetings to all alumni! I have now completed 18 years at UW-Eau Claire, and I still enjoy working with students. I continue to teach Geomorphology, Oceanography, and Environmental Geology.

I have been working on several projects on the research front. Most of my recent field work has been in the State of Maine. Student Jeff Olson and I studied evidence for the Penobscot valley calving embayment directly south of Bangor during summer 2009. We found excellent evidence to build upon the story constructed by student Andy Thompson in 2007. Research student Audrey Mohr studied varve geochemistry using data collected during her NSF-REU experience at U. MN-Morris last summer. Both Jeff and Audrey presented at the NC/SC GSA meeting in Brandon, MO. I updated an article summarizing the glacial history of Wisconsin for a new Elsevier publication, and this manuscript is now in review. I am serving as the technical editor for the new Wisconsin Pleistocene lithostratigraphy compilation. This project has taken an immense amount of time, but it will be worth the effort once the manuscript is published. I will be working on a glacial geomorphology project in Barron County this summer using LiDAR data.

Once I was named Interim Chair, my life at the university changed radically (and I have long been considered a radical). Suddenly I had administrators to meet, meetings to attend (rarely because of my class schedule), performance reviews to write, etc. I am thankful the spring semester is over. The highlight of the semester was having Katie (Thorburn) Stariha (UWEC Geology 2001 and my former research student) present a seminar in the department in April. I hadn’t seen Katie since her beautiful wedding a few years ago, and it was great to see Katie wear her professional hat!

On the home front, all Syverson kids are out of elementary school, and college is looming on the horizon…. Because college expenses look dark and stormy on the horizon, I have been doing more consulting with frac sand companies. We entertained our first international visitor this year — Jessica from southern Sweden. We became friends with Jessica in Scotland (2005). Jessica spent one week with us in late August before starting her studies at the University of New Brunswick. We took in a high school football game, the Minnesota State Fair, the American Swedish Institute, and Eau Claire museums with Jessica. We had a marvelous time!

During summer 2009 the entire Syverson clan journeyed to Maine for another adventure. During our first seventeen days in Maine, however, we had two days of non-rain. This made family weekend outings fewer and “less pleasant.” We did go to Acadia National Park for a couple of nice day trips (including a climb up “the Beehive” with ladders, narrow ledges, and gorgeous views). On our way home we visited the Antietam Civil War battlefield and then spent three full days in Washington D.C. We took the subway into the heart of D.C. each day. We visited Arlington Cemetery, Ford Theater, the old Post Office building, and many of the Smithsonian museums. We also walked to all the monuments on the Mall. We experienced Colonial Williamsburg for one complete day and then baked home in two days. As always, it was good to be home!

I read a couple of excellent non-fiction books during the past year. At the top of my reading list: *We Die Alone*, the story of an amazingly tough Norwegian resistance fighter during WWII, and *The Forgotten Soldier*, the story of a German WWII soldier during the retreat on the Eastern Front.

If you are coming through Eau Claire, please swing through to visit the department. It is always great to see alumni!

Emeritus Faculty News

PAUL E. MYERS, Professor Emeritus paul.myers600@gmail.com

Well, it was a quiet year in Vermont. “Retirement” is a continuous learning experience. I have become an “artist,” and, like most artists, I am not selling much, which means that if the present recession continues, I’ll have to build an addition to the house to give me wall space for all my new “masterpieces.” Although I have works in several local galleries, the recession has transformed my “marginal business” into an economic pipe dream. But at least it’s fun.

Welthy and I took tours to Egypt in April 2009 and El Salvador-Honduras-Guatemala-Belize in January 2010. The latter tour was an exploration of the cultural history of the Mayan people, ancient and modern. Both tours concentrated on intercultural exchange and thus involved home and school visits which provided much contact with the people. We’re planning a similar tour to Morocco in November. I’ve found that these tours also provide me with many subjects for art work.

I’ve recently organized a band of local geologists to provide field trips to sites exposing the bedrock/surficial geology and various mining industries of the region. Despite centuries of intense geological study, this part of New England still provides geologists with plenty to argue about. You’re welcome to join us.

The “House” is also a challenge because I am always tweaking it to make it more efficient. Our electricity costs an average of $5 per month and 90% of our space heating is provided by local firewood. Although we still use some propane to heat domestic water, we hope to soon eliminate this dependency with the installation of a solar hot water heating system. I can really relate to the Vermonters’ preoccupation with independence. We feel strongly about the immediate need for a major transition away from fossil fuels and act accordingly. So we are deeply involved with energy conservation and political activism, and keep riling the waters. The environmental disaster unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico should wake up even the most indifferent consumers.

We’re always happy to host travelers from the Midwest and welcome you to drop by anytime.

JOHN R. TINKER, JR., Professor Emeritus

In the last newsletter I mentioned hunting, fishing, working on my “hobby farm,” and perhaps my wellness program with my dog Scout. Not much has changed. I am still doing all of the above. Hunting is in Wisconsin and North Dakota. Fishing is in Texas. My dog still sleeps in my truck.

Last July, I started building a 16 x 20-foot workshop/chicken coop which is just about completed. My grandson helped me on the project when my third hand would not complete the job. We both had fun working together. Sixty-five chickens arrive this April to decide if their future accommodations are acceptable. I have no answer to your question, which probably is “Why chickens?”

I hope all is well with our current and former faculty and students. I send all of you a warm hello.
Donations to the Department

Geology Department funds with UW-Eau Claire Foundation are used to support a wide range of activities in the Department, including student travel to professional meetings, faculty/student field trips, faculty recruitment, and student scholarships. The attached slip is intended to make it easy to contribute to the Geology funds. 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.

Due to state budget cuts and increasing transportation costs, alumni gifts to the department's advancement funds are becoming increasingly critical. Therefore, we have been working with the Foundation Office to learn more about establishing a named lecture series, new scholarships, etc. 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 UW-Eau Claire 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 UW-Eau Claire 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.

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

_____ In memory of ____________________________

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

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.

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10
Jessica Meyers, a senior from Green Bay, WI, and Sarah Ulrich, a senior from New London, WI, are recipients of $150 Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarships this year. Both Jessica and Sarah are general geology majors, and they were top students in the Field Geology I course offered in January 2010 in New Mexico. Congratulations, Jessica and Sarah!

Field camp experiences have become increasingly expensive for students. This scholarship, established by the department in 2006, is intended to lessen the financial burden of field camp for excellent students who also have financial need. The scholarship also honors the contributions of Dr. Paul Myers and Dr. Ronald Willis, geology professors at UWEC who worked very hard to establish a strong field component in our young geology program.

The Geology Dept. hopes to offer Myers/Willis scholarships to more students each year as the scholarship fund balance rises. We encourage all alumni who have benefited from our field experiences over the years to contribute to this fund. See page 10 for information about contributing to this important scholarship fund.

Sarah Ulrich (Myers/Willis Scholarship winner, right) with Audrey Mohr (Friedrich Scholarship winner, left) at Field Camp I in New Mexico.

Bob Hooper steps down as chair

(Continued from page 1)

Bob also wrote the PRISM grant to improve science education in K-12 schools, an initiative that led to a new position in the Geology Department first filled by Karen Havholm.

Bob has been extremely involved with service to the university at large. For his efforts, he was awarded the 2006 UWEC Outstanding Service Award, an award given annually to a person who has served above and beyond the call of duty.

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Marty Wood, wrote a letter of commendation to the Provost highlighting some of Bob’s achievements on campus. With regard to service and leadership, Dean Wood wrote, “Dr. Hooper’s most enduring legacy, however, may be an anonymous one, his leadership remembered mostly by those who worked alongside him. His many duties on the University Senate and countless other governance bodies, while vital to our future, lie well beyond the scope of this letter. Instead, I will focus only on one consistent thread in his tenure here: the quest for a better University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. His tireless service on the University Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning work groups, the HLC Criterion 1 Task Force, and finally, just last year, an extended effort to examine other models of funding for higher education, have together given a tremendous boost to our collective commitment to become more intentional in our work, to strive for continuous improvement, and to bring ourselves more in control of our own destiny than ever before. I think it is no exaggeration to say we could not have gotten where we are in this endeavor had we not had Dr. Hooper pushing behind us, working beside us, and exhorting us from way out in front when necessary.”

Under Bob’s proactive leadership at the departmental level, the department has flourished. However, we also are fortunate to have Bob spending more time interacting with our students at UW-Eau Claire. After twenty years, he deserves to spend fewer hours in meetings…!

Bob, thanks for your years of service as department chair!

2010 “Excellence in Geology” Award

(Continued from page 4)
2009 in Boise, ID, working at the Boise State University isotope geology lab performing analyses. He adds, “My results turned out marvelously and we’ve gained some valuable insight into Duluth Complex/Beaver Bay Complex magmatism.” He is currently writing his M.S. thesis and hopes to defend in May or June. He is engaged and planning to marry in June 2010. He recently accepted a job offer from the Chesapeake Energy Corporation in Oklahoma City and will begin his new career in July.

David Hodek (1995). Dave continues to work for Enbridge Energy in Superior. He writes, “Our big news -- we bought a house after renting for a year and a half. All of our possessions had to remain in storage with the moving company during that time, so it was like Christmas seeing all our stuff again. Our oldest is starting school this fall, so we’re also planning for that adjustment in our lives. I did get to go with the family to kindergartener screening, and after observing the screening process, I do have to admit that what Jean Hoff told me all those years ago doing fence diagrams in my Earth History class was correct – I probably should have been held back a year in kindergarten to work on my ability to stay within the lines while coloring with crayons. Thankfully, that doesn’t appear to be a genetic trait–my daughter did great!”

Bridget Kelly (2009). Bridget and her family moved to Nebraska where she is attending graduate school at the Univ. of Nebraska. In October Bridget attended the national GSA meeting in Portland, OR. She will be presenting her research at the Denver GSA meeting in 2010. She writes, “Since I have been here, I have truly grown to appreciate the education I received at UWEC….it really is a phenomenal school.”

Dale Kerner (1996). Dale writes, “Soon it will be 14 years since I left Eau Claire for Boise, Idaho…hard to believe. But time flies when you’re having fun. And Idaho is FUN!! I’m still married to Katherine Kerner. Eight plus years. Great woman, and smart, too. She’s going back to school to get her nurse practitioner degree starting this spring. My daughter Lauren will be 11 in April and is finishing 5th grade. She is quickly becoming a young woman. As for me, I’m still working at Brown and Caldwell Environmental Consultants. With mining activity in Idaho on the upswing, we have great projects going. I am seeing UWEC people everywhere…the other night at an SME meeting in Pocatello, Dr. Link pointed out that out of a group of thirty people, there were three UWEC grads in the room. I’ve also bumped into a few of you at the conventions, and I got to see Mark Holmes down in Chino, AZ, a couple years back (thanks for the wine!!). And my company just hired an attorney that is an EC grad. Crazy! Anyway, look me up if you’re ever in Boise. And if anybody’s wondering what Pete Eades is doing….I’m dropping him off at the ferry in a few weeks and he’s headed for Yakutat, AK. See ya.”

Josh Kohn (2000). In March, Josh completed student teaching at Ramsey Jr. High School in St. Paul, MN. He will be traveling to Athens, Greece, for another eight-week student teaching appointment at the International School there. He writes that “I am very excited for Greece. I have never been there, and we will be there for the start of the World Cup 2010, so it will be a memorable experience all around.”

Kate MacLaurin (2007). Kate completed her M.Sc. at Simon Fraser University in October 2009. Her thesis focused on sedimentology and tectonics. She also helped us out with some classes this spring, and it was nice having her around!

Richard (Ric) Kopp (1975). Ric currently is the Senior Vice President of Delek Energy US, a subsidiary of the Delek Group-Israel. He is in charge of exploration and production in North America. He writes, “My wife Jacqueline and I are the lucky grandparents of our son Rick’s daughter Clara and son Joey. They have become central attractions in our lives, teaching us how to be young all over. Jacqueline and I still talk about the good days and friends we had while at UW-Eau Claire.”

Christine Mercer (1997). Christine reports “March 2010 finds me celebrating seven years of being cancer free!!! I am doing well…Life is Sweet…..Spring 2009 we set off on a two-week adventure with our daughter, son-in-law, and seven of our nine grandchildren. We headed to a beach house in Clearwater Beach, FL. We drove and saw sights along the way. What memories we made….sun, sand, shells, sunsets…we were instant beach bums…hated to leave. Plans for more trips are dancing in our minds as I write this. Hold close those you love and ENJOY each day!”

Marli Miller (Visiting Assistant Professor 1994-1997). Marli writes “Life’s good. I still teach Structural Geology and Field Camp at the University of Oregon, and still spend time in Death Valley, although now more for photography or classes than for research. I’m learning to play guitar and sing, something I’ve always wanted to do, and my daughters continue to thrive. Lindsay (16) has been in Spain this semester on an exchange and Meg (12) plays marimba and lacrosse. They also went with me on a recent field trip to Death Valley. I recently signed a contract with Mountain Press Publishing to write a new Roadside Geology of Oregon book, and also said “yes” to being our geology dept’s Associate Head for the next three years. And I maintain a website for geology photos…you can download them for free (www.marlimillerphoto.com). Have a look and drop me a line!”

Jean Morrison (2000). Jean writes, “I successfully defended my Ph.D. in early April 2010. It went extremely well and I am breathing a big sigh of relief.” Jean received her PhD from the Colorado School of Mines and is working for the USGS in Denver.

Troy Moseley (2009). Troy is currently living in LaCrosse, WI, and working as a laboratory technician.

He writes, “The job market for the past year hasn’t been too great, so I feel lucky to be in a job where I can use at least some of the skills I learned in school.”

Travis Pickering (2007). Travis is finishing his thesis at Colorado School of Mines. His research is characterizing a landslide along I-70 between Vail and Avon, CO. He reports that school has gone well in Colorado. He enjoyed Taíng for his first two years.

Ian & Christina (Piper) Anderson (2004). Christina reports that she and Ian quit consulting in 2008 and then hiked the Appalachian Trail before returning to Wisconsin. They are enjoying life in Madison.

David Risch (1978). David continues to work as a staff geophysicist for BHP Billiton Petroleum in Houston, TX.
teaching at CVTC for almost 10 years, and before that I taught at UW-EC and worked as a librarian at a small public library. I have great memories of taking classes with Paul Myers, John Tinker, and the other wonderful faculty members who were teaching in the ‘80s. They were always patient with me, even though I was one of the few women who was getting a minor in the program at the time.”

Paula Sumpter (1983). Paula accepted the position of Manager of Administrative Services at UW Colleges Online in October 2009. She is delighted to return to the UW system and excited about her new position in distance education.

Andrew Thompson (2008). Andy reports, “Following graduation, I went to New Hampshire to work for U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen’s campaign. It was great to get back to New England, where Kent Syverson and I previously worked on a glacial geology project in Bangor, Maine. I am currently coordinating union political activities for the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO out of Eau Claire. Though I’m currently in the political world, at times I can still be found at the nearest cool outcrop!”

Mae Willkom (1998). Mae is still managing Superfund and RCRA sites, together with a couple counties worth of LUST sites, and a few state-funded projects. Her programs are weathering the state budget storms fairly well thus far. She writes, “Outside of work, I’m still horse crazy, as usual. Visited northern Virginia last fall (arguably the ‘horsiest’ place in America) and am off to attend the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky, this October. Life is good.”

National GSA in Minneapolis
October 2011 Approaching!

Calling all UW-Eau Claire geology alumni!

National GSA is going to be in Minneapolis from October 9-12, 2011. Theme sessions and field trips are being planned. Sounds like a great excuse to hold a UW-Eau Claire Geology alumni reunion at the meeting! We held a party associated with NC GSA in Minneapolis in spring 2005, and that was a lot of fun. Certainly we would want the 2011 gathering to be bigger and better! In the next newsletter, we should have a date/time/place determined.

Mark those dates on your calendar!

If you have a choice where to present a paper that year, plan to present at GSA in Minneapolis. We will plan the gathering for an establishment outside of the meeting venue so people living in the Eau Claire/MSP orbit can attend without registering for the meeting.

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 Lorilie Steinke (steinklm@uwec.edu) via email or snail mail address below.

Please includes the following information:

Name ________________________________________________________________

Date _________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________

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 April, 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
Taylor Crist and Crystal Nickel with mentor Katherine Grote.


Brooke Fahrenkrog with Robert Hooper and Jill Ferguson, "Sacramento Valley Ultramafic Soils and Air Samples as Potential Health Hazards."


Nicholas King, Julia Potter, Jessica Meyers, Brennan Kadulski and Bryan Hardel with J. Brian Mahoney, Geoffrey Pignotta, Phillip Ihinger and Elizabeth Balgord, "Geologic Analysis of the Northern Margin of the Boulder Batholith II: Geologic Map of the Esmerelda Hills Quadrangle."


Audrey Mohr with Kent Syverson, J. Brian Mahoney, Jill Ferguson, and James Cotter (UMN-Morris), "Geochemical Analysis of a Glacial Lake Benson Varve Sequence, West-Central Minnesota." Presented at North-Central/South-Central GSA meeting in Branson, MO, April 11-13, 2010.

Crystal Nickel, Shane Peterson and Taylor Crist with Katherine Grote, "Three Dimensional Vadose Zone Characterization of a Wisconsin Orchard Using Electromagnetic Techniques." Presented at the Wisconsin Ground Water Association Annual Conference in Waukesha, WI, March 18-19, 2010, where it received an Outstanding Student Poster award.


Julia Potter with J. Brian Mahoney, "Determining the Origin and Evolution of the Avon Volcanic Complex, Southwest Montana."

Christopher Olsen and J.R. Guy with Phillip Ihinger, "Magma Evolution of the Mineral Lake Intrusive Complex, Mellen, WI."

Jeffrey Olson with Kent Syverson, "Mapping the Limit of the Penobscot River Valley Calving Embayment, Hampden 7.5' Quadrangle, Maine." Presented at North-Central/South-Central GSA meeting in Branson, MO, April 11-13, 2010.

Third place winner in the Physical, Mathematical and Earth Sciences division.

Student and faculty activities highlighted in this newsletter are supported by generous donations from alumni and friends like you. THANKS!
Olivia Iverson wins Golder/ Cargill Geology Scholarship

Olivia Iverson, a senior from Hudson, WI, has been awarded the $2000 Golder/Cargill Geology Scholarship for 2010-11. Olivia completed Mineralogy-Petrology I last fall, so she is just beginning her upper-division geology course sequence. She plans to conduct research with Brian Mahoney this summer.

This scholarship, established fall 2005 by Greg (UW-Eau Claire geology alumnus, 1984) and Julia Beckstrom (UW-Eau Claire alumna, 1985), is for comprehensive geology majors who have completed Mineralogy-Petrology I, developed an excellent academic record, and demonstrated a financial need.

Earth Science Seminar Series

The Earth Science Seminar Series has been a wonderful addition to the Geology Department. The seminar has brought excellent speakers to campus. It 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. Phillip Thinger at thinger@ 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!


Kent Syverson, Geology Department, UW-Eau Claire, "So You’re Interested in Applying to Graduate School?!?,” 10/16/09.

Beth Johnson, Geology Department, UW-Eau Claire, "The Evolution of Glacial Lake Agassiz: From Noah’s Flood to Upham’s Bathtub… and Beyond!,” 12/04/09.


Katie Thornburg-Stariha (UWEC Geol 2001), Environmental and Natural Resources Director, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, "From Rocks to Rice," 4/30/10.

Samuel Mutiti, Biological and Environmental Sciences Department, Georgia College and State University, "Investigating the Variability of Riverbed Hydraulic Conductivity at a Site of Induced Infiltration," 5/7/10.

Thank You Department Donors

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below who have contributed to Geology Department accounts with UW-Eau Claire Foundation since June 2009.

GOLDER/CARGILL GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
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Cargill, Inc.
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PAUL MYERS & RONALD WILLIS GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP
Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.
Antje and Thomas Danielson
Kent and Lila Syverson

GEOLOGY ADVANCEMENT FUND
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Olivia Iverson at the geology banquet.

To start shopping, go to http://www.uwec.edu/alumni/store.htm
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DIG IT Department of Geology
Annual Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2010

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Editors: Lorilie Steinke and Kent M. Syverson
Phone: 715-836-3732  Fax: 715-836-5627