Greetings from the Department Chair:

The department continues to move forward. The department has been actively involved in searches for two new faculty members. Lung Chan decided to stay in Hong Kong (something about the weather...), so we have hired Bradford Burton (University of Wyoming), a structural geologist with field experience in the oil patch and at our field camp site in Montana. Brad will teach structural geology, field camp, geophysics and global plate tectonics, engineering geology, and physical geology. Lung will certainly be hard to replace, but we believe Brad will be a fine addition to the department. Martin Miller who was filling in for Lung also decided to leave for warmer climates and will be teaching and doing research at University of Oregon. We'll certainly miss Martin. In addition, we have hired Lori Snyder as a temporary faculty member to teach more introductory geology courses (National Parks and Physical Geology). I am told by the Dean that we will be able to hire a petrologist next year which will be a great addition to the program. Paul Myers is still teaching part time after "retiring" in 1995 but we can't count on keeping him around forever. The department has between 60 and 70 majors—a healthy number that provides for good enrollments in upper-division courses.

The science departments (primarily biology, geology and physics) were successful at securing a commitment from both the National Science Foundation and UWEC to purchase a new 200KV High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope with analytical capabilities. This new microscope has 2-angstrom resolution which is sufficient to see the atomic structures of many minerals. In addition the microscope can provide quantitative analyses of very small areas. This HRTEM is a great addition to our teaching and research base. We've also finished remodeling an isotope extraction lab facility that is in support of Brian Mahoney's research projects using Nd isotopes. We're still waiting for a remodeling of Phillips Hall.

I'm told it will occur before the next ice age.

The department made a great showing at the national GSA in Denver, Colorado, in October. Five faculty and three students attended the meeting along with a number of recent alumni. The students presented posters that were all very professional and well received. John Tinker continues to have students present their research results at the Wisconsin AWRA. This spring meeting was also very well attended by both students and alumni. Mark Holmes (supervised by Kent Syverson) won a Best Student Paper award at the North-Central GSA Meeting at Ames, IA.

Field trips continue to be an important part of the program. We had class field trips to the Porcupine Mountains (great weather), Black Hills (fabulous weather), Arkansas (unbelievably nice weather) and of course Wyoming (sunny and 70° with nary a drop of precipitation), and our annual spring break field excursion course traveled to the Colorado Plateau with Karen Havholm co-leading the trip. This year's spring break trip was actually a joint trip with the biology department. The students enjoyed working with each other. The department is very pleased with the willingness of the students to spend time in the field and are convinced that this is a great way to study and learn geology.

Overall the geology department is doing quite well. We really encourage you to keep in touch with the department and stop by if you're close to Eau Claire. I'm always excited about giving tours of the department's new labs and equipment so don't be bashful. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hooper, still the chair
Rocky Mountain Field Studies ~ Summer of 1996
by J. Brian Mahoney, Instructor

Our annual Rocky Mountain Field Studies course was again a tremendous success this year. Lori Snyder and myself led 24 students through the Badlands, Black Hills, Bighorn Mountains, Owl Creek Mountains, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone. The geology was fantastic, and the weather was simply spectacular - sunny days and starry nights made for a great trip. Everyone got along famously, and a good time was had by all. This was the first time I had led the Rocky Mountains course, and I was very impressed by the interest and motivation of the students, although occasional grumbling was heard during the predawn wake-up calls. The heavy snowpack restricted our hikes in Grand Teton, and made for some wet camping in Yellowstone, but these things are easy to take in the spectacular surroundings of the Rocky Mountains. Even the bison trampling our camp and soiling our tents at the Madison River campground in Yellowstone was met with a good deal of humor. The Rocky Mountain Field Studies course is one of the best field experiences we have to offer, and I cannot recommend it more highly to anyone interested in geology and the Rocky Mountain West.

Colorado Plateau Field Trip ~ Spring 1997
by Karen Havholm, Instructor

This year the spring break field excursions course had a slightly new twist. It was a combined geology/biology trip called "Southwest Field Studies", led by Paula Kleintjes, an entomologist and ecologist from the biology department, and me. A diverse group of 11 students took the course including majors from Geology and Biology (including one dual Bio-Geo major, Heidi Rantala) as well as students from Geography, Advertising, Communications & Elementary Educ.

We met for several weeks before the trip to provide students with some background on the areas to be visited, and on trip logistics. We managed to leave by 5:40 pm on the Wednesday before spring break. On Thursday morning we were at Red Rocks Park in the Front Range of the Rockies looking at sediments shed from the Ancestral Rockies during the Pennsylvanian as Pangaea was assembled! What followed was 10 days in Utah examining evidence for tectonic and magmatic events and for environmental conditions in the region from the Pennsylvanian through the present. At the same time we learned about plant and animal adaptations to arid conditions, and the various biotic zones represented, from Pinon-Juniper woodlands at the lower elevations, to tundra conditions at the tree-line in the Henry Mountains. It almost felt like the tundra when it snowed on us there, but the rest of the time we lucked out with great weather. We hiked nearly every day, with a highlight being the day we spent in slot canyons of the Escalante so narrow (Peek-a-Boo and Spooky Canyons) that one student (Scott Eades - football player) got stuck!

The students were involved in pre-trip meal planning, food purchasing and packing, and in cooking and clean-up on the road. Despite the wide variety in background and personalities, everyone got along well, had a lot of laughs, and we all learned from each other. I look forward to more multi-disciplinary field courses in the future.

Fisher Receives GSA Research Grant

Junior Beth Fisher received a summer research grant from the North-Central Section of the Geological Society of America. She will be working with Karen Havholm on the coast of North Carolina to determine the history of dune migration and stabilization of Jockeys Ridge dune, and whether other active dunes along the coast have similar or different histories.

Geology Club News
by Steve Peterson, President

The Geology Club kicked off this year with a picnic in Owen Park. Many attended, and all enjoyed the welcome-back feast, even though we had to cook the chicken twice! We kept busy with fund-raising through the fall. We ended the fall semester with a Christmas party at a member's house. Though the heavy snowfall that night hindered the attendance somewhat, all who attended had a good time.

The second semester started off with a weekly dart/social night, which steadily picked up steam. Paul Myers kept some members busy with volunteer work for Beaver Creek Reserve, and a camping/canoeing trip is in the planning stages for early summer.

Also, some recent alumni and myself have been talking over the idea for an alumni camping trip. Possible dates would be in late May/early June, so if you're interested give me a call at 715/835-0321! It will be great fun for everyone to catch up, and will allow many people a chance to swap stories about the field trips through which we suffered because of miserable inclement weather (Which is most of them!).
Dr. Miller Receives “Professor of the Year” Award

The Geology Department congratulates Dr. Martin Miller for receiving the “1997 Professor of the Year” award. This is a campus-wide award which is determined by student votes, sponsored by the Further Teacher’s Club. Dr. Miller joined us in the Fall of 1994 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology, and unfortunately we will be losing him after this semester. He has been teaching our Physical Geology, Structural Geology, Introduction of Geological Engineering, Geological Field Methods, and Geological Field Excursions courses.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) News

by Jeffrey Schels, President

The local chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national earth science honor society, is still alive and well in Eau Claire. Throughout the year we have visited a number of elementary schools to educate young people about rocks and minerals. The kids always seem to really have a great time. One visit to a local area fourth grade class was quite an event. Among the mineral samples we brought was a large sample of mica, but by the time we left, only a couple sheets of mica were left! What the kids lacked in discipline was made up for in enthusiasm.

In February, SGE was invited to represent the geology profession at the Cornell High School career day. The only problem was that the hour allotted for "geology" was at the same time as the hour allotted for "radio disc jockey". The disc jockey presentation was represented by a popular local radio personality while geology only had a gifted young geo-student. Needless to say, the disc jockey presentation had all the students while geology had none. But we feel that given time, the elementary students we are educating now will eventually end up in high school (we hope!), and at that time we will want a rematch with the disc jockeys!

Currently, our members are presenting past and present research to the other members of SGE. In February, Jeff Schels presented his research he did with Dr. Syverson on the Pleistocene geology of eastern Chippewa County. Future presentations will include "A Comparison of Alteration and Unaltered Basement Rock at Big Falls, Wisconsin" by Bill Blaser, and a septic system contamination study by Steve Peterson.

The future of SGE is going to be full of challenges. With five out of eight of our members graduating in May, the highest priority will be to recruit new members. This goal should be attainable because the geology major continues to be popular at the university.

Weaver and Underwood presented Geology Excellence Awards

The Department has instituted a Geology Excellence Award to recognize the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 1995-96 winners of the Geology Excellence Award are Kristin Weaver and Chad Underwood. Kristin and Chad had their names inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed in the department and also were presented plaques for them to keep. It is hoped that this award will encourage student excellence and foster a greater sense of tradition within the department. The plaques were purchased using donations to the Geology Advancement Fund.

Kristin is a graduate student in structural geology at the University of Southern California, and Chad will begin graduate studies in the Dept. of Geological Engineering at UW-Madison starting this summer. Congratulations, Kristin and Chad!
Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects, Spring 1997 Student Research Day

The Fifth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 28-29 in the Davies Center on the UWEC campus. This event is held to showcase faculty/student collaborative research occurring on campus. The Geology Department has 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 all of them!

Bill Blaser, with Robert Hooper, “Alteration Along the Cambrian-Precambrian Boundary at Big Falls.”
Thomas J. Danielson, with Karen Havholm, “Documenting Regional Variability of the Eau Claire Formation, Dunn County, Wisconsin.”
Thomas J. Danielson, with J. Brian Mahoney, “Comparative Geochemistry of the Powell Creek Group Volcanic Rocks and Petrographically Similar Clasts of the Conglomerate of Chum Creek.” Winner of third place award in the Natural Sciences division.
Bradley Jon Fuller, with Kent M. Syverson, “Glacial Geology of the Pine Lake Region, Chippewa and Rusk Counties, Wisconsin.” BJ also presented this at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences annual meeting in Whitewater this May.
Heather Golding, with Martin Miller, “Deformational Styles in Fault Gouge, Death Valley, California.”
Brian Hennings and Jeffrey Paddock, with Martin Miller, “Minor Faults in a Pull-Apart Setting, Death Valley, California”
Mark A. Holmes, with Karen Havholm, “Eolian Dune Morphology, Run Hill, North Carolina.”
Scott P. Lehmann, with J. Brian Mahoney, “Development of an Interactive Geologic Program on the Internet: Bringing Wisconsin Geology to the High Schools.”
Kristine Mercer, with John Tinker, “Groundwater Flow Directions and Bank Storage Adjacent to the Chippewa River at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.”
Lisa Claudine Miller, with Kent M. Syverson, “Database For pre-Late Wisconsinan Till Units, Western Wisconsin.” Lisa also presented this at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences annual meeting in Whitewater this May.
Jeffrey Paddock, with Karen Havholm and J. Brian Mahoney, “Cycles within the Upper Cambrian Lone Rock Formation: Sedimentologic Response to Fine-Scale Sea Level Changes?” Jeff also presented this at the Geological Society of America’s 1997 North-Central Section annual meeting in Madison this May.
Jeffrey Paddock and Brian Hennings, with Martin Miller, “Geometry and Kinematics of a High-Angle Fault, Death Valley, California.”
Heidi M. Rantala, with Robert L. Hooper and J. Brian Mahoney, “Constraining heavy metal redistribution in fluvial sediments downstream from sulfide mining districts: Preliminary results from the Couer d’Alene River Valley, Idaho.” Heidi also presented at the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) meeting in Washington, D.C.
Matthew D. Tessar, with J. Brian Mahoney, “Development of Three Dimensional Geologic Map Imagery.”
Aaron M. Walczak, with J. Brian Mahoney, “Lithostratigraphy Analysis: Examination of Albain-Cenomanian Strata in Southern British Columbia.”
WHAT'S NEW WITH US?
Faculty News

Karen Havholm (E-mail: havholkg@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-2945)

Newsletter time already? My earth science course is running smoothly, serving about 150 education majors per year. It is fun to track some of the education majors I have in class who are now doing their student teaching or getting their first teaching jobs. I love to have former students return to discuss their integration of earth science into their teaching.

I was successful in obtaining funding from the Eisenhower Professional Development Program to run a teacher in-service workshop this summer. Bob Hollon (Curriculum and Instruction), Paul Varsho (Menomonie Middle School earth science teacher) and I will be working with 30 K-6 teachers in a program I have called TEES (Teaching Elementary Earth Science). We will provide teachers with an opportunity to strengthen and broaden the earth science component of their curriculum. With the new National Science Education Standards, earth science must now stand as an equal partner with the other sciences in the curriculum.

My study of active and stabilized dunes on the coast of northern North Carolina is continuing. Sarah Weaver ('96) took third place in the Math and Science Division for her poster entitled “Surficial Dune Processes and Migration of Run Hill Dune, Bodie Island, North Carolina”. Also, at the GSA national meeting in Denver in October, Kris Weaver ('96) joined Sarah and me in presenting two posters summarizing our work over the last two years. Senior Mark Holmes is currently tackling the task of interpreting dune history from a series of aerial photographs dating from 1953 to the present. He was able to field check his work in January. I have also received funding from the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation to support new field work and numerical dating. Student Beth Fisher will be joining me in the field this summer. This project is an ongoing collaboration with Rich Whittecar at Old Dominion University in Virginia and Glenn Berger at the Desert Research Institute in Nevada.

Meanwhile, I continue work locally with Brian Mahoney on the lower Paleozoic sediments. Student Tom Danielson is tracing Eau Claire Formation stratigraphy to the south of Menomonie to determine facies relationships. Senior Jeff Paddock is unraveling the story of the stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Lone Rock Formation. We’ve all had a long winter and impatiently await the snow-melt. Brian, Bob Hooper and I, along with Tony Runkel of the MN Geological Survey, have written a fieldtrip guidebook through the lower Paleozoic section for the North-Central GSA, which is in Madison this year.

Merilie is now in sixth grade, and manages to make steady progress at piano, cello and figure skating in spite of a heavy homework schedule. She has also competed in forensics and "Math Counts." Glenn is deep into rebuilding our previously non-functional fireplace, in addition to his part-time accounting job. Sam, the dog, is a year old now, and very well-behaved. My mother passed away in December, and that has taken some getting used to. My Dad, at 82, has plugged in to email, so we can communicate more easily and regularly. My sister in Australia also just got hooked up, so it is a family affair.

Bob Hooper (E-mail: hooperrl@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4932)

After thirteen years at UWEC I’m finally taking a semester off. I’m on sabbatical with an assignment to write up some of my past research. Spending time on research and actually thinking is a big lifestyle change but I’m adapting. John Tinker is serving as acting chair while I’m on sabbatical and I appreciate his willingness to hold down the fort. I am excited about the new 200 KV transmission electron microscope the university is purchasing. This will provide great opportunities for our students and will make the electron microscope lab at UWEC one of the best in the upper-midwest. I have been doing some extensive travel to demo TEM’s at various facilities around the country and after these visits I realize how nice our facilities are at UWEC.

This past fall, I once again taught Mineralogy/Petrology I. For this class we did another set of field trips to the Mid-Continent Rift and Black Hills, and both trips were very enjoyable with great rock exposures. I think these trips are also building a better community within the department. On the MCR trip I have started a small research project with the students to evaluate the petrogenesis of a layered gabbro complex near Mellen, WI. This year students collected and analyzed the geochemistry of a suite of rocks from a cross-section of the Mineral Lake Intrusive Complex and developed a field-trip guide for future student use. It will probably take us a few years before we can say anything definitive about the petrogenesis of the complex. I’m continuing research with Brian Mahoney on the Coeur d’Alene mining district and still looking at clays.

On a more personal note the family tried a seven day backpacking trip on the Beartooth Plateau but we were run out early by bugs. When there’s ice out on the Plateau it’s not the best time to visit. We ended up spending our summer vacation in northern Idaho fishing a very productive stream and releasing lots of good sized trout (I can’t remember the name of the stream)! Next spring I’ve volunteered to teach in Scotland so the family will be moving over to Scotland for the semester. This is one of the sacrifices you have to make now and then to keep the international programs going at UWEC. Everything else is stable in Eau Claire. Keep thinking of us. We hope to see you soon!
Life in Eau Claire continues to rush along at a hectic pace. The combination of teaching and research seems to keep life flashing by at an incredible rate. The fact that I am leaving for three months in the field in less than three weeks has me totally amazed, but we shall make it, as we always do! I am currently heavily involved with a major National Science Foundation-funded project on Late Cretaceous sedimentation and tectonics of the southern Canadian Cordillera of southern British Columbia. I have been able to get several Master’s students from Idaho State University and Western Washington University working with me on the project, and have been lucky enough to have talented UWEC geology students helping out as field assistants. The project is a three-year multidisciplinary study attempting to solve tectonic problems of terrane accretion that have been plaguing Cordilleran geoscientists for twenty years. It is readily apparent that no matter what interpretations are derived from the data, someone is going to get very upset with the results, so the next year or two should be very interesting! I am still working with the U.S. Geological Survey on tectonic problems in the Eastern Cascades of Washington, and we hope to wrap up our studies this year. Bob Hooper and I are investigating heavy metal contamination along the Couer d’Alene River in northern Idaho, which is becoming very interesting. Heidi Rantala has been working with us on the project, and has given presentations at the National GSA meeting in Denver, here at UWEC, and on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. over the last year. Locally, Karen Havholm and myself are plugging away at Paleozoic stratigraphic problems in west-central Wisconsin, which tend to be refreshingly simplistic compared to the quagmire in British Columbia! Karen has been carrying that ball for the past several months, and I will be delving back into the project later this year.

Hard to believe this is the end of my third year here in Eau Claire. The camaraderie, motivation and support shown by the folks in the Geology Department has been great, these are a great bunch of people to work with. I keep myself busy with several faculty/student research projects, and thoroughly enjoy the interest and motivation shown by the students. Seems we are doing something right in this department. Lori and I still have not quite acclimated to this part of world, and seem to have to disappear every so often to warmer climes to make it through the winter - this year it was Bolivia, where we had some grand adventures traveling through the Andes in the rainy season. Someday we will make it through a Wisconsin winter, but we are in no hurry! Feel free to stop by or call if there is anything we can do for you.

Recent Publications:
Recent Publications (Miller):
Miller, M.G., 1996, Ductile flow in shear and fault zones as a cause of local strengthening and unstable sliding

Paul Myers (E-mail: myerspe@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3713)
I am living proof that retirement is a myth. Although I received my "gold watch" in May, '95, I am teaching 3 sections of Earth Resources this semester. This is not a complaint, since I asked for it.

Kent Syverson says he wants "news," ANY news, so here it is. While tooling down the Chippewa Bike Trail near American Materials last July 21, I had a brief but devastating encounter with a flying insect (species undetermined), which struck me just above my right eye and proceeded to fly around behind my glasses. This distraction caused me to leave the paved trail at about 23 mph. I then did a tricky maneuver, striking an unyielding tree in the inverted position. After impact, I dropped 3 feet onto my head, so I was upside down with my legs draped over the bike's cross bar, looking out through the leaves toward the trail. Funny sight. Blood from a hole in my arm was dropping into my face. Since I am not one to suffer in silence, I made my plight readily evident to passersby, who soon called an ambulance. The attendants had quite a time pulling me out of the foliage and onto a back board, and then getting me to the hospital on time.

About an hour later, replete with photos of me from every angle, Dr. Narotzky - neurosurgeon - peered at me through his mask and said, as kindly as he could, "Paul, you have apparently broken at least three vertebrae (C-2 +5, T-5) and your left scapula." So, I spent 5 days in hospital, and the rest of the summer in a brace/collar. But I was back on my bike in 3 weeks. Actually I was very lucky. If I had not been wearing the helmet, I'd probably be breaking rocks in that Great Rockpile in the Sky now. Moral: don't bike - ever - without a helmet, and don't let anyone else do it either!!!

Just after the Bike Fiasco, as I was preparing to teach geology courses in Scotland for the fall semester, I discovered that I had prostate cancer, so I had to cancel out on the Scotland deal and do the surgical removal thing at Mayo on Sept. 23. I know you won't believe this, but I AM back to normal - as "normal" as I was before. Quit laughing. So you can invite me to visit your place and go hiking with you - really.

If we can get together, get bruntons repaired, etc, Brian Mahoney and I will teach Field Geology in Montana this summer. And then, finally, I am really done teaching at UWEC. I promise! So in compensation, I'm now heavy into volunteerism -Sunyata coop food store, Minnesota Public Radio Music Library, and Beaver Creek Reserve - so far.

As for the future, I'll be joining Vegas friends to walk the Grand Canyon and other friends to hike the Copper Canyon in the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico over Spring Break. Then, back to Scotland next fall and Asia next January. Lung Chan, now at Hong Kong University, will take me with him to China: he needs someone to carry his rock specimens. Otherwise, I'm sitting around plinking out "news" items for the Alumni Newsletter, etc.

Call me. Let me know what the heck you're into. I'd even come to see you if you'd invite me. After all I'm "retired" now!
Lori Snyder (E-mail: snyderld@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5086)

This year has been a very enjoyable one. I helped lead the Rocky Mountain Field Studies (Geol 303) interim course in June, 1996 with Brian Mahoney. Twenty-two enthusiastic students (mainly non-science majors), great weather, and terrific geology made the trip a truly memorable and fun experience.

After a busy summer of field work in British Columbia, Canada, the school year has been much slower paced. I have taught two sections of Geology of the National Parks (201) both semesters (a total of close to 300 students per semester!) and continue to enjoy it tremendously. I find introducing non-science students to geology and earth processes to be very rewarding. Fortunately, I will be able to continue my teaching efforts as I will be staying at the University through next year.

Recently, I have been “moonlighting” at a digital cartographic company here in Eau Claire. The company produces nautical charts in ARC-INFO. It has been an enjoyable (and somewhat humbling) experience. The current pace of advances in computer software is astounding and requires diligence and effort to keep up-to-date.

Brian and I have enjoyed our third year in Eau Claire. We took an extended trip to South America over winter break and had a terrific time! We are busy planning our summer projects and looking forward to spring.

Kent Syverson (E-mail: syverskm@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3676)

I just read Paul Myers’ news item—hard to beat that one! Students in Geomorph last fall worked on a glacial geology mapping project in Chippewa and Rusk Counties. Kristie Franz and Jeff Schels compiled a glacial geology map and poster for the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Scientific Reserve Unit, presented the poster at Wisconsin Academy of Sciences annual meeting in Stevens Point (where we had the good fortune to stay with former Geomorph student Connie Roman and her family), and then donated the poster to the new Chippewa Moraine Interpretive Center where it is now displayed prominently. New exhibits produced by the National Park Service will be installed this summer, and this will bring closure to an intensive effort by myself and UWEC students to aid with this process. I thank all of the students who helped with the hiking guide, roadside guide, and sediment maps of the park. Mark Holmes presented the results of our ice-wedge casts study in west-central Wisconsin at the North-Central Geological Society of America meeting in Ames, IA, and won a Best Student Paper Award. I have also begun a project investigating pre-Late Wisconsinan till stratigraphy in west-central Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey funded one week of drilling near Bloomer and Stanley-Boyd, and I plan to do more drilling this summer. Lisa Miller and I are working on a till database in FoxPro to aid future till correlations (up to approximately 400 samples thus far).

My summer 1996 was quite a fiasco. A Univ. of Illinois botany Ph.D. student invited me to go to Glacier Bay, Alaska, in early summer to assist with glacial geology interpretations. I committed to this 2.5-week, expenses-paid venture and flew to Glacier Bay May 30-June 7. There I discovered that the person I was to meet was gone—the person had been involved in a drinking/boating incident a few days earlier and had been kicked out of the national park! I had not been notified. Thus, I was in NPS headquarters and fully equipped for back-country research, other than not having food, a cook stove, and transportation. I tried to salvage some time in the field, but nothing worked out. The situation was almost comical—expect the unexpected in Alaska! I took advantage of spring tides in Bartlett Cove and learned about intertidal zone biology. My father died three weeks after my return from Alaska, so needless to say it was not a fun summer.

The girls keep us busy. Rebecca (born 6/26/95) is running all over the place. Some of the cuter Rebecca-isms include "praying" before real and fake meals and "dancing" to music by holding one arm in the air while spinning around. Laura (born 5/13/93) enjoyed watching gymnastics during the summer Olympic games. She discovered that a swimming suit looks much like a gymnast's leotard, so she constantly wanted to be in a swimming suit at home—that got old in a hurry! Laura has been learning stories and "reading" them to us—fun!

Events during the upcoming year? This summer I will spend 10 days as a visiting scientist aboard the 134' sailing vessel Cramer in the Gulf of Maine. I will teach students about the tidewater glaciers that formerly flowed into the Gulf of Maine and hope to see lots of whales! After that I will spend one week with the Maine Geological Survey looking at a region that experienced a deglaciation style very similar to the Glacier Bay region. I also come up for tenure in the fall. Promises to be a very busy year...!
John Tinker (E-mail: tinkejr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

This past year has been busy and exciting. Physical hydrogeology, chemical hydrogeology, water resources, and computer modeling students provide me with excitement, challenges, and of most importance fun. Nine students just returned from the 1997 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of American Water Resources Association. Two students gave papers: Kris Mercer presented a poster paper on her groundwater modeling efforts for Fairchild, WI, and Steve Thon presented an oral paper on groundwater infiltration ponds at Fall Creek, WI. Both papers were excellent! As usual, I went to bed early just as Chad Stuber, Bill Berg, Mark Holmes, Lisa Kraft, and Lee Delcore went off to tour the night spots in Milwaukee. They actually looked awake the next morning but I knew better.

We listened to some excellent and poor presentations at the AWRA meeting. It is truly amazing how some people forget to look at their slides from the back of the room or present six different pie charts on one slide or read their paper from slides. The meeting is always a good learning experience for our students.

Mae Willkom and I just completed the sensitivity analysis for our groundwater modeling effort of the proposed Crandon Mine site. This project has taken about two years, and an NSF CUR grant that we received will help us to complete the work. We hope to present a paper this fall at GSA in Salt Lake City, Utah.

I purchased a Honda Goldwing Aspencade 1500 motorcycle last spring. Mark Holmes and Jennifer Tobias convinced me that was better than waiting two years for a Harley. Christine and I drove the bike to the Badlands of North Dakota, and we are driving the bike to the Grand Canyon this summer. Not bad for someone who never drove a motorcycle until last spring!

I thank all of our alumni that notify us of job and graduate school opportunities. This is truly helpful to our graduating seniors. I also thank our alumni for contributing time, money, and moral support to our students.

I guess everything else is the same. A student told me yesterday that I do not smile enough; my office still looks like an old Wisconsin dump; I still love teaching and my dog; I have another grandchild (daughter).

I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Nancy Amdahl, Program Assistant (E-mail: amdahlnj@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3732)

Howdy! Well, my life doesn’t seem nearly as eventful as the rest of the travelers here in the department, but someone has to stay here to hold the fort down while these geologist travel all over the world (ha!). Mind you I’m sitting here writing this on another one of those WONDERFUL (note: sarcasm here) days in Wisconsin when the snow has been coming down for the past day and a half and it’s still snowing – but hey, we’re only 6 days away from the first day of Spring! By the way, not only does it feel like we’ve had a rough winter, we have proof, Wisconsin broke a new record snowfall this winter.

Obviously, I’m not a real winter weather enthusiast, so I did make sure to get away from here this winter. In early January my husband and I went on a 5-day cruise out of Miami to Cozumel, MX, then to Key West, FL and back to Miami – what a feeling to be out snorkeling in the middle of January, while everyone back home is busy shoveling out their driveways, scraping ice off their car windows, etc.!!! It was great!

Anyway, keep in touch and stop by and visit us sometime – we love to hear from our alumni, and we’re always looking for excuses to take coffee breaks!

PLEASE HELP US FIND OUR LOST ALUMNI

We have lost contact with the following geology alumni.

If you have any idea where any of the following people might be, please let us know! Thanks!

Steven M. Bohm, 1976  
Carol Ann Eloranta, 1982  
Kenneth James Fredricks, 1972  
Jodi Lynne Gorden, 1983  
Daniel Jay Hlavaty, 1984  
Jeffrey J. Jarocki, 1979  
John M. Jefferson, 1977

Stephen James Jewell, 1984  
James R. Johnson, 1973  
James Ivan Markle, 1969  
Karen Marie Mc Adam, 1984  
David A. Prose, 1976  
Alan Bruce Rahn, 1983  
Gordon Leon Schuh, Jr., 1970
THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

The Department would like to acknowledge the following individuals that have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since March, 1996. Thanks to all of the following generous donors listed below. Once again, we received an anonymous donation of $5000 from some wonderful person!!! If UWEC calls you asking for a donation, be sure to remember the Geology Advancement Fund!

Anonymous  
BHP Petroleum Americas Inc.  
Diane Carlson

Tracey Carpenter  
Michael Cummings  
Richard Kark

David Risch  
Kent & Lila Syverson  
Richard Zillman

As usual, the department is always in dire need for external funding to support activities such as faculty/student field trips, student travel to professional meetings, etc. Therefore, we strongly urge any support from alumni, whether it be financially, by setting up meetings to speak with our geology majors/minors, by offering employment to new graduates, or by donating equipment. Big or small, we gladly accept any kind of assistance! During the past year, the Geology Advancement Fund provided financial support of travel expenses for two of our geology majors presenting posters at professional meetings, and we were also able to cover travel expenses for several wonderful field trips within the department to areas, such as Copper Falls, the U.P., and to the Black Hills, South Dakota.

Heidi Rantala, Presented at the 1996 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.  
Title: Partitioning of Heavy Metals Within Tailings-Contaminated Floodplain Sediment, Coeur D'Alene River Valley, Idaho

Sarah Weaver ~ Presented at the 1996 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.  
Title: Surficial Dune Processes and Migration of Run Hill Dune, Bodie Island, North Carolina

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?  
Alumni News

If you would like addresses of these (or other) alumni, please write or e-mail Kent or Nancy and we will supply them to you.

Greg Beckstrom (1984) ~ After graduating in December of 1984, Greg married a fellow UWEC graduate (Julie Weinstock — BBA in MIS). He has worked in the oil industry and environmental services and has lived in Chicago and Minneapolis. Julie (who was a student in a "geology for business geeks" course in which Greg was a lab assistant) works for Cargill supporting business systems in their corporate human resources department. Their daughter, Anna (born September of 1995), is now walking, talking, etc!

Since 1992 Greg has worked for Golder Associates, a sizable environmental and geotechnical engineering firm. His work at Golder spans business development, project management and strategic planning for their international environmental service practice. Because Golder has a reputation for technical excellence and they have offices in Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America and North America, they tend to get involved in some pretty interesting projects. Greg would be thrilled to hear from any other UWEC grads.

Greg's e-mail address: gbeckstrom@golder.com

Doug Cieslak (1993) ~ Doug has been a Hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) in Madison, WI, for the past three years. As a Hydrogeologist at WDATCP, he oversees agrichemical remediation cases. Doug and his wife, Kendra (1990 UWEC Alumni), had their first child, Laura, in early March - an exciting time for them. Doug and his family hope to eventually move back to western Wisconsin to be closer to friends and family.

Doug's e-mail address: ciesldj@wheel.datcp.state.wi.us

Tracey Carpenter (1995) ~ Tracey is presently a graduate student at ASU. She commented, "Like most people tell you, the first year of graduate school is very...challenging." Her advisor is Dr. Paul Knauth who works in stable isotopes (oxygen and hydrogen). This semester she is beginning some research that looks at the hydrogen in hematite in sedimentary rocks (like BIF and some other sedimentary rocks from Africa). Right now she is busy familiarizing herself with the literature and procedures used in this field. She hasn't set herself up with a dissertation project yet, but hopes to have a good idea of what she wants to do by the time she passes her orals (Tracey says, "knock on wood") next fall.

Tracey's e-mail address: carpentl@asu.edu
Sandy Chamberlain [Walsh] (1968) ~ Sandy is currently working with students who are in their 40's, have raised their children, and are returning to school to pursue a new career. Monroe Community College opened a satellite program in the downtown area of Rochester, N.Y. When we last heard from Sandy she was busy developing curricula for a Week End Family College. It was being developed to give the children and spouse of the student a friendly, educational, and positive environment in which the entire family could grow. Sandy claimed that one day she was working with one of the students on the Whitewater Quadrangle and she found herself speaking of many happy memories of the UWEC field trips to Baraboo, U.P. Michigan, and the Deer Creek Range of Wyoming!

Greg Durocher (1982) ~ Greg is currently a Chief at the USGS Earth Science Information Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Greg’s e-mail address: GFDurocher@Rmmc1.cr.usgs.gov

Joe Erickson (1981) ~ After graduation, Joe went on to obtain a MS in Geophysics, and a MBA in Finance. He is currently the Marketing Manager for Spectrum Energy and Information Technology Inc. (Houston office). Spectrum is based in the UK and specializes in seismic data processing and data management services to energy companies. Joe and his wife, Cindy, have been married for three years and just had their first child (Rachel Grace) in December, 1996. Joe says that Rachel is a healthy and happy baby. Cindy has her own graphic design business. Joe told us “She [Cindy] is not as fond of rocks as I am (she does happen to like jewels however), so consequently the majority of my rock collection remains in our garage.” Joe’s e-mail address: Joseph.Erickson@spectrum-eit.com

Luis Estrada (1988) ~ In 1994 Luis and three other colleagues quit their jobs at the National Power Company and started their own petroleum-focused consulting firm doing work in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. They are keeping themselves busy. Luis and his wife have three children. Luis would like to get in touch with other alumni from the old gang. Luis’ e-mail address: geopetro@infovia.com.gt

Kristie Franz-Gerrits (1995) ~ Kristie moved to Palm Bay, FL shortly after she got married last May. When we heard from her in March she had just started a new job at Terra-Klean, and she was going to be flying to San Diego, CA for three weeks of training. Terra-Klean has an on-site soil remediation system that is the only federally approved system of its kind in the country. Kristie will be working in Cape Canaveral. Kristie’s e-mail address: gerrits@surfusa.com

Dawn Gabardi (1993) ~ After graduating Dawn worked as a hydrogeologist at Cedar Corporation in Menomonie, WI. Then she spent two years in Panama as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She learned Spanish and the effects of urbanization in underdeveloped nations. She also spent time working on soil conservation projects which would reduce deforestation in the tropics caused by slash-and-burn agriculture techniques currently practiced in Central America. Dawn also worked with teachers and students in small, rural community schools to develop environmental education programs. Currently, she is back in Milwaukee, WI.

Gary Genteman (1984) ~ After graduation Gary went to the University of South Florida at Tampa to work on his Master’s Degree, and then he went to work for Groundwater Technology. He is now a Wisconsin Certified Professional Geologist and Senior Project Hydrogeologist at Sigma Environmental in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Kristen Gunderson (1995) ~ Kristen worked with the DNR here in Eau Claire until last fall when she took a job with Fluid Management, Inc., in Mosinee, WI. She has been busy writing reports to the DNR, and she has been assigned project manager on several cases.

Doug Hallum (1996) ~ Doug spent the summer in Denver as a part of the USGS-National Association of Geology Teachers Summer Cooperative Field Training Program. Doug spent time working on a project related to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a “small” contaminated site near Denver! He presented a seminar about Rocky Mountain Arsenal contamination to the Geology Department after he returned from Colorado.

Chris Heintz (1986) ~ Chris works in the survey and mapping section for the Louisville District Corps of Engineers as a Geodesist. He received his land surveying license in January 1995. He does deformation studies on locks and dams on the Ohio River and conventional surveying and photogrammetry. His company is also in the process of using a GIS for its studies. Chris recently used ground penetrating radar (GPR) in Tokyo, Japan, to locate illegally dumped (buried) hazardous waste. Chris’ e-mail address: christopher.j.heintz@smtp.orl.usace.army.mil

Dave Hodek (1995) ~ Dave is currently attending Graduate School at UW-Madison in Geological Engineering. Dave’s e-mail address: HODEK@msae.engr.wisc.edu
James “Zach” Kostalek (1993) ~ Zach is a Truss Designer. We’re told that he recently won 1st prize at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival in the Mead Competition. He continues to work on his home brews and entering contests.

Nick Loomis (1995) ~ Nick is working in the chemistry research division for Rayovac Corporation in Madison.

Timothy Masterlark (1994) ~ The past year has been very busy for Tim. Last August he presented some of his research at the IASPEI meeting in Tangshan, China. He also presented a poster at the December '96 AGU meeting in San Francisco last December. Tim assured us that he always makes sure that he gets a good balance of business and pleasure. After the IASPEI meeting last summer, he then went to Beijing and visited Tianamen Square, the Museum of Chinese History and the Great Revolution, and the Forbidden City. Graduate students from the Institute of Geology in Beijing also took him to a Karaoke bar and a disco. While in San Francisco for the AGU meeting, he also made time for a trip to the Napa Valley.

Tim taught “Principles of Geology” at UW-Madison during the fall 1996 semester. However, when we last heard from him he had just received Research Assistant funding, so he was going to focus on research rather than teaching. Tim said he’d miss teaching, but he was also looking forward to being able to put a lot more time into research. His research interests include poroelasticity, spectral methods, and time series analysis.

Tim's e-mail address: master@geology.wisc.edu OR Tim’s web page at http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~master/index.html

Ann Melby (1996) ~ Ann is a Pollution Control Specialist at the Minnesota DOT Office of Environmental Services.

Jeremy Miller (1995) ~ After managing Johnson Disposal Company’s Eau Claire recycling program, Jeremy took a job this spring with Wisconsin Porcelain in Sun Prairie, WI.

Todd “Pyro” Myse (1995) ~ Todd is currently working as a hydrogeologist at Alliance Environmental Consultants, Inc. in Eau Claire. He visited Tetons and Yellowstone last summer with Ann Melby and Sarah Weaver. They also are planning to go to Glacier this summer. Todd plans to continue his education in the Fall ’98. He’s currently leaning toward mining, but he is unsure at this point. He still has a love for astronomy, so he plans on checking out the job market to see if it looks any better than it did three years ago.

Todd’s e-mail address: myseta@juno.com

Paul Overlien (1994) ~ Paul is currently living in Coganut Creek, Florida, and working at GFA International. GFA is a relatively small engineering firm that conducts Phases I, II, and III of environmental site assessments.

David Risch (1978) ~ Since graduation Dave has received his Master’s degree in oceanography from Texas A&M University (1982). He worked as a geophysicist for Phillips Petroleum Co. in Oklahoma for 6 years processing and interpreting seismic data. In 1988, he took a job with Schlumberger Geco-Prakla (a French-Norwegian-German seismic data company) in Houston. While with Geco-Prakla, Dave did regional sequence stratigraphic interpretations of the Gulf of Mexico, published and traveled to Europe and China. In April 1996, he joined Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) Petroleum, an Australian company, as a senior staff geophysicist doing regional studies and prospecting. Dave and Janice have three children, Erin (19), Colin (14) and Patrick (13). Dave's e-mail address: Risch.David.DL@bhp.com.au

Kim Rodriguez (1993) ~ Kim continues to work in the environmental field as a hydrogeologist. She claims she is still waiting for that prize-winning lottery ticket. Good luck Kim!

David Sander (1986) ~ David is a Soil Technician for the St. Croix County Land Conservation Department. He is married, and has one son, Colton, who was born in 1995.

Don Schleicher (1985) ~ Don is the manager for the Television Services and Distance Learning Technologies Division at UWEC Media Development Center. He really enjoys telecommunications, but he misses Geology! Don tells us his son, Samuel, is quickly approaching age 2 and that he is a neat little guy. They have lots of fun together and they hope to get him out to Yellowstone and the Tetons in a year or two. Don is also planning another trip to Hong Kong next spring to visit his in-laws and Lung Chan’s family. Don says “hello” to everyone from the mid-80’s era!

Don’s e-mail address: schleidd@uwec.edu

Michael Squire (1992) ~ Mike is a material handler at A.A. Hanson Electric Inc. in Osceola, WI. He is also self-employed as a maintenance contractor out of LaCrosse.
Paula Sumpter (1983) ~ After graduation, Paula divorced and moved to Milwaukee. She completed her master’s degree in Library and Information Science and a graduate program in Museum Studies at UWM. For five years she served as Assistant Curator of Geology at the Milwaukee Public Museum. In 1992 she was “promoted” to her current position of Information Services Coordinator. She coordinates collections of data automation, maintains five networks, coordinates all Internet services and serves as Webmaster for the Museum’s web site at http://www.mpm.edu.
Paula’s e-mail address: ps@mpml.mpm.edu

Jennifer Tobias (1996) ~ Jenna has been working at the USGS in Iowa City, IA, since last summer. Last summer as part of the USGS-NAGT Summer Cooperative Field Training Program, she was assigned to the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program in the Ground Water division of USGS. There she went out and sampled private wells and USGS wells for radon, voc’s, stable isotopes, pesticides, tritium, doc and other things, so she got in A LOT of field work and enjoyed that. After all the ground-water wells were sampled, she spent time with the Biology section of NAWQA to sample for bugs, algae, leeches, etc. (Jenna expressed to us her enthusiasm about wearing waders for the first time!) In the fall she worked in the office on the database interpreting all the data that they had gathered with their sampling. Along with being in charge of the paperwork, Jenna is responsible for taking requests for installing water table observation wells. We last heard from Jenna in February, and at that time she was very excited because she had just been promoted to her own office space complete with modern furniture and cabinet spaces! She also has been very busy working on publishing a fact sheet (first author), which was in the final review stages at that time. Jenna also attended the 1997 North-Central Geological Society of America meeting in Madison.
Jenna’s e-mail address: jltobias@usgs.gov

Chad Underwood (1996) ~ Chad is presently working as an Environmental Technician at Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., an engineering firm in Chippewa Falls, WI. He recently accepted a research assistantship to work with a professor in the Geological Engineering Graduate Program at UW-Madison. His graduate work will focus on rock fracture mechanics. This summer he will begin mapping fractures and faults at Slumgullion Landslide (Colorado), East Kaibab Monocline (Utah), and Rattlesnake Mt. (Wyoming). Chad’s e-mail address: underwca@uwec.edu

Kristin Weaver (1996) ~ Last summer Kris was fortunate to participate in the U.S. Geological Survey/National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT) Summer Cooperative Field Training Program. She worked with Dr. Walter Mooney in the Office of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Engineering, Branch of Seismology, in Menlo Park, CA. She contributed data to Dr. Mooney’s database defining crustal structures around the entire world. Kris also was involved with constructing a generalized global tectonic map.

Kris is now on her second semester of graduate school at the University of Southern California. Last semester she taught Earthquakes, a course for non-geology majors at USC, as a TA. Presently she is teaching the undergraduate Structural Geology course as a TA. This summer she will be a research assistant for her advisor, Dr. James Dolan, researching the paleoseismological studies of faults in southern California. Then next fall she will excavate and map four of her own trenches on the Raymond and Verdugo faults. This study will seek to constrain earthquake recurrence intervals along these faults. In addition, air photographs, topographic maps, and additional field reconnaissance will be used to map the surface traces of the faults in order to understand their relationships to each other and faults in the Los Angeles region. This work is for her Master’s thesis, but will also be used by the Southern California Earthquake Center to further evaluate earthquake hazard in this region. In addition to preliminary research for her Master’s work and teaching, Kris is also taking a couple of courses that caught her interest this semester. One of them is the Baja Seminar, which involves two trips to Baja California, Mexico!
Kristin’s e-mail address: weaverkd@earth.usc.edu

Eddy Wieland (1994) ~ Eddy and his wife recently moved to Sagle, Idaho. Eddy has been teaching Water Quality on a temporary basis at Spokane Community College. He reports 5 feet of snow on the ground in early March!
Alumni Questionnaire

Name ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Address (If different than the mailing label we used.)

____________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address ______________________________

Home Phone ____________________________

Year of Graduation from UWEC _________________

Major(s) ___________________________________

Present job/title ___________________________________

Advanced Degrees ______________________________

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

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Send to:
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UWEC GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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