Greetings from the Department Chair:

It has been a year since the last newsletter. As always, many things have changed within the program and some things have stayed the same. One thing that has remained constant is that I’m still chair of the program, but hopefully this too will soon change. Martin Miller, who was with our department for the last three years, left to take a position at University of Oregon. Martin was a visiting professor who did a great job teaching structural geology and geophysics within the program. We miss Martin very much but we know he’s enjoying his new home on the West Coast. After Martin left, we were able to hire a tenure track assistant professor in structural geology and geophysics, Dr. Brad Burton, from the University of Wyoming. Brad has extensive experience in the oil patch and will be working on resurrecting the petroleum geology course as well as teaching structural geology, geophysics and field camp. We welcome Brad to the department and we are very glad to have him around! We’ll probably be hiring a petrologist next year to fill the position made vacant by Paul Myers’ retirement three years ago. We have been given authority to hire but we’re waiting until next summer to begin the search process. This will give the department seven tenure track faculty for the first time in several years. We hope to continue using academic staff where needed to teach high-demand courses that we can’t cover with faculty, including National Parks and Earth Science.

The department continues to sponsor large numbers of undergraduate collaborative research projects, and students are studying geology in the far corners of North America. This past summer we had three students working in the Yukon, three in British Columbia, one in North Carolina, and two in Idaho. We also had several students working on hydrogeology and glacial geology projects in Wisconsin. While exact numbers are hard to come by, about thirty students participated in some level of research activity within the program during the last year. Students continued to present their research at national and regional meetings and we sent quite a contingent of students to the national GSA meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mae Willkom, one of John’s students, presented at the national GSA meeting and her poster, by all accounts, was well accepted. Michelle Haskin, one of Lori’s students, published a journal article resulting from her research. We are very proud of the progress our students are making as a result of these research opportunities.

We also continue to stress the field aspects of the science and have sponsored field trips to Wyoming, the Black Hills, Arkansas, and the Four Corners region as well as the annual northern Michigan field trip for Mineralogy/Petrology. The field trips all went well, students were pleased and no major catastrophes occurred. This spring the department sponsored a trip to the Grand Canyon—an interesting trip!

The department continues to refurbish the equipment list and is making progress on laboratory improvements. They tell us that Phillips Hall will get a major remodeling in the next few years, but we don’t plan on a whole new building layout anytime soon! We’re still cramped for space but we’re still able to offer exceptional opportunities for both instruction and research. We’re getting new binocular microscopes, some new rock preparation equipment and we’re taking delivery of a new transmission electron microscope this April, a $500,000 piece of new analytical equipment. We’re working on development of a new split field camp with a winter session in New Mexico and summer in Montana.

Continue to keep in touch with the program and be sure to stop by and see the changes we’re making as we approach our 30th anniversary as a department (see Paul Myers’ narrative). Let us know when you’re going to be in town and we’ll give you a tour of the department. We LOVE to hear from our alumni, so let us know what you’re doing!

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hooper
"UP FROM THE MUD"
THE HISTORY OF UWEC GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

by Paul Myers, April 1998

In 1960-61, it was proposed that geology courses should be offered in the Geography Department under Mr. Henry Kolka. This began a crucial time for the newly “orphaned” Geology Department, a time for development of new faculty and curriculum and the carving of space from a building not planned for a geology department. With only three faculty members, the newborn department easily could have been resorbed back into the Geography Department - or disbanded altogether. Since that time the Geology Department has grown and developed a reputation for excellence. I felt it appropriate to summarize the department’s history because the “youngsters” in the department are all relatively new to the department.

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<td>79-82</td>
<td>Glacial Geomorph.-Environ.</td>
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The Formative (“White-Knuckle”) Years: 1960-1982

The proposal in 1960-61 to offer geology courses in the Geography Department led to some turbulent times. Amidst considerable, often heated, discussion of courses which rightfully “belonged in Geology” and those which should be taught under the heading of “Geography” during 1964-66, the newly renamed Department of Geography and Geology began offering a cluster of introductory and second-year geology courses such as Mineralogy-Petrology, Structural Geology, Geology Seminar, and Field Geology all taught by John Bergstrom. The separation of geology from geography in state universities was a national trend linked to rapid expansion in the petroleum and minerals industries. With the hiring of Ronald Willis in 1967, the Geography-Geology Department began offering “softrock” courses such as Stratigraphy and Sedimentation and Paleontology.

The Geology Department officially separated from Geography in July 1969 and obtained instructional space. At this time the 2nd floor labs, specimen + map storage, and work/preparation areas were carved out of spaces assigned to other departments. This did not endear the Geology Department to its Phillips Hall neighbors! The newly remodeled Phillips Hall (W and S wings) had not been planned for a geology department, the “orphan-child” of Phillips Hall. The Geology Department faculty shared first floor office space and a secretary with the much larger Mathematics Department. Paul Myers was hired to teach Mineralogy, Petrology and Economic Geology in 1969. Building a
"traditional" geology major from scratch with only 3 faculty members and providing students seeking an orderly progression of courses proved daunting during this period of rapid growth and change.

In the early 1970s, the profile of the Geology Department was raised as courses were revised with an increased emphasis on General Education courses. Courses such as "Geology and the Environment" and "Oceans and Shorelines" were introduced and proved quite popular. In addition, numerous course-connected field trips to Chippewa Valley sites, Wausau, SW Wisconsin, and leading the Wisconsin State University Field Conference in the Eau Claire area showed the department's commitment to meaningful field experiences, a reputation that continues to the present. Upper-division courses taught by Bergstrom, Myers, and Willis included Struct. Geol., Min. Petrology-Petrography, Econ. Min. Deposits, Sed-Strat, Paleo, Petroleum Geology, and Field Geology. The large Field Geology enrollment during summer 1973 showed that the department was doing well. However, the need for courses in hydrogeology, engineering, and environmental geology was recognized.

By 1973-74, Math had moved out of Phillips Hall, creating space for Geology. New general studies courses such as National Parks, Earth Resources, Glaciers, Rocks and Minerals, Continental Drift led to more geology majors (40) and minors (35). Nancy Jo Pickett joined the Department half-time, teaching Physical Geology labs and organizing collections. In October 1974, Ms. Betty Vetter of the Scientific Manpower Commission, Washington D.C., gave a talk entitled "Futures in Geoscience Professions" at the Tri-State Geology Conference hosted by the WSU-Eau Claire Geology Department. This talk gave new impetus for changes in the Geology curriculum toward environmental and hydrogeology courses, and in 1975-76 a request was submitted to add another full-time faculty position in hydrogeology and environmental geology. By this time, Environmental Geology (101) and Oceanography (102) had become the department's most highly enrolled courses. The university also acquired a Tracor Northern SEM.

The number of geology majors fluctuated considerably during the following years. In 1977-78, the department had twenty-one majors (15 men, 6 women). Geology majors reached a maximum of approximately 84 in 1982, but soon began to decline owing to a sharp reduction in demand for petroleum- and minerals-related geologists. This led to a need for the department to reposition itself in its relation to needs in the profession, so much time was spent searching for new faculty to cover new courses.

The Adjustment Years - 1982-1990

During this period, with the rapid decline in demand for geologists in the petroleum and mining industries, there was a general decline in upper-division geology enrollments with a consequent shift toward environmental and hydrogeology emphases. This was a time of rapid changes in teaching staff and a maturation of the larger department. The years 1982-83 marked a turning point in the Geology Department. With Bergstrom retired, Pickett and Willis on leave, and Wilson leaving to take a teaching position at Weber State Univ., the Department faculty underwent a quantum leap into the unknown. Combs, Myers (Chair), and Orazulike were joined by new faculty; Scott Schiller (structure) and John Tinker (hydrogeology) [5.0 faculty]. Course additions included Field Methods, Hydrogeology, Vertebrate Paleontology, Paleoecology, and Plate Tectonics. In 1983 Robert Hooper joined the faculty with a new Ph.D. in Geochemistry-Mineralogy from Washington University. This brought the number of faculty up to six, and things started humming!

With declining numbers of geology majors in the mid-1980s (in 1984-85 majors were down to approximately 30) there was an increased emphasis upon service and General Education courses, such as the 1-credit 100-level lab course in Environmental Geology. During this time, Lung Chan (geophysics, structural geol.) joined us. In addition, Physical and Chemical Hydrogeology courses approved in 1985-86 began changes in the department that were to recapture majors and strengthen the department. By 1986-87 geology majors were up to 38 in three comprehensive major emphases (General, Environmental, and Marine Geology) and the Liberal Arts major. Majors were increasingly shifted toward environmental and hydrogeology areas. In late October 1987, Nan Pickett died after a battle with cancer, and the Geology Department lost a valued friend and colleague. In 1989-90, Hooper was awarded NSF grants for an x-ray diffractometer and petrographic microscopes—equipment that helped us make the transition to....

MAKING IT BIG-TIME - 1990-Present

Under Robert Hooper's excellent leadership, the Geology Department experienced rapid growth in the number of majors and minors, student-faculty research and publications, program diversity, curriculum refinement and acquisition of sophisticated analytical equipment and their incorporation into the program. We became a respected member of the science community at UWEC and throughout the State.
Over its 30-year history, the fledgling Geology Department has adapted and evolved into one that has gained the respect of its university neighbors and the greater academic professional community. Its persistent enthusiastic commitment to learning by direct experience – in the lab and in the field – and its insistence upon faculty-student research collaboration have brought it to a position of prominence in the field.

The Geology Department will have to keep on changing in the future, and we are looking for partners – like YOU! You can help by offering our students internships and jobs, speaking with us about your work, or giving to the Geology Department Advancement Fund (see coupon on page 14). We thank YOU for helping to build the tradition for excellence within the Geology Department!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Martin Miller Heads West!

The department recently lost a wonderful friend and co-worker, Dr. Martin Miller (UWEC Visiting Assistant Professor, 1994-97). Martin started a teaching and research position at the University of Oregon in Fall 1997. To add to the excitement of relocation and a new job, Martin and his wife, Julie, just had their second child on February 5, 1998. Megan, a happy and healthy 8 lb., 20-inch-long baby girl, was eagerly welcomed home by Lindsay, their 4-year-old daughter. To see more about what Martin has been doing with his time, check out his cool web site.

http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~millerm/ E-mail: millerm@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Rocky Mountain Field Studies - Summer 1997

by Mae Willkom, student field assistant

Rocky Mountain Field Studies was a special treat for me this year, as I had the opportunity to take the trip as Dr. Hooper’s assistant. Although I enjoyed taking the trip for the first time several years ago, this trip offered the same great geology, but no papers to write!

We spent the first two weeks of June in all the usual spots: the Badlands, Black Hills, Bighorns, Tetons, and Yellowstone. I was especially happy to make it to some of the places I missed the first time around: Devil’s Tower, Specimen Ridge, and the infamous Beartooth Pass Highway. The weather was great for the most part, but the spring snowmelt caused incredibly high waters all over the west. There was even a major mudslide, which we promptly investigated as best we could, given the view from the roadblock!

Snow in the Tetons obliterated the trails about halfway up the mountain, and those of us who continued up to the glacier had to kick our way through the snowpack. It was worth it, though, when we got to the top and witnessed several avalanches rumbling down Grand Teton in the distance. Unfortunately, on the way down a stick punctured Dr. Hooper’s leg, and he found himself in the Jackson hospital. The remaining days of the trip presented some interesting challenges in juggling geology and health care, but everyone handled it well and we hardly missed a beat!

Colorado Plateau & Grand Canyon Field Trip - Spring Break 1998

by Lori Snyder, Co-leader

The Spring Break course this year was an excursion to the well-exposed stratigraphy of the Colorado Plateau led by Brian Mahoney and Lori Snyder. Twelve students spent ten adventure-packed days exploring the geological history of North America. The trip began in Goblin Valley State Park (named for its eerie-looking erosional hoodoos) in Utah under a clear sky with a full moon. From there the group traveled to Capitol Reef National Park and into the new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument for some warm-up hikes and geology before the main attraction – a descent into the Grand Canyon. Hiking the Grand Canyon is a challenging and awe-inspiring experience, particularly when dealing with a multitude of unexpected obstacles. An unusually cool and wet winter in the US Southwest made for an icy (and quite scary) start. On the way down, Lori sprained her ankle and her gear was cheerfully taken by the rest of the group, who demonstrated that teamwork and perseverance are keys to success. Lori was unable to continue with the rest of the group, but her disappointment was eased by a friendly group of rafters who offered her a ride (and an exciting one at that!) to the ranger station at Phantom Ranch in the bottom of the Canyon. The rest of the group pushed onward, facing a powerful wind and rain storm, numerous cuts and bruises, and a sprained knee before finally emerging from the Canyon victorious. The tour continued back into Utah (at a slightly less vigorous pace) for two days in Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. Although the nights were cold, the daytime weather was quite pleasant, the geology was spectacular (the Colorado Plateau is not to be missed by any rock enthusiast!), and all participants came back with new geological knowledge and unforgettable memories.
UWEC to Host Tri-State and Wisconsin Undergraduate Geological Field Conferences Sept. 25-27, 1998

The UWEC Geology Dept. is hosting a joint meeting of the Fall 1998 Tri-State Geological Field Conference and Wisconsin Undergraduate Geology Field Conference. The meeting, to be held Sept. 25-27, 1998, will bring approximately 140 professional geologists and geology majors from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa to Eau Claire. An ice-breaker and undergraduate research poster session will be held on Friday night, followed by an all-day field trip and conference banquet on Saturday, and a half-day field trip on Sunday morning. Kent Syverson and Karen Havholm are co-organizing the conference.

If you wish to obtain more information about the field conference or to be placed on the mailing list for registration materials, please contact Kent or Karen or check out the Geology web site (www.uwec.edu/Academic/Geology/). Hope to see you at the conference—it is a great excuse to return to your alma mater!

Geology Club News
by Beth Wenell, President

The Geology Club welcomed everyone back this year with a picnic at Owen Park. The picnic proved to be an enjoyable time to catch up on summertime activities and research. Fund-raising kept members busy throughout the fall with popcorn and textbook sales as well as field equipment sales. The club sponsored the annual Christmas party, thus providing a relaxing evening before finals.

Second semester activities in cooperation with SGE and the Geography Club included a resume workshop and some student research forums. Members are hoping to get out and enjoy some of the beautiful El Nino weather this spring, so activities are being planned.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) News
by Mae Willkom, President

Sigma Gamma Epsilon is off to a slow, but sure, start this year at UWEC. We have an enthusiastic new advisor in Dr. Brad Burton, who has lots of fresh ideas for activities and fund-raisers. Now all we need is members!

Most of our members graduated last year, leaving Tom Danielson and myself to recruit new blood. Our efforts so far have included a table at the Blugold Organizations Bash, and the compilation of a list of eligible prospects to target via e-mail. We are also planning a series of brown-bag research presentations to be held jointly with Geology Club; we kicked off our first session immediately upon return from Spring Break.

We're still receiving requests for geology presentations from elementary schools, and some of our new members are following up on that. Last, but not least, Tom and I are contemplating what is in store for these new initiates when we hold our famous initiation ceremony during Honors Week in April!

Weaver and Holmes presented Geology Excellence Awards

The Department has instituted a Geology Excellence Award to recognize the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major. The 1996-97 winners of the Geology Excellence Award are Sarah Weaver and Mark Holmes. Sarah and Mark 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.

Sarah is a law student at Hamline University, and Mark is enrolled in the hydrogeology graduate program at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Congratulations, Sarah and Mark!

Willkom wins the “Best Student Presentation” award at AWRA Conference

Mae Willkom, a geology senior, received the “Best Student Presentation” award at the 1998 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association, held March 5-6 in Green Lake, WI. Mae presented a talk entitled “Physical Groundwater Modeling of Crandon Mine Site in Forest County, WI”. Other groundwater models presented in Mae's session were by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Army Corp of Engineers, a nationally known groundwater modeling consultant, and groundwater modelers hired by Crandon Mining Company. Mae was competing against graduate students from many of the surrounding UW campuses in winning her award. Mae, and her adviser, John Tinker, have been working very intensely on this research project for over two and a half years. We are all very proud of both of them.
Syverson receives WGNHS research grant

Kent Syverson has received a 3-yr, $51,000 grant from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to study the glacial stratigraphy and geomorphology of Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Syverson and UWEC undergraduate students will map glacial sediments in Chippewa County and study clay mineralogy, magnetic susceptibility, grain size, weathering of glacial sediment, and glacial geomorphology in an attempt to correlate till units >25,000 years old in western and north-central Wisconsin. The origin of the high-relief hummocks in the Chippewa Moraine also will be investigated. The Chippewa County Land Conservation Department has pledged approximately $14,000 to support the project as well. Study results will be published as a WGNHS Bulletin and a colored 1:100,000-scale map. Studies such as this provide our undergraduate majors with excellent research opportunities and strengthen the geology program at UWEC.

Faculty/Student Collaborative Research Projects, Spring 1998 Student Research Day

The Sixth Annual UWEC Student Research Day was held April 27 in the Davies Center on the UWEC campus. This event is held to showcase faculty/student collaborative research occurring on campus. The Geology Department has been very well represented throughout the years, and this year was no exception. Three of the five "best poster" awards in the Physical and Natural Sciences division (90 posters total) went to geology students. All of the students noted below presented posters this year. We are very proud of each student!

Lance Bakken, with Bradford R. Burton and J. Brian Mahoney, "Geochemistry and Petrology of the Boulder Batholith, Southwestern Montana."

Thomas J. Danielson, with J. Brian Mahoney, "Geochemistry and Tectonic Setting of the Powell Creek Group, Southwestern British Columbia."

Lee Delcore and Anthony Romanowski, with John Tinker, "Groundwater Modeling Study for a Wellhead Protection Plan for the city of August, Wisconsin." Also presented at the 1998 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association, held March 5-6 in Green Lake, WI.

Lee Delcore, Heather Golding, and Brian Hennings, with Robert L. Hooper and J. Brian Mahoney, "Student Experience in Lithoprobe Seismic Refraction Experiment."

Heather Golding, with Karen Havholm and J. Brian Mahoney, "The Wonewoc Formation: Sedimentological Response to a Sea Level Lowstand."


Michael Schmidt, with J. Brian Mahoney, "Geochemistry of the Spences Bridge Group, British Columbia."

Amy Jo Steffen, with Kent Syverson and Robert Hooper, "Clay Mineralogy of Pre-Late Wisconsinan Till Units, Western Wisconsin." Also presented at the North-Central GSA meeting at Ohio State University, April 1998.

Lisa Sobczak and Carrie Rowe, with Robert Hooper and J. Brian Mahoney, "Transport Pathways of Heavy Metal Contamination in Fluvial Sediments, Coeur d'Alene River, Northern Idaho." Winner of Second Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences division, UWEC Student Research Day.

Aaron Walczak, with J. Brian Mahoney, "Geochemical Distinction of Glacioluvial Deposits of the Puget Lowland."

Beth Wenell, with Karen Havholm and Harry Jol, "History of Holocene Dune Activity, Coastal North Carolina and Virginia."

Mae Willkom, with John Tinker, Jr., "Physical Groundwater Modeling of Crandon Mine Site in Forest County, Wisconsin." Winner of First Place in the Natural and Physical Sciences division, UWEC Student Research Day. Also received the "Best Student Presentation" at the 1998 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association, held March 5-6 in Green Lake, WI.

1 Students who presented posters at professional conferences also are indicated. Student travel to regional and national conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund.
Bradford Burton (E-mail: burtonbr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-4982)

I am a newcomer to the department, and yes, I am another "structure geek." There is little that I enjoy more than teaching and doing structural geology. This first year at UWEC has given me a great opportunity to work with some exceptionally good students. The faculty, staff and administration have been so helpful and supportive that my first year has been a great experience. I have not met most of the readers of the newsletter, so let me give a brief self-intro.

I moved to Eau Claire to take the structure/geophysics position from Wyoming, where I finished my Ph.D. at the other UW. I held an archives faculty position at Wyoming and worked extensively in the history of geology, but my professional interests and research are in structural geology and tectonics. Previously I have worked in petroleum exploration for a major oil company in Canada, and in minerals assessment studies for the US Geological Survey. A Montana native, I was thrilled to find out about the UWEC field camp based from Boulder, MT, and was able to help teach the 1997 field course with Paul Myers and Brian Mahoney.

In research, I have spent the last five years working on the age-old problem of the mechanisms of granite emplacement and the development of continental crust. Most of this work has focused on intrusive rocks in the beautiful Ruby Mountains core complex in northeast Nevada. I have also been working in southwest Montana on a new interpretation of the relationship between the Boulder batholith and the Sevier thrust belt, and their interaction with the Rocky Mountain foreland. I plan to continue these research projects with students at UWEC. I also hope to get new projects started in the Pioneer Mountains in Idaho and in northern Montana. This year I worked with Brian Mahoney and UWEC student Lance Bakken on a geochemistry project to gather initial data on the Boulder batholith.

This has been a busy year as I have prepared new classes and tried to find the areas where I can make the strongest contributions at UWEC. I co-led a field trip at the GSA meeting in Salt Lake City. We took 60 people through the Ruby Mountains in Nevada for four days without a mishap! Brain Mahoney and I spent much of winterim in New Mexico where we set up field exercises for the new Geol 470 field course. In the future, I hope to strengthen the petroleum and economic minerals programs at UWEC. This Fall I will offer a special topics course in petroleum and economic geology. Next year I hope to offer a new geophysical techniques course that will focus on methods used in petroleum exploration and environmental geology. I am also trying to start new internship programs in these fields. I would like to hear from UWEC alumni who are working in any of these fields.

Recent Publications:

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

This has been a busy year for student research around the department. Student Beth Wenell and I worked with Harry Jol (Geography) and Chad Bartz (geology minor) performing a ground penetrating radar survey of a series of modern dunes in Virginia and North Carolina. We discovered that some of the dunes have simple histories, whereas others have buried paleosols indicating more than one phase of dune activity. Now we are waiting for radiocarbon and luminescence dates to understand the timing of the various dune phases in the area. This phase of this study was funded by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, and Friends of Jockeys Ridge paid our way out there in January to present preliminary results.

Last spring student Jeff Paddock presented the results of his work on the Upper Cambrian Lone Rock Fm. at North-Central GSA in Madison. Steve Jenson worked last summer to extend this study into Trempealeau County, and this fall Drew Kennedy expanded the study into Buffalo County. Heather Golding worked during the summer tracing a coarse zone representing peak regression of the Sauk seaway in the Wonewoc Formation in Trempealeau, Eau Claire and Dunn Counties. We were fortunate to have the support of Differential Tuition funds for last summer's work.
Education majors are still working their way through Geology 106 (Earth Science) and learning geological methods. I have been teaching it long enough now that my students are beginning to go out and get jobs. I am hoping the trickle-down effect will get more geology into our elementary classrooms. Imagine students coming to college already thinking they want to be geology majors, or at least knowing something about geology! One can always hope.

The Eisenhower-funded workshop for teachers, called Teaching Elementary Earth Science ran for 3 weeks last summer, and teachers of grades 1-6 worked in grade-level and school teams to develop curriculum in various areas of earth science to try out this year. Geology major Heather Golding ably assisted us in this endeavor. We will meet again early this summer for them to report on their work and to write finalized versions of their curricular plans for dissemination to other teachers. The workshop was so successful that folks in Physics, Chemistry and Curriculum and Instruction copied the concept, applied for and received funding to run a Physical Science version this summer.

Exciting moments of the past year on the home front have been numerous. Merilie broke her arm playing soccer in June, which temporarily cramped her figure-skating style. However, she made a comeback this fall, auditioning and winning a solo spot in this year’s figure skating show. She is doing great work in 7th grade and continuing piano and cello lessons as well as Girl Scouts. Alumni of the lower Paleozoic project will be amused to know that she and a neighbor took first place in the science fair with their study of a Mt. Simon outcrop near our house. Glenn continues at his part-time position with Western Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging. He also completed the major task of rebuilding our fireplace and we have been enjoying many smokeless, heat-radiating fires this winter (even though it hasn’t been cold). Glenn is the glue in our lives, keeping the family from falling apart when we get too busy. My major Christmas present was a kitten. Oskar immediately made himself at home, and he and the dog Sam chase each other, wrestle and have a great time together. We really like to hear how you all are faring out in the world, so keep those notes coming in.

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

This spring I’m teaching physical geology, earth resources and a field excursion course in Scotland with the Wisconsin in Scotland program. The family is spending the entire spring semester in Dalkeith, Scotland, which is right outside of Edinburgh. Matthew and Jennifer are going to a local Catholic High School, which has been a real change from their public school in Wisconsin. They only seem to go to school about three days per week since they always have a chance to participate in all of the university field trips and the local schools only have class 4½ days per week. Certainly the bulk of education in Scotland is taking place outside the classroom anyway. Just imagine what an eighth grader can learn from living in a house with 80 college students! For spring break the family is going to Cyprus to study ophiolite sequences in the Troodos Mountains and to examine shoreline process in front of our resort along the Mediterranean Sea…!

Scotland is a fantastic place to teach geology. Edinburgh played a pivotal role in early development of the science and was the primary stomping ground of James Hutton. Therefore, my Geol 110 course is able to use Siccar Point and other famous field sites for local field trips. We are only fifteen minutes by local bus from the outcrop that Hutton used to prove that igneous rocks intrude into the crust. I also had the opportunity to spend two weeks this past summer with Canadian researchers on the SNORE-97 seismic refraction survey in the Yukon and northern British Columbia. I went up to the Yukon with three of our majors and spent two weeks digging holes and driving in some of the most remote areas in the world. The students loved the experience and we made lots of great friends. The Yukon experience is complete with tales of flat tires, bears, backwoods taverns, large explosive charges, endless miles on gravel roads and fine gourmet Swiss meals at little mountain villas. There were eighty other geologists involved with the survey, and we made quite an impression on the locals who assumed we were some kind of pre-invasion force from another planet (really). I also spent two weeks in Idaho researching a site along the Coeur d’Alene River contaminated with Pb and Zn. Brian Mahoney and I have been working on this problem for years and we are making some progress on understanding the system. This geochemical problem continues to be one of my major research interests and is taking up any free time that I have. We hope to have a student present the status of this research at the upcoming GSA in Toronto.

I also spent a lot of time traveling to look at electron microscopes associated with the university’s purchase of the new TEM. This has taken me to both coasts several times. I’ve certainly seen the inside of many airports in the past year. I’ll be back in the United States in late May and don’t plan any additional travel over the next few months, but no doubt I’ll find someplace to explore. Stop by and visit next time you’re around the Eau Claire area.
Greetings once again! As usual, life is moving at a rather hectic pace around here, but we are making headway on a number of fronts! I am in the third year of a major NSF-sponsored research project examining terrane translation along the western margin of North America. Several UWEC undergraduate students have been actively involved in the project, both as field assistants and as independent researchers. Several student-authored abstracts have resulted from this research, and several articles, as well as three master’s theses, will be forthcoming. We will be taking five undergraduates to the field in British Columbia this season; three will be working directly with the Geological Survey of Canada, and two will be assisting with my project research. The level of expertise and enthusiasm among our students has made a very favorable impression among Cordilleran geoscientists, and we can look forward to a long and fruitful cooperative research program in British Columbia.

I am involving with Bob Hooper and several students on a cooperative project with the U.S. Geological Survey examining heavy metal transport in the Coeur d'Alene River in northern Idaho. Our investigation has direct application to ongoing remediation projects in the region, and there is a high level of interest in our work. I continue to dabble in the Paleozoic of Wisconsin with Karen Havholm, and we have recently started working on sediment geochemistry in the Puget Lowland. No lack of things to do! I am quite enthused by the level of interest and motivation for the numerous field trips we take every year to Arkansas, Black Hills, Colorado Plateau, and other exotic locales—seems that students recognize the benefit of field experience! This is my fourth year at UWEC, and both myself and Lori are amazed at how fast time is flying by. Hope all is well with you and yours.

Relevant Publications:
Riesterer, J.W., Mahoney, J. Brian, and Link, Paul K., 1998, Re-examination of Late Albian-Cenomanian conglomerate in Churn Creek, Gang Ranch area, southern British Columbia; in Current Research, Part A; Geological Survey of Canada, Paper 97-1A.

Paul Myers, Professor Emeritus (E-mail: myerspe@uwec.edu, home phone: 715/835-3505)

Again? Oh, my gosh! Has another year gone by? Deadlines! Spring and summer 1997 were my "last" teaching connections with UWEC, I think. If golfers, boxers, and others sport heroes can do the, "Okay, I'll come back if you insist" routine, I guess I can too. One difference, though—nobody has asked me. So, what's "retirement" like—really? Is it an institutionalized form of age discrimination? Am I rocking in the dark waiting for the phone to ring? Are you ready for this? Listen closely. Retirement is a BLAST! It's like "Heaven"—you don't really appreciate it until you're there. Don't believe the myth broadcast by the workaholics that, "It's the trip that's all there is. When you're there, it's all over." BALDERDASH!! Retirement is "Being There."

So, as a "semi-retiree" I taught three wonderful seminar-style classes in Earth Resources last spring and, with Brian Mahoney and Brad Burton, taught 11 great students in the Montana Field Geology course. We permanently changed the geology of the Boulder area, and even did a credible job on the geology of places between here and there. Both ways! It will never be that way again. I am still inventorying my rock, thin section, and color slide collections, so they can be used by somebody else. The color slides document the former condition of important geologic sites such as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, etc. Like I said, they will never be that way again.

One advantage of retirement is that you get great off-season travel rates. So, last spring I snuck off during spring break to tour the spectacular Copper Canyon in the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico, with 2 Arizona buddies. The canyon is carved into thousands of feet of Tertiary rhyolite volcanics. The Indians blithely run barefooted up and down canyon trails having a relief of over 6,000 feet! During our harrowing drive down the winding dirt road to the old copper-gold mining town of Batopilas at the bottom, we could hear the Indians calling back and forth across the canyon.

After a novel summer of Do-it-yourself Home Repair (new roof, etc.), I broke away in September to lead field trips - again—in Scotland. Okay, so I can't stay away from the place. Ask Bob Hooper, who is there now, what happens to you when you go to Scotland. In September and October I toured Prague, Turkey, Holland, and northern Germany with friends, returning to Scotland during Fall Travel Break where I found 2 desolate students hankering for a field trip to the Highlands, so we did it—in 3 days of perfect weather. During a short trip to the Outer Hebrides the following week, I was lost in sheets of gray rain. Not so good! It was time to return to the States.

I keep telling myself I should publish all this moldering research, but the call of new places draws me away. Who knows? I may meet you climbing Ben Nevis or Machu Pichu. That would be lovely. We'd have lots to talk about. I'd love to hear from you, or hike some mountain, or raft some wild river, or trek some desert place with you. Get your nose off that grindstone!
Beverly Pierson (E-mail: piersoba@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-3713)

This has been an exciting year for me. I returned to teaching after a five-year hiatus, during which I was a full-time mom to our two wonderful children, James (age 6½) and Virginia (age 4). I am thoroughly enjoying teaching two sections of the earth science class for elementary education majors (Geology 106). Karen Havholm has been a wonderful colleague to work with on this course.

For me, one of the most interesting things about returning to teaching was learning the local geology. Having grown up on the east coast, midwestern geology was not very familiar to me. Karen spent a few days this summer taking me to all of the interesting spots, like Mt. Simon, Wissota Dam, and Big Falls.

I received an MS in Geology from the University of Delaware. Following graduation, I taught for two years at a private school outside Philadelphia, PA, and two years at a private school in Washington, DC. We came to Eau Claire in 1992 when my husband Kim became a member of the physics department at the University.

Lori Snyder (E-mail: snyderld@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5086)

Another busy semester is flying by in Eau Claire. Teaching large sections of Physical Geology and Geology of the National Parks tends to keep my life fairly full, but I love every moment of it! I truly enjoy interacting with a broad range of students from various backgrounds. I must admit, however, that I’m always trying to convince them that geology is the best major at UWEC! Spring Break was spent on the Colorado Plateau with this year’s Geology 343 course. A fantastic group of students and generally cooperative weather helped to make the trip a great success in spite of a sprained ankle that I incurred during the descent into the Grand Canyon.

I’m looking forward to another busy field season. Last summer, I began working on a collaborative, multidisciplinary project in central British Columbia spearheaded by the Geological Survey of Canada. The main goals of the project are significant refinement and revision of the geologic maps of the area and a comprehensive evaluation of the tectonic history. Michelle Haskin, UWEC undergraduate, got involved with the project and conducted a stratigraphic and geochemical study of Eocene volcanic rocks in the area. Her work has already resulted in an article and a professional presentation. Congratulations, Michelle! This summer, I hope to work with more UWEC students on this project.

Eau Claire has treated us to an unusual winter. I got a new pair of skis this year and had to take them to Colorado over winter break to try them out. Brian and I, as usual, are planning for the summer field season and our next excursion abroad (southern Chili, perhaps?) sometime soon.

Recent Publications:

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

The big news from the Syverson's is the arrival of Nathaniel Alan on March 6, 1998. Nathaniel weighed 10.5 lbs and was 22.5" at birth, so he is already a BIG boy! Lila and Nathaniel are doing well. Laura (4.5 yrs) and Rebecca (2.5 yrs) have been excited about the new addition to the family. We also took our first camping vacation with kids to Copper Falls State Park (WI) and the Porcupine Mountains (U.P. Michigan). Laura and Rebecca thought that sleeping in a tent was very exciting, and they enjoyed the scenery too. Laura happily walked 1.5 miles on a hiking trail at Copper Falls—I was very impressed! Even little Rebecca climbed many stairs by herself. I am planning family backpacking trips in the future...

It was a busy, but productive, year. Lisa Miller and B.J. Fuller presented glacial geology research posters at the 1997 Wisconsin Academy of Sciences meeting in Whitewater, and Amy Jo Steffen presented a till clay mineralogy poster at the 1998 NC-GSA meeting at Ohio State University. I submitted a paper on glacial lake sedimentation to the journal Boreas (accepted), and submitted funding proposals to the Chippewa County Land Conservation Dept. and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (both funded to support a glacial stratigraphy project in western Wisconsin during the next three years, see separate item in newsletter). The funding proposals utilized information
gained from Geomorphology and Glacial Geology class projects over the years, as well as collaborative student research projects by Jeff Schels, Kristie Franz, Mark Holmes, BJ Fuller, Lisa Miller, and Amy Jo Steffen. The National Park Service has installed all exhibits in the Chippewa Moraine Interpretive Center, so former students should revisit the Interpretive Center. The exhibits look very nice and are scientifically accurate, thanks in part to UWEC Geology students. I also spent 2.5 weeks in New England. First, I was a visiting scientist aboard the Corwith Cramer, a 134' sailing vessel operated by the Sea Education Association (Woods Hole, Massachusetts). I boarded the ship in Bermuda in early June and spent eight days sailing to New Bedford, MA. I did not see land for six days, was seasick for one day, witnessed 20-ft swells and 350° rolls of the ship that tossed around dishes and bodies, viewed a gorgeous sunset over smooth seas, and watched dolphins jumping in formation—all great stories for my oceanography class. After the cruise, I spent a few days in the field with the Maine Geological Survey [MGS] before giving a lecture at the MGS in Augusta. In addition, I had my tenure-review meeting 12/9/97. The meeting went well, and the Geology Department has sent a strong, positive recommendation forward to the administration. I thank my former students for the visits and notes of encouragement during the entire process. Thanks!

This summer I will start mapping Chippewa County and trying to decipher the pre-Late Wisconsinan glacial history (events >25,000 years old). Also, Karen Havholm and I are organizing the Tri-State and Wisconsin Undergraduate Geological Field Conferences to be held in Eau Claire during the last weekend in September (9/25-27), and that is taking a lot of time. Hope to see some of you at that conference! Check out the news item elsewhere in this newsletter and the UWEC Geology web site for additional information about the field conference. Please keep news items rolling in for the Geology newsletter—this makes my job a lot easier!

Recent Publications:

John Tinker (E-mail: tinkerjr@uwec.edu, phone: 715/836-5485)

I thank all of our alumni who remember the Geology Department with letters, email, job referrals, money, and their senses of humor. Special thanks to Mark Strobel, Doug Hallum, Larry Kinsman, and Todd Myse for their individual and excellent presentations on geology to our students. Our students greatly appreciate your time, effort, and advice. I also thank Mark Holmes, Jenna Tobias, and Greg Michael for their letters and help: especially Greg for news items on job opportunities and “humorous (I think)” emails.

This past year was busy for everyone. In March of 1997, Kris Mercer presented a poster paper at AWRA, and she now works for the WI DNR here in Eau Claire. Mae Willkom presented her research at GSA in Salt Lake City (November 1997) and AWRA (March 1998). Lee Delcore and Tony Romanowski did an excellent report on groundwater modeling of the capture zones of three municipal wells in the City of Augusta, WI (1998 AWRA poster session). Other students doing independent projects were Bill Bergh (seepage ponds at Knapp, WI), Ryan Yarrington (seepage ponds at New Auburn, WI), and Lance Bakken (proposed new WI Administrative Code Comm 83). Physical Hydrogeology students helped install monitoring wells at the Lowes Creek stormwater retention/absorption pond. I think it was a good year for all.

Christine and I had another enjoyable year of motorcycle riding except for a trip to South Dakota where we had two stretches of approximately 25 miles of unannounced construction: one stretch in blowing dirt; the other in rain and mud. Christine has more guts than I because she sees mud holes coming and must take all that I hit. Only once did she rap me on my helmet to imply “Why didn’t you miss that hole”. Overall, we had a great summer of riding and we are looking forward to this summer. We both are impressed with the ride provided by our Honda Goldwing.

Take each day at a time and hopefully you will have a great year.

Ronald Willis, Professor Emeritus (E-mail - valid until July 1, 1998: willisr@tm.net.my)

Ron and his wife, Thorie, have definitely been living it up during retirement! We caught up with them in Malaysia (via e-mail) to get an update about life after retirement. Here follows their message...!

Thorie and I were feeling a bit useless just delivering ‘Meals on Wheels’ around Eau Claire after retirement in 1992, so we took a year in Nigeria. The year in Nigeria was pretty much a fiasco—if any of you are considering such an adventure, take our advice — DON’T!! It was a great learning experience, but one we really didn’t need. I was teaching at A.T.B.U. in Bauchi. The countryside around the campus was beautiful, with isolated granite erosional remnants and magnificent sunsets.
In the fall of 1994 (after teaching oceanography at UWEC part-time during 1993-94), we continued our traveling by taking a 14-month assignment in Bolivia drilling water wells for the small farmers up on the Altiplan—an activity sponsored by our church. This was a pleasant adventure—living at 13,000 ft with the added responsibility of raising guinea pigs, grains, and potatoes, and trying to teach the farmers how to get better nutrition year-round by growing produce in green houses excavated below the surface of the ground. This was a worthwhile effort, with the added plus of being able to get up into the perennial snow and glaciers of the Andes—crossing mountain passes at 16,000 feet with peaks on either side reaching up to 22,000 ft—magnificent! We also made several trips along Lake Titicaca, and the people were terrific! We went to La Paz weekly for groceries. Water wells in the area were interesting. One-meter diameter holes were drilled by a bucket rig into the surficial aquifer (glacial gravels for the most part), and then lined with cement culvert rings. A rope pump was used to bring up the water.

After a year or so, we came back to Eau Claire until "Meals on Wheels" became monotonous again. Then we decided to go to SE Asia. Our home base here is in Kuala Lumpur, and we have traveled through Borneo (East Malaysia), Sri Lanka, and Pakistan training teachers of religion for our church. It is extremely interesting, and we have taken some great trips up the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan, and into the mountains of central Sri Lanka, plus a trip up the rivers of inland Borneo to visit some longhouse communities. The people are absolutely the GREATEST! Kuala Lumpur is a huge city, clogged almost 24 hours a day by traffic, and this requires some increased patience, which adds to what we are learning. The mountains around us are all calcium carbonate, and contain many caves that are used as religious shrines by the local Hindus and Buddhists, although the population is predominantly Muslim. Our most thrilling visit was into the Swat Valley, where there were miles of white water in the Swat River, and snow-capped peaks rising along the banks. It was like a picture-book.

Our current plans are to be in Thailand in April, Pakistan in May and June, and then a week in Sri Lanka before coming home for the summer. At times we wonder just how much good we are doing in our efforts at teaching teachers, but we KNOW that WE are learning much, and growing in many ways. It has definitely been worth the time and effort. Take care of yourselves, and continue all the good you are doing in Wisconsin and elsewhere. We are grateful for your friendship and all the wonderful memories of 1967–1994. Best and warmest regards to all, and come visit us anytime. Editor's note: As you can see from this message, call before you show up at the Willis' door in Eau Claire for a visit!

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

Hi there! Since I'm not one of the geologists (I just work here), I don't have any stories about my latest research or about any of those interesting geology field trips, so I'll have to resort to telling you about my latest purchase. If you recall from our last newsletter, I was the one that complained about the record-breaking snowfall that we had last winter. Well, I found a way to cure those Wisconsin winter blues...buy a snowmobile! My husband and I both bought sleds this year...it was great! Instead of coming out each time the weather channel forecasted more snow, I'd do my little snow dance. Unfortunately, El Nino was very poorly timed for new snowmobile owners, but we had fun with the 4-5 weeks that we had awesome trails! Please be sure to stop and visit us whenever you are in the UWEC area!

**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!

- **Markle, James** (1969)
- **Schuh, Gordon** (1970)
- **Johnson, James** (1973)
- **Prose, David** (1976)
- **Bohm, Steven** (1976)
- **Jefferson, John** (1977)
- **Jarocki, Jeff** (1979)
- **Shaw, Kathryn** (1979)
- **Byers, Jay** (1980)
- **Gorden, Jodi** (1983)
- **Eberlin, John** (1983)
- **Rahn, Alan** (1983)
- **Hlavaty, Daniel** (1984)
- **Mc Adam, Karen** (1984)
THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

The Department would like to thank the generous donors listed below that have contributed to the Geology Advancement Fund since April 1997.

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Joseph Erickson  William Sellwood
Curtis Peck  Kent Syverson
Laura Peck  Lila Syverson
David Risch  David Tomten

During the past year, $673 was donated to the Geology Advancement Fund. If UWEC calls you asking for a donation (or if you are looking for a good tax deduction!), please be sure to remember the Geology Advancement Fund! If you work for a geology-related firm, check to see if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments. See coupon below for donating to the Geology Advancement Fund.

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 encourage 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. We extend our appreciation to the following alumni who have contributed their time and talent in the past year by visiting with our geology students.

Chris Elvrum
Doug Hallum
Dave Hodek
Mark Kiessling
Larry Kinsman

Tim Masterlark
Todd Myse
Steve Peterson
Mark Strobel

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

Greg Beckstrom (1984). Greg completed his MBA at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1991, and is currently Director of International Environmental Services at Golder Associates Corporation in Minneapolis, MN. Greg had commented that the last couple of years have been “pretty exciting.” He started working for Golder Associates in 1992 in their Chicago office where he was responsible for project management, business development and strategic planning. He is now responsible for managing international environment projects. A couple of years ago, Greg and wife Julie (also a UWEC alumna-BBA, 1985), moved back to Minneapolis. Greg’s office is now in his home, and he does a fair bit of traveling. Julie is the Manager of Benefits Administration at Cargill’s headquarters in Minnetonka. Anna, their daughter, is almost 2½, and Greg said, “She can already tell the difference between a nonconformity and disconformity (something her dad never quite understood).” E-mail: Gbeckstrom@golder.com

Peter Bement (1995). Pete is working for Halliburton Energy Resources in Lafayette, Louisiana. Pete travels to drilling sites and works on computer hardware/software to control slant and horizontal drilling used for petroleum recovery.

Kirsten Cahow (1997). Kirsten is in her first year of graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She is in the Water Resources program and is studying the hydrology of beaver meadows in Voyageur’s National Park, Minnesota. E-mail: kcahow@d.umn.edu

Tracey Carpenter (1995). After spending the summer preparing for her Ph.D. comprehensive exams and attending Arizona State University’s field camp, Tracey successfully passed her comps in October 1997. She is now working with Dr. Paul Knauth, her advisor, researching stable isotope applications in hydrogeology. Tracey is a TA this spring semester for the hydrogeology class and the environmental isotopes class at ASU. This summer Tracey hopes to land a hydro internship with one of the local power companies. E-mail: carpentl@asu.edu

Greg Durocher (1982). Greg is a supervisor at the USGS Earth Science Information Center in Anchorage, Alaska. He claims that not much is new in Alaska at this time because most of the volcanoes are quiet and the quakes have been fairly benign. E-mail: gfdurocher@igsdn009.CR.USGS.GOV

Luis Estrada (1988). Luis works as a consulting geologist for GEOPETROL in Guatemala where he focuses on energy projects (oil, geothermal, hydro). Luis would like to hear from former classmates. E-mail: geopetro@infovia.com.gt

Kristie Franz Gerrits (1995). Kristie has been working as a site operator for Terra-Kleen Response Group, Inc. in Florida, since March 1997. They are conducting a soil remediation project at the Cape Canaveral Air Station in Florida. Kristie says that the best thing about working at the Cape is seeing all the space shuttles and rockets take off. Her main duty is to run the field gas chromatography lab, which they use to monitor their soil-cleaning process, plus a variety of other tasks. Kristie said, “The highlight of being in Cape Canaveral is living next to the ocean. But for a rock lover, Florida is not the place to be. It makes Wisconsin look mountainous.” E-mail: gerrits@surfusa.com

Chris Goodwin (1995). Chris actually received an MS degree in ENPH, but we consider him one of “our own!” Chris works primarily with the PECA program as a hydrogeologist/engineer at Ayres Associates in Eau Claire. He also recently passed the Professional Engineer’s exam. If those things weren’t enough to keep him busy, he and his wife had baby Calvin Christopher on March 28, 1998! He was 8 lbs, 5 oz, and 20 inches long at birth. E-mail: goodwinc@ayres-eau.com

Harrison Griffin (1996). Harry is currently a Physical Science Technician for the Bureau of Land Management at the Alaska Field Office. In this position Harry deals with the examination of both abandoned and active mining claims in order to determine their current status, suitability for mining, and need for reclamation efforts. Harry has been able to travel a lot in Alaska. E-mail: hgriffin@ak.blm.gov

Kristen Gunderson (1995). Kristen works for Fluid Management (soon to be Envirogen) in the Wausau area. She spent a couple of weeks at a work site near Boston, Massachusetts, and enjoyed seeing a different part of the world! E-mail: Gundy21@aol.com
Christopher Heintz (1986). Chris went on to complete an MS degree from Virginia Tech with emphasis on Geodesy. While at Tech he studied photogrammetry, least-squares adjustment, remote sensing and geodesy. Chris is a Geodesist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Survey & Mapping Section, in Louisville, KY. They recently completed a project where they made gravity measurements to determine the weight of critical ore materials in the Defense National Stockpile Center. E-mail: christopher.j.heintz@smtp.orl.army.mil

David Hodek (1995). Dave completed his master's degree in Geological Engineering at UW-Madison last May, and has since obtained a geotechnical engineering position with Call and Nicholas, Inc., a rock mechanics/mining consulting firm in Tucson, Arizona. Since early August, Dave has been at the Grasberg mine in Irian Jaya, Indonesia. He manages two drilling crews and records geology and fracture data from the drill core. E-mail: jchodek@centuryinter.net (parents’ address)

Terri Hogue (1995). Terri is attending graduate school at the University of Arizona, and hopes to complete her master's degree in hydrogeology this summer. Terri is analyzing National Weather Service flood prediction techniques used in areas of the Northeast devastated by floods in January 1996. When we heard from Terri in January she had just returned from the National American Meteorological Society meeting in Phoenix, where she had an oral presentation of her thesis work in a special session on hydrogeology. Terri said that she and her family are still enjoying Tucson where they hike, bike, and camp whenever time allows. Garratt, their 7-year-old son, is growing up fast and he loves those Packers! E-mail: hoguets@hwr.arizona.edu

Mark Holmes (1997). Mark is in his first year of geology graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Mark spent last summer in North Carolina collecting data for his hydrogeology master’s thesis. This summer he will return to North Carolina to continue his research, and then plans to present his preliminary findings at the 1998 Minnesota Water Protection Expo. Mark has also been a TA for a Computer Applications course and Chemical Hydrogeology at UMD. Editor's note: Why hasn't he attended a UMD hockey game??!! E-mail: mholmes1@d.umn.edu

Dale Kerner (1996). After graduation, Dale went to graduate school at Boise State University, where he seems to be thoroughly enjoying school as well as the life in Idaho. Dale has sent most of his time working with the Permian Research Institute (PRI) in the Geoscience Department at Boise State. His master’s thesis is on the conodont and ammonoid biostratigraphy and sequence stratigraphy of rocks in Kazakhstan. Dale hopes to wrap things up by the end of this year. If anyone is interested in Permian stratigraphy, PRI has a web page that provides some details about the research that Dale is conducting (http://pri.idbsu.edu/index.htm). E-mail: dkerner@trex.idbsu.edu

Mark Kiessling (1995). Mark is a graduate student at Idaho State University, and he will defend is master’s thesis in mid-May. Mark has been working with Paul Link and Brian Mahoney to shed new light on the argument about large-scale translation of accreted terranes in the wilds of British Columbia. Mark said, “Upon defending, I will celebrate till the cows come home and begin my relocation to Morenci, the arm pit of Arizona.” E-mail: kiesmark@lcs.isu.edu

Larry Kinsman (1995). Larry works for Geo-Cleanse Midwest, where he has been working with a new technology using hydrogen peroxide injection to remediate sites with LNAPL and DNAPL contamination. Larry resides in Pewaukee, WI.

Richard Kopp (1975). Richard completed his MS at the University of Texas-El Paso in 1977. He is now a senior geologist at Belco Operating Corporation (Denver office). His wife, Jacqueline (also attended UWEC from 1971-75), completed her BS at University of Colorado-Boulder in 1986, and is now a tax accountant. Their son, Richard, is a sophomore at the Colorado School of Mines and Engineering. Their daughters, Brenda (a sophomore) and Carrie (a junior) attend Ponderosa High School. Richard commented, “The oil business is still good to me and my family.” E-mail: RicKopp@compu serv.com

Eileen Kramer (1989). Following graduation, Eileen spent 1½ years in China (Guangzhou and Zl’an) teaching English at the college level. At that time Xi’an was experiencing a several-year drought, resulting in drastic lowering of ground-water levels, and consequent ground surface subsidence. Eileen said that her apartment had running water only two hours per day. Eileen also had the opportunity to meet several times with hydrogeology students from the Xi’an Geology Institute to discuss environmental problems of the area and do some field reconnaissance. Upon returning to Wisconsin, Eileen went to work as a hydrogeologist for the Wisconsin DNR. For 1½ years she was in Marinette, and now she is back in Eau Claire. E-mail: KrameE@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us

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Carrie Laudon (1984). Carrie completed her Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Minnesota in 1990. Carrie has been in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1990 and loves living there. She spent four years with ARCO as an exploration geophysicist. Carrie then spent two years with a local engineering firm doing shallow geophysical investigations for both site assessment and geotechnical investigations. This involved much field work, including a two-month stint in western Russia doing soil and permafrost investigations to develop an oil field. Carrie is now a senior geoscientist for GeoQuest Software Products, a division of Schumberger, doing software support and training. Carrie invites any faculty, alumni, or students that are visiting Anchorage to look her up. E-mail: claudon@calgary.geoguest.slb.com

Nicholas Loomis (1995). Nick followed in Pete Bement’s footsteps to Halliburton Energy Resources in Lafayette, Louisiana. Nick travels to drilling sites and works on computer hardware/software to control slant and horizontal drilling methods used for petroleum recovery.

Timothy Masterlark (1994). Tim has completed his MS in the UW-Madison Geology Department and is now working on his Ph.D., and he passed his preliminary exam on 4/13/98. Then Tim and Trish had Baby Cora (7 lb 9 oz, 20 inches long) on April 25, 1998. Tim reports that Cora was by far the best looking and smartest baby in the nursery! Tim and Trish visited UWEC in November, and Tim gave an interesting Geology Dept. seminar about his MS research analyzing water-level adjustments in wells during earthquakes in China. E-mail: master@geology.wisc.edu

Ann Melby (1996). Ann continues to work for the Minnesota DOT as a Pollution Control Specialist. At work she spends half of her time doing research on the environmental risk of different products placed in the roads, and the other half doing hazardous waste audits. Ann is planning a trip to Norway this August, and she hopes to see a glacier, among other things, while she is there. Last summer, Ann, Todd Myse, and Sarah Weaver (all UWEC geology alumni), went to Glacier National Park for a week-long visit. Ann enjoyed the scenery and geology, and said that even though it wasn’t a UWEC geology trip, they managed to have a flat tire and run out of gas, things typical of official geology field trips! Ann states, “If you’re ever in the Twin Cities, give me a call and we’ll go play some darts and complain about how expensive beer is in every city in the world, compared to Eau Claire!” Ann is also wondering if UWEC geology alumni from her era wish to have some sort of informal reunion near Eau Claire in September. If you are interested, please contact Ann via e-mail (see below) or phone at (612) 779-5144 (work) and (612) 484-3147 (home through June 1) E-mail: Ann.Melby@dot.state.mn.us

Kristine Mercer (1997). Kris began working for the DNR in Eau Claire as a Recycling Grants Specialist after a well-deserved week-long vacation at “the lake” after her graduation last summer. Six months later, Kris had begun working full time as a DNR hydrogeologist doing DOT and other case reviews, closures, etc. Kris commented, “Many thanks to our great geology staff and especially Dr. Tinker for excellent training!” E-mail: mercek@dnr.state.wi.us

David Meyer (1977). Dave completed his MS in Marine Geology in 1981 at Florida Tech. He has been working for Chevron-North America for 16 years, all of which have been exploring for oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico Basin. Presently, Dave is a member of a deepwater exploration team that is searching for hydrocarbons in water depths ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 ft. Dave married Betsy Meyer, a UWEC alumna (1980, BA in Elem. Ed/Spec. Ed.). Betsy is teaching 6th grade at a local elementary school in Slidell, LA. Dave and Betsy have three boys, Ryan (12), Erik (11), and Greg (7), who, as Dave put it, “… keep us very busy with sports and other functions.” E-mail: DMEY@chevron.com

Gregory Michael (1996). Greg is a hydrogeologist for the Department of Commerce in Milwaukee, WI. He performs technical site reviews for the PECFA program, reviews remediation alternatives for petroleum-impacted sites, and conducts case closure analyses. Greg and his wife, Becky, have two children, Brendan (1 yr. old) and Isaac (3 yrs. old), and they reside in Wauwatosa, WI. E-mail: g michael@commerce.state.wi.us

Jeremy Miller (1995). Jeremy and Shawna, his wife, are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Isabelle Rose, to their “zoo” (as Jeremy called their house full of several pets). Isabelle was born on January 19, 1998. Jeremy worked for Johnson Disposal in Eau Claire immediately after graduating, and in February 1997, he went on to become the Clay Room Supervisor at Wisconsin Porcelain Co. in Sun Prairie, WI. Jeremy and his “zoo” reside in Deerfield, WI.

Cesar Moya (1993). After graduation, Cesar moved to Kyoto, Japan, to work on a master’s degree. At this point, he is working on his thesis, which focuses on strong ground motion (seismology). Cesar is unsure if he will continue to live/work in Japan or if he will return to his homeland (Costa Rica) after he receives his master’s degree.

Paul Overlien (1994). Paul moved back from Florida last spring and began working with Fluid Management (Onalaska, WI) as a hydrogeologist. He is a project manager working primarily on PECFA projects. E-mail: overlien@iname.com

Curt Peck (1977). Curt received an MS in Earth Science at Iowa State University. He is now a senior hydrogeologist at Chevron Research and Technology in Richmond, CA. As an internal ground-water consultant, Curt is currently working with their Marketing (UST), Refining (large site remediation and assessment), Chemical (remediation) and International (site assessment) operating companies. Current challenges include the design and installation of a slurry wall funnel and gate, a ground-water remediation system for a pesticide-contaminated site, addressing the regulatory issues concerning the change in ground-water designation beneath a California coastal refinery, and balancing U.S. regulations as they relate to international environmental operations. Curt wrote, “Thankfully, work does not prevent me from enjoying my greatest joy – my family. Laura (UWEC graduate in 1978), Ellen (14), and Whitney (12), keep me active with the shuttling to practices, friends’ houses, school, church youth activities and other social events.” E-mail: CPEC@chevron.com

Steve Peterson (1997). Steve is in graduate school at Northern Illinois University and has been TAing classes. He is working on a hydrogeology thesis project that involves numerical modeling of several Illinois cities’ well fields to delineate wellhead protection areas. Steve said his family is doing well, even though his son Alex has already entered the “Terrible Twos.” He commented, “I didn’t really appreciate the significance of that phrase until just recently.” Alex seems to do a good job keeping Steve and his wife, Debbie, quite busy. E-mail: stevep@rochelle.net

Heidi Rantala (1997). Heidi is in her first year of graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in the Water Resources program. She spent last summer on a ranch in the western United States to celebrate her graduation from UWEC! This summer she will be a research assistant studying the geomorphology of arctic lakes and fish species in them. Heidi will spend six weeks in Alaska north of the Brooks Range. She will also be mapping some glacial landforms. E-mail: hrantala@d.umn.edu

David Risch (1978). Dave completed his MS in Oceanography at Texas A&M in 1982. For the past two years he has worked for BHP Petroleum as a regional geophysicist doing sequence stratigraphic interpretations for petroleum systems analysis of the Gulf of Mexico. On the home front, Dave’s wife Janice is in her 12th year of teaching special education in Texas. Their daughter, Erin, is in her second year at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, studying animal science in the pre-vet program. Dave and Janice have two sons in high school. Colin, a sophomore, loves computers and plans to become an animator or special effects creator. Patrick, a freshman, thinks he might want to be a surgeon, but his dad said, “...lately he is more concerned with girls (I wonder where he gets that?)” This summer Dave plans to vacation on the East Coast and see the cultural and scenic sites, as well as attend a turbidite field trip in Southern France. E-mail: risch.david.dl@bhp.com.au (work) or risch@flash.net (home).

Donald Schleicher (1985). Don is the manager of the Television Services and Distance Education Technologies Division within the Media Development Center at UWEC. Don commented, “The world of telecommunications continues at a frantic pace and is exciting and challenging – but I still miss geology. Hi to all.” Samuel, his son, will be three in May. Don and his family are hoping to visit Hong Kong again this spring or next year to see the in-laws and the Lung Chan family. E-mail: schleidd@uwec.edu

Wanda Schulner – former Department Program Assistant (1985-1995). After spending ten years of putting up with all of us plus her determined goal to complete her BS degree in Nursing, in 1995 Wanda decided to take a little time off to spend some quality time with her family. It was nice that she took the time off, because immediately after graduation in 1996 Wanda was hired at Sacred Heart Hospital, and then later at Luther Hospital. In 1997 she decided to return to the University, and she is now the Program Assistant for the University Senate Office and Chancellor Search and Screen Committee. Now that Wanda has been out of the nursing field for awhile, she often comments about how wonderful it is having a life and family once again. Jeff, her husband, and their children, Riley (10) and Casey (9) are doing just fine. The Schulner’s next project is building a log cabin in the woods by the Eau Claire Airport. E-mail: schulnw@uwec.edu
Paula Sumpter (Hlavaty, 1983). In May 1997, Paula decided it was time for a change and left her position at the Milwaukee Public Museum after thirteen years. In June she began a new position as the Administrative Supervisor for the New Berlin Police Department. The job includes serving as the information systems manager, budget manager, records manager, and supervisor of the civilian office staff. The city has a new public safety building in the works, so part of the job now includes serving on the building committee and searching for new radio, telephone and information systems. Paula says she is no longer bored! Paula resides in Waukesha, WI. E-mail: ps@nbpolice.org

Jennifer Tobias (1996). In August 1997, Jenna quit work with the USGS in Iowa and moved back to Wisconsin to once again see green trees and blue water! While looking for an environmental job, Jenna substitute taught middle school and high school students in Watertown. She commented, “That was a true adventure!” This February Jenna started working with the DNR in Madison. She is now working two 50% positions, one as a water-supply specialist and the other with the Remediation and Redevelopment team overseeing consultants working on petroleum-contaminated sites. Jenna is enjoying working in an office with windows! Jenna has also been keeping busy working with Habitat for Humanity in Jefferson County, taking martial arts classes, reading up on Scotland for a dream trip within a few years, and patiently waiting for the Wisconsin weather to get better so she can get her cycle on the road. E-mail: matobias@execpc.com (valid until July)

Chad Underwood (1996). After a year of work in the consulting world with SEH, Inc., in Chippewa Falls, Chad moved back into the academic world. He is now working on his master’s degree in Geological Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His emphasis is on rock-fracture mechanics, and he will be studying fractures in Door County, WI. Chad’s thesis topic investigates how fracture behavior changes with different mechanical properties in the Silurian dolomite. A better understanding of fracture behavior will allow the development of more accurate fracture-flow ground-water models. This summer Chad plans to work for Shell Offshore Exploration in New Orleans, LA. He’s not exactly sure what he will be doing, but he’s very excited. Chad said, “The money is pretty good, and if I can stay away from Bourbon Street, I may actually come back with some money in my pocket.” E-mail: chad@geology.wisc.edu

Reno Walsh (1996). Reno continues to guide backpackers and teach snowboarding in Montana. Last summer he ran into UWEC geology alumni Todd Myse, Ann Melby, and Sarah Weaver at Logan Pass in Glacier National Park and spent some time visiting.

Kristin Weaver (1996). Kris is still having fun in southern California, where she is working on her MS degree, studying Raymond fault and its history. This past summer Kris excavated and logged a 42-meter-long trench across the fault and collected charcoal for carbon dating. With the data collected, Kris presented a poster at the Southern California Earthquake Center annual meeting and gave a talk in December at the AGU annual meeting in San Francisco. Kris is the head T.A. for an Introduction to Earthquakes (for non-majors) course during spring semester. Kris would like to hear from former classmates! E-mail: weaverkd@earth.usc.edu

Sarah Weaver (1996). Sarah is a first-year law student at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, MN. E-mail: weaversj@juno.com

Ronald Weegman (1981). Ron has worked in the oil and gas industry since graduating from UWEC. He has been employed with Halliburton Energy Services in Houston, TX, for 4½ years. He is a technical advisor of the Houston Business Development Team for Drilling Systems. E-mail: Ron.Weegman@halliburton.com

Edward Wieland (1994). Eddie and his wife, Sandra, moved back to Wisconsin last summer. Eddie is now an officer in the Coast Guard. E-mail: wielandse@juno.com

David Winter (1991). We never heard from David personally, but one of our faculty members noticed his wedding picture in the Duluth News Tribune last October! David married Melanie Ferg on August 10, 1997, in the rose garden at Leif Erikson Park, Duluth. David is a geologist at Environmental Management Resources in Duluth, MN. Congratulations on your marriage, Dave! Editor’s note: Big Brother is watching...!
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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University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

OR

Phone: (715) 836-3732

OR

E-mail: SYVERSKM@uwec.edu