I hope this newsletter finds you well! The Department of Geology has had a good year. In August our new tenure-track hydrogeologist, Dr. Sarah Vitale, joined us from the University of Connecticut. She has been an excellent addition to our faculty and immediately began collaborating with undergraduate research students. UWEC submitted a Capital Project Request this spring for a new science building. That process was “interesting.” Garfield Ave. along the Chippewa River is torn up and being reconfigured into a pedestrian mall—should be nice when finished this fall. In addition, the department will undergo its seven-year program review during the 18-19 academic year.

Students and faculty continue to conduct research expanding the knowledge of our natural world. Students (with faculty mentors) have been researching topics such as diffusion in quartz and tourmaline crystals (Ihinger), soot and nanoparticle geochemistry using TEM (Hooper), sustainability behaviors of students in Davies Center (Clark), VMS geochemistry (Lodge), Precambrian greenstone belts in Ontario (Lodge), Neogene basin analysis in Argentina (Mahoney), surface- and ground-water quality in western Wisconsin (Mahoney and Vitale), and evaluation of ice-flow direction data in Maine (Syverson). Not only this, but five students presented research results at GSA-Seattle, two students at AWRA where they won the Best Undergraduate Poster award, four students at ILSG in Iron Mountain, MI, where one student won a Best Poster Award, seven students at NC GSA in Ames, IA, and three students at the SME national meeting in Minneapolis where they won a top poster award (and $1000)! It’s been a great year for research!

The Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI) continues to expand student educational opportunities. Our 3rd Advisory Board meeting with stakeholders was held on May 15th to discuss program array and potential partnerships. Seventeen external stakeholders from industry and government agencies (including 11 alumni) attended this valuable input session. In addition, MSHA 24-hr New Miner training and the Responsible Mining Seminar were offered to fifteen students this spring.

Our efforts to enhance internship and scholarship opportunities have been a resounding success. This summer nineteen students will have paid internships with mining companies, environmental consulting firms, and governmental agencies. In addition, $42,000 in geology scholarships and grants were awarded at the spring banquet thanks to generous alumni and corporations. These opportunities differentiate our program from others in the Midwest (see included stories).

Donations of alumni and friends continue to be extremely important to our program. The “Adopt a Field Camper” campaign and a half sponsorship of Field Camp I by Mathy Construction and Milestone Materials allowed us to defray $12,700 in student tuition costs (see separate news items). Thanks to all who adopted a field camper! Even as we have received several large corporate gifts, the smaller, undesignated donations from alumni and friends commonly give the department flexibility to send students to present research results at regional and national conferences, fix equipment, support our field program for undergraduates, and fund valuable scholarships to defray rising tuition expenses. Alumni who send job announcements and speak for our Earth Science Seminar Series help our students see the world beyond the campus walls. Thanks for your support! If you are ever in the Eau Claire area, please visit us!

Dr. Kent Syverson
COURSE UPDATES

MIN/PET I FIELD TRIPS

By Robert Hooper

Min-Pet I went on two field trips in fall 2017, and for the 25 new geology majors these trips are their first exposure to geology in the field (and camping in cooler weather). The first week of October, we took a Thursday through Sunday field trip to northern Wisconsin and the UP Michigan. With climate-change, the trees in the Porcupine Mountains were not quite changing color and there was still much green vegetation in the woods. The weather in the North Country was warm and most of the bugs were gone. As always, the rocks in the Mid-Continent rift were spectacular, even though the water was a little high to access the outcrops below many of the waterfalls.

The field trip to the Black Hills in mid-October was again a success, but the weather was highly variable. We had a great start to this five-day field trip with temperatures in the 60s and 70s and clear skies, but by the third day we were dealing with thunder-snows in the Black Hills. We found better weather in the Bear Lodge Mountains. Students enjoyed making it all the way to Devils Tower. The Black Hills has so many different igneous and metamorphic rocks to study that we could clearly spend two weeks and just touch the surface. This year we spent one entire day studying metamorphic rocks in the field and one complete day on alkali-igneous rocks between Lead, SD, and the Bear Lodge Mountains. These geology field trips always lead to great cohort camaraderie and really excite the students about their future studies in geology. I hope we can continue to offer such exciting field opportunities well into the future.

FIELD CAMP I UPDATE – NEW MEXICO

By Robert Hooper

Bob Hooper and Scott Clark took a group of 24 students down to the New Mexico field camp (Geol 470) in January. We continue to operate out of the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, NM, and this field experience provides an excellent opportunity for our students to learn geologic mapping and professional geologic report development during the Winterim period in January. Starting this year, Winterim is now four weeks long instead of three weeks. The change in schedule allowed students to spend three full-weeks in the field and almost an entire week back on campus in late January to finish their ArcMap projects prior to spring classes. This calendar change seems to have reduced student stress about turning in the final project by the due date.

This year we left UWEC with temperatures on campus at -20 degrees (F) and it was well below freezing all the way to Albuquerque. However, once we turned south toward Kingston, we left the cold behind and for three full weeks had temperatures in the 50s and 60s with brilliant sunshine. The students seemed to enjoy spending time outdoors in reasonable weather! They held bonfires a few nights at the Black Range using the new fire-pit and grilled dinner outside several nights almost as if it was summer! It was nice to trade the bone-chilling cold of Wisconsin for the sunshine in southern New Mexico. The group attended a fantastic music concert with Acoustic Eidolon in the Hillsboro Community Center where the field camp crew made up almost 50% of the total audience. The students really enjoyed the music and meeting with the musicians after the concert up at the Black Range Lodge.

Field camp is more than learning about mapping rocks because students have all sorts of other “life-skills” to learn. Clearly, this year was no different. Every morning before we went in the field, we covered the basics of driving field vehicles in New Mexico. We advised all student drivers to be careful about the less-improved roads in southern New Mexico with Scott and Bob reminding students every morning to put the biggest rocks under the tires instead of under the transmission or the oil pan. However, you cannot always get 22-year-old students to take you seriously when offering such sound advice. One student found out that in addition to the oil pan and the transmission, there is also a front differential on the four-wheel drive vehicles... By hitting the biggest rock on the road, our driver managed to puncture a hole in the differential and drain all the fluid. It is a good thing that we were only about 30 miles from the nearest town! Luckily, we had three other Suburbans and by squeezing eight people into each Suburban, we transported everyone while the injured vehicle was in the Chevrolet dealership in Truth or Consequences. The tow truck driver, the service technician, the service manager at the dealership, and Jim at the Caballo gas station all repeatedly told us that when we
are driving back in Apache Gap we should have students put the tires on the bigger rocks instead of the differential. Go figure!

The ranchers in southern New Mexico continue to let us use their private land, so students map rocks in some of the most scenic and pristine areas left in the State. This capstone field experience continues to offer students excellent field experiences, and with the generous support of the department alumni and friends, the cost of attending the field camp is still a real bargain. Thanks to all alumni and friends who support the field camp through the Adopt a Field Camper campaign and the Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship program. We could not do these field camps without your support.

FIELD CAMP II UPDATE – MONTANA

By Robert Lodge

A wet spring and flooding in southwestern Montana couldn't dampen the spirits of the 2018 Field Camp II students—except for the few days we got rained out of the field. There is a reason why we ask students to bring their rain gear! Instructors Robert Lodge ± Phil Ihinger ± Scott Clark and teaching assistant Adam West brought a modest-sized group of 12 students to the Iron Wheel Guest Ranch near Whitehall, MT, and had plenty of space to roam. These students were a great blend of personalities who kept both work and play very fun and interesting. Personal hygiene was taken to a new level when the TA was given a mud mask. Thank goodness that picture didn't make the newsletter! The students worked hard, stayed professional, and always completed their work—even despite printer issues.

Sherry and John Cargill at the Iron Wheel Guest Ranch were once again tremendous hosts. This might be their last year with us as they are planning their retirement (their son Scott will take over the business). We are so lucky to have a place like the Iron Wheel for our home base during Field Camp. As per tradition, John and Sherry prepared their signature elk dinner the last evening and was once again a highlight for the group. Our annual tour of the Butte Cu-Mo Mine operated by Montana Resources was a day off well spent. Mine geologist Amanda Griffith gave us another great tour in the little yellow school bus (which doesn't have a suspension made for mine roads). We also toured the Lewis and Clark Caverns on a rainy day. Overall, the students had a great field camp!

RESPONSIBLE MINING INITIATIVE UPDATE

By Kent Syverson

In November 2013, the University of Wisconsin System awarded UWEC Geology a $451,000 Economic Development Incentive Grant for the Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI). This grant was awarded to prepare highly qualified graduates for work in the mining industry, the environmental consulting industry, and in regulatory agencies such as the DNR.

The RMI continues to have a positive impact on students. A new internship MOU was signed with Northern Industrial Sands (Chetek, WI) and they hired their first UWEC Geology intern and operations interns this summer. This spring three students received the first Geology certificates in Responsible Mining and Water Resources. In April, 15 students obtained MSHA 24-hr New Miner training on campus—a great resume builder for those wishing to work in mining, environmental consulting, or a regulatory agency. Here are two other telling statistics: Geology scholarships and grants in 2013 ($2500) vs. 2018 ($42,000), and the number of paid internships in 2012-13 (4) vs. 2017-18 (21, a new record). Approximately half of the 2018 internships are in hydrogeology and environmental geology, and the rest are in nonmetallic or metallic mining/exploration. One of our graduating geology majors interviewed on campus for a summer internship with a company, but they decided to hire him for a “real” job instead! Another intern was hired by her former company once she graduated. This bodes well for the future as other interns graduate.

These successes have required much work to build relationships with industry. In May, we held our 3rd Geology/Responsible Mining Initiative Advisory Board meeting on campus. Seventeen external stakeholders attended the event and we obtained valuable feedback about our curriculum (see separate story). Faculty have attended professional meetings in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Toronto, and Texas.
to network with potential stakeholders. Lots of work, but it has been exciting to see students benefit from these new opportunities (see separate articles about internships, scholarships, and donations). Thanks to all partners with the Responsible Mining Initiative!

The Responsible Mining Initiative is providing amazing opportunities for our students. The scholarships reduce student debt. The internships provide a valuable window to the working world. When internships and scholarships/grants are added to field experiences and our strong collaborative research program, the Dept. of Geology is offering an undergraduate education not available at other universities. This is preparing our STEM graduates for the work force and graduate school. If your company might want to partner with the RMI through an internship, donation, or speaker, please contact Kent Syverson or Brian Mahoney.

ADOPT A FIELD CAMPER CAMPAIGN

By Kent Syverson

Last year we initiated an “Adopt a Field Camper” campaign to defray rising tuition costs for Field Camp I students. Dr. Paul Myers, Ric Kopp (’75), and Curt Peck (’77) pledged matching money in memory of Professor Emeritus Ronald Willis, who died in a tragic car accident in July 2015. I’m pleased to report that many other alumni and friends donated $6700, in both large and small gifts, to Adopt a Field Camper through the Myers/Willis Geology Field Camp Scholarship fund!

The impact? Funds were distributed based on financial need to twenty G470 students. All tuition expenses were paid for three students with “High” FAFSA financial need, 75% of tuition paid was for four students with “Medium” need, and 50% of tuition paid for four students with “Low” need. Each field camper, regardless of need, received at least $100 in “adoption” money. WOW!

If you have adopted a child, you know that adoption is a long-term commitment! More field camp students will be leaving for New Mexico and Montana next year, and we hope alumni and friends consider a donation of any size to Adopt a Field Camper and provide grants and scholarships for Field Geology I and II students. Because of generous matching money, your donation will have twice the impact for all students attending field camp. Donations can be made at https://impact.uwec.edu/AdoptFieldCamper or by sending a check to the UWEC Foundation with a subject line mentioning “Geology—Adopt a Field Camper.”

MATHY CONSTRUCTION CO. AND MILESTONE MATERIALS SPONSOR HALF OF THE 2018 FIELD CAMP I

Mathy Construction Co. and its aggregate division, Milestone Materials, generously donated $6,000 to sponsor twenty Field Camp I students in January 2018. This sponsorship provided $300 to each student attending our three-week field camp in New Mexico and helped defray increasing tuition costs.

Mathy and Milestone –– both based in Onalaska, WI –– are leading suppliers of aggregate products throughout western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. The company is a major supporter of the Responsible Mining Initiative at UW-Eau Claire and has a long-standing relationship with faculty members in the Department. Mathy/Milestone has hired several Blugold Geology graduates in the past including Bob Servais, Milestone Materials’ geologist and UWEC ’04 Geology alumnus, whom represents Mathy Construction Co. on our Advisory Board.

“Mathy and Milestone value their relationship with the UW-Eau Claire Geology Department and we were happy to sponsor students participating in Field Camp I this year,” said Servais.

The Geology Department and its students thank Mathy Construction Co. and Milestone Materials for this generous donation!
The spring Geology banquet is a fun time to eat a fine meal, present awards, recognize graduating seniors, say goodbye to classmates after another year, and reminisce about field trips gone by! This year ~120 students, parents, faculty, and stakeholders assembled on May 12, 2018, at the American Legion in Eau Claire for the event.

Even for people who aren’t little girls, the Derek Lindquist family is TALL!

A little more formal than a geology field trip—2017-18 Geology grads dress up a bit!

We are graduating!
1. This group of 2017 Field Camp II students in Montana shows personality AND style!
2. Samantha Kleich presenting her research at AGU-New Orleans.
3. Careful! Structural Geology class at Parfreys Glen, WI.
5. It’s all business at Field Camp I when maps are due!
6. Spuds and salad for the hungry Field Geology I crew, New Mexico.
7. Lucy Horst’s 3D VULCAN model of the Crandon VMS deposit.
8. Maile Olson and Regan Jacobson during their mineral exploration internship with Aquila Resources (summer 2017)
9. Environmental intern, Colton Sander, with Cedar Corp. in northern Wisconsin.
10. Rachel Lair, Unimin-Tunnel City intern, hard at work.

“The faculty investment in field-based learning and student immersion experiences at both the lower-division general education level and the upper-division level for majors is greater than in any geology program I know. That this happens at a State University is amazing.”

Dr. Paul Link, Idaho State University, External Reviewer 2012
THIRD GEOLOGY/RMI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD

By Kent Syverson

The Third Annual UWEC Geology/Responsible Mining Initiative Advisory Board meeting was held on May 15, 2018. Following a brief delay for a traffic jam at the top of State St. hill (a non-geologist hit a power pole and shut down the hill!), seventeen outside stakeholders (including eleven alumni) from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, and Idaho discussed curriculum, attended a poster session with our geology student researchers, met Responsible Mining Initiative interns, and received an overview of VULCAN software from Maptek.

The Board’s conclusions? Much time was spent discussing the UWEC program array proposal to eliminate Geology’s Environmental Science emphasis. Board members stressed the importance of the Geology-Environmental Science emphasis and their desire to hire such graduates (two members of the Board graduated with this UWEC emphasis). Efforts to raise the profile of statistics in all geology academic programs were discussed. Board members were impressed with the quality of the collaborative research conducted by Blugold geology majors (the poster session is always a highlight for attendees). Internship placements and fundraising strategies were also discussed.

HOFFMAN CONSTRUCTION SPONSORS MSHA TRAINING ON CAMPUS

By Brian Mahoney

In partnership with Hoffman Construction, the Responsible Mining Initiative offered the third Mining Safety and Hazard Administration (MSHA) 24-hour New Miner Training in April 2018. Fifteen students participated in the three-day course.

Gary Kaas of Hoffman Construction led the course, and his years of experience as a Safety Officer in mining and construction provided an outstanding background for the training, including a Badger Mining site visit in Taylor. Pete Fasching of HeartQuest Trainers provided an intensive, hands-on first aid course to complete the training. The course was excellent and will be an outstanding addition to participants’ resumes. We hope to make this training an annual event. Thanks to Hoffman Construction for sponsoring this training session.

We thank all the professionals who attended the Advisory Board meeting. Attending such an event requires valuable time from people who are very busy with important projects, so we are grateful for their investment in our program. Participants included Todd Lindblad (Badger Mining Corp., ’13), Greg Beckstrom (’84), Kris Benusa (Unimin Corp., ’12), Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City-County Health Dept., ’11), Ken Bradbury (State Geologist) and Jay Zambito (WGNHS), Mark Ciardelli (Foth, ’04), Dale Kerner (Midas Gold, ’96), Nick Matula (’15) and Claudia Moore (’17). Our alumni are doing great things in the oil patch! The entire trip was an excellent learning and networking opportunity for all!
SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 COVIA (FORMERLY UNIMIN) SOPHOMORE GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

For the fifth year, Unimin Corp., now known as Covia, has funded a merit-based scholarship for geology majors who will be taking Mineralogy-Petrology in the following fall semester. Four $2500 scholarships were awarded for the 2018-19 academic year. The pool for this scholarship competition was extremely strong. The recipients (L to R in photo) Jacob Erickson (Maplewood, MN), Trevor Nelson (Hammond, WI), Katherine Langfield (Lake City, MN), Covia’s Kris Benusa (UWEC Geology ’12), and Brooke Brienen (Green Bay, WI, not pictured).

2018 COVIA (FORMERLY UNIMIN) FRESHMAN GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

For the fifth year, Unimin Corp., now known as Covia, has funded a merit-based, annual scholarship for high-potential incoming freshman who are majoring in Geology. This year three recipients were selected, and each will receive $1000. This year’s winners are Tyan Geissler (Marengo, WI), Shelby Short (Hackensack, MN), and Maxim Sperry (Eau Claire). Congratulations to these recipients, and we look forward to their arrival on campus this fall!

FINGER WINS BECKSTROM GEOLOGY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP

This year’s recipient of the Beckstrom Geology Major Scholarship is Emily Finger (Helenville, WI). This $1250 scholarship, established in fall 2005 by alumnus Greg Beckstrom (’84), is awarded annually to a comprehensive geology major who has completed Mineralogy-Petrology I. The awardee must have an excellent academic record and a demonstrated financial need.

MYERS/WILLIS FIELD CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Myers/Willis Field Camp Scholarship fund (est. 2006) is intended to lessen the financial burden of field camp for excellent students who also have financial need. The fund also honors the contributions of Dr. Paul Myers and Dr. Ronald Willis, geology professors at UWEC who worked very hard to establish a strong field component in our young geology program.

Samantha Kleich (Tomahawk, WI), Ashley Thompson (WOnewoc, WI), and Carly Mueller (Andover, MN) are recipients of this year’s Myers/Willis scholarships (L to R in photo). Recipients were selected based on performance excellence at Field Camp I in New Mexico. Each student received $600 to defray expenses for Field Camp II in Montana.

The Geology Dept. hopes to offer Myers/Willis scholarships and grants to more students each year as the fund balance rises. We encourage all alumni who have benefited from our field experiences over the years to contribute to this fund. In addition, this is a great way to honor Paul and Ron for their dedication to our field program! See page 5 for information about the Adopt a Field Camper program.

COVIA (FORMERLY FAIRMOUNT SANTROL) RESPONSIBLE MINING SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Fairmount Santrol, now known as Covia, has once again funded three scholarships for rising juniors in our program (i.e. those completing Sed/Strat). The recipients of the $1000 scholarships (L to R in photo) with Covia’s Michele Maxson (UWEC Geology ’06) are Regan Jacobson (Park Falls, WI), Desmond Nielsen (Independence, WI), and Evan Lundeen (St. Paul, MN). Thanks to Covia for supporting our students!
GEOLGY MAJORS RECEIVE TOP A&S SCHOLARSHIPS

This year two Geology majors were awarded the top College of Arts and Sciences scholarships at UWEC! Duabchi Vang (La Crosse, WI) received the $8500 Michael F. Fredrich Scholarship. Desmond Nielsen (Independence, WI) received the $4600 William and Marion Lieske Memorial Scholarship. This is an external recognition of the quality of our Geology majors.

EARTH SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

The Earth Science Seminar Series continues to bring excellent speakers to campus. It provides faculty and students with the opportunity to interact with other scientists working on a broad range of research topics, and it also allows us to “show off” our department and research equipment to the visitors….! Below are the talks presented during this academic year. Seminars schedules are posted on the Geology website. In addition, if you live in the area and would like to receive e-mail announcements about upcoming seminars, please contact Dr. Scott Clark at clarksc@uwec.edu. If you work for a company that would like to sponsor the seminar series or contribute money to defray speaker costs, please contact us!


Dr. Phil Ihinger, UWEC Geology, “So, you think you might be interested in going to grad school? Learn what grad school is like and how to get in;” 10/13/17.

Dr. Michael Cummings, Portland State University Professor Emeritus (UWEC Geology ’71) and UWEC Geology faculty (1978-80), “Hydrogeology of the Plinian pumice fall from Mount Mazama,” 11/2/17.


Dr. Phil Ihinger and Dr. Sarah Vitale, UWEC Geology, “Your Science at a Professional Conference: Two Geological Society of America Talks as Exemplars;” 11/10/17.


Audrey (Mohr) Boerner, Eau Claire City-County Health Department (UWEC Geology ’11), “Getting to Know Our H2O: An Investigation of Agricultural and Human Waste Indicators in Eau Claire County Groundwater;” 2/16/18.


Dr. Laura Wasylenki, Associate Professor, Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Indiana University, “What Ni Isotopes Can and Cannot Tell Us about Earth’s Mid-Life Crisis;” 4/13/18.


Thanks to all Earth Science Seminar Series speakers in 2017-18. It was a great year!

BADGER MINING CORP. DONATES $5000 TO DEPT. OF GEOLOGY

Badger Mining Corporation recently donated $5000 to Geology to help buy and repair equipment to support teaching and research in the department.

Badger Mining operates three sand mines in Wisconsin – Taylor and Alma Center (Jackson County), and Fairwater (Fond du Lac County) – and is currently constructing its fourth mine outside of Kermit, Texas. These mines primarily supply sand for the foundry and oil and gas industries, but also provide material for filter media, industrial filler, recreational products, field turf, and multiple specialty applications.

“BMC is proud to continue to support UWEC’s Responsible Mining Initiative,” said Nick Bartol, associate at Badger Mining. “Industrial sand mining can be done in an environmentally responsible manner, and we are happy to assist a program and curriculum that emphasizes this approach in our industry.”

This is the fifth $5000 donation Badger Mining has supplied for equipment. Badger Mining Corp. also has hosted a mine visit associated with our MSHA safety training class and participated in our Advisory Board. Thanks to Badger Mining Corp. for supporting us as we use train the next generation of geologists (and non-geologists as well)!
SCOTT CLARK  Associate Professor  clarksco@uwec.edu  
Grades have been submitted and that’s a wrap on the spring semester. I’ll be flying out in a couple of days to join the group in Montana for the 2nd half of field camp. Rustler’s Gulch, here I come!

“I had been looking forward to seeing last summer’s total solar eclipse for many years. We experienced the eclipse from the top of a hill in the middle of Nebraska, and it was more amazing than I could have imagined!”

Scott Clark, Associate Professor  

After teaching Earth Science and Water Resources during both the fall and spring semesters, and spending January in New Mexico with Bob Hooper, two hard-working TAs (Carter Boswell and Adam Wiest), and twenty students at Field Camp I, I am looking forward to wrapping up the academic year in Montana. It will be the second time this year that I’ve been in Montana. Last June, Francine, Patricia, and I put nearly 4,000 miles on the car as we took a family vacation to Banff and Jasper National Parks in Canada, then to Glacier National Park, and finally, Yellowstone. They were all amazing places to visit. Mara Reed (‘18) met us in Yellowstone and graciously shared her geyser insights as our personal tour guide. Patricia and I worked in a second summer trip in August to Kansas and Nebraska – and really, who wouldn’t want to be in Kansas in August? (Unfortunately, Francine was already back on contract at Meadowview Elementary.) As some of you know, I had been looking forward to seeing last summer’s total solar eclipse for many years. We experienced the eclipse from the top of a hill in the middle of Nebraska, and it was more amazing than I could have imagined! If you missed the total eclipse, there will be another one that will be visible from Texas to Maine on April 8, 2024.

Research efforts continued with the waste auditing at the student center this year. Six students (including five Geology majors: Allie Cook, Sam Kleich, Ricky Mataitis (‘18), Ashley Thompson (‘18), and Betty Walter), and I conducted the audits at the Davies Center. The team worked well and we collected good data. Unfortunately, data showed that last year’s marketing campaign on campus yielded, at best, only minimal improvements in waste disposal habits compared to the previous year. Changing habits is challenging, and we will continue to work with other campus stakeholders to improve sustainability efforts on campus and to instill sustainably-minded habits in the hope that more and more students will carry those habits with them after they graduate. Speaking of sustainability education, last July was the fifth consecutive year geology majors and alumni volunteered to do outreach in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) tent at the Eau Claire County Fair. Beyond the geology outreach we’ve been doing, Sam Kleich and Ray Fillet (‘16) helped with a new activity on how to sort your waste.

I hope everyone has had a good year. Be sure to stop by the department and say “hi” if you make it back to Eau Claire.

KAREN HAVHOLM  Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research  havholkg@uwec.edu  
Well, this seems to be a year of “more of the same” so this will be brief. 1) Our daughter is still finishing her PhD in ore geology and her spouse is looking for a position where he can use his degree in Geostatistics. 2) My spouse is still business manager/accountant for a nonprofit that provides residential care and intervention for at-risk teens. 3) I am still working 150%-time in the UWEC research office; staffing turnover increases the challenge, but we soldier on. The research office is involved in piloting a program of assessment of student outcomes.
in student research, testing it to see if it can be scaled up to use in any institution. That has been a fun project for me. Otherwise things are just ticking along as usual.

I enjoyed sitting in on part of the Geology Department’s Advisory Board meeting this spring. It is heartening to see that we have powerful allies in a variety of industry and governmental roles. Thanks to all alumni who continue to support the department in different ways.

ROBERT HOOPER
Professor
hooperrl@uwec.edu

A big shout-out to all alumni from the program. This year caps my 35th year in Geology at UWEC, and it is still a pleasure to work with the students. Higher education has changed quite a bit in 35 years and it is not quite as much fun as it used to be in the “old days”. The liberal arts seem to be under attack, particularly in Wisconsin, despite lots of employers saying they want both the technical expertise and the soft skills fostered by a more complete university experience. The emphasis in higher education now is really on competing successfully for a decreasing pool of college-age students. While UWEC is faring well in the competition for students, it is a bit daunting to see some of our sister institutions struggling to adapt to reduced enrollments and real reductions in state funding. Enrollments seem to be driving lots of decisions at UWEC, so small programs like Geology receive much more scrutiny. Thankfully, we can point to the great success of our alumni when justifying our continued existence.

My research students continue to do exceptional work. Samantha Kleich presented at the AGU meeting in New Orleans on trace metal behavior in urban soot. This TEM study of soot chemistry garnered much interest in the Atmospheric Sciences section of this international meeting (25,000 participants). Sam is continuing her studies of soot and expanding into the relationship between metals in soot and related nanoparticles, and she is planning to present this work at GSA-Indianapolis in the fall. Billy Fitzpatrick won first place at ILSG for all students (graduate and undergraduate) for an SEM study of the petrology of the Tower Mountain gold mineralization in Ontario—a project in collaboration with Rob Lodge and me. Billy is attending the University of Arizona for graduate school and is focused on finding the next big gold deposit.

I continue to teach Min/Pet I in the fall, and geochemistry along with physical geology in the spring. I am trying to maintain an emphasis on the field component for our students. The spring field component in 2018 was very abbreviated because of a mid-April blizzard that limited field access until almost the beginning of May. Then, on May 7th my Geol 110 field trip had the opposite problem with 88 deg F temperatures when we visited the large basalt dike below Lake Wissota. At least bugs were not a problem this spring! Think about stopping in the Department when you pass through Eau Claire—with a little notice, the faculty can often free up some time to reconnect.

PHILLIP IHINGER
Professor
ihinger@uwec.edu

Cheers, My Dear Alumni! Stunning to see another year come and go. This one is particularly momentous, in that my #2 daughter is officially flying the coup. Like… really flying the coup. She’s decided to pursue her undergraduate degree in international relations at Sciences Po in Reims, France. I had to leave our Montana Field Camp II early to make it back for her graduation from Memorial HS (thank you, dear Dr. Scott Clark, for filing in after my departure). Before leaving, though, it was highly rewarding to see the next installment of UWEC geologists hit the ground running after solving the mysteries of the Rocky Mountain Fold-and-Thrust belt. This year, Adam West (who is off to pursue a degree with Luke Beranek at Memorial U. in Newfoundland) was our TA-Extraordinaire and helped us guide our new cohort through the trials and tribulations of learning to map geology independently in the field.

Meanwhile, our sojourn to the GSA-Seattle was very productive. Kyle Tolleson (’17) presented his project on color in watermelon tourmaline and met his future thesis advisors in the process (he will be enrolling this September in the LSU graduate program to study with world-class tourmaline researchers Drs. Barb Dutrow and Darrell Henry). The GSA presentation on the diffusion of hydrous species in quartz delivered by Eric Brinza (’17) and Billy Fitzpatrick (’18) was also well received: Eric just accepted a competitive technical position at LacCore at the University of Minnesota, and Billy will begin his Master’s degree program in Economic Geology with Dr. Mark Barton at the University of Arizona. This year’s CERCA also included: a new study by Jackelyn Anderson (’19) on the sourcing of Native American trade beads using infrared spectroscopic analyses, and a close look at purple amethyst from Mexico led by Tyson Noffke (’19) with help from Makayla Chandler (’20) and Trevor Nelson (’21). The amazing work of these students continues to make me proud to be a Blugold.

As for my family, Tricia and I are very excited to get Mati set up in France in late August, Ghislaine is completing her last class at Berkeley for her editing certificate, and Evie is relishing opportunities this summer to improve her softball prowess. I hope to see you all very soon!

ROBERT LODGE
Assistant Professor
lodgerw@uwec.edu

Can’t believe that I just finished my fourth year at UWEC. Fun fact – some students who graduated this year came to Eau Claire the same time I did! It’s becoming more of a reality that some of the amazing students that I have been working with for a few years will eventually finish and move on. My research students Lucy Horst (’18), Kaelyn Blotz (’18), Nathaniel McFarland (’18), and Morgan Kubishak (’17) are all moving on to bigger things. Congrats, everyone! In addition to those graduating seniors, my research team also includes seniors Maile Olson and Regan Jacobson. My research team has been working...
One goal of the Responsible Mining Initiative is to provide practical work experiences for our undergraduate students through paid internships. We now have four Responsible Mining Initiative internships with Fairmount Santrol, Smart Sand Inc., and Unimin Corp. where Blugold geology majors are given preference over students from other universities!

Our efforts to enhance internship opportunities have been a resounding success. Three students continued their internships part time into the academic year. During the past academic year and this summer, 21 students have had/will have paid internships with metallic and non-metallic mining companies, environmental consulting firms, and governmental agencies and earn ~$149,000 in wages. This large number of paid internships is highly unusual for an undergraduate geology program.

SMART SAND
Eau Claire, WI (Fall, Spring)
Betty Walter | Geology Intern
Non-metallic mining

SMART SAND
Eau Claire, WI (Fall)
Claudia Moore | Geology Intern
Non-metallic mining
now employed by Smart Sand

SMART SAND
Oakdale, WI
Chloe Malin | Geology Intern
Non-metallic mining
Pictured with Smart Sands’ Matt Lamb (L) and Nick Matula (R, UWEC ’15)

SMART SAND
Oakdale, WI
Zack Lydon | Geology Intern
Non-metallic mining

KRAEMER MINING & MATERIALS
Burnsville, MN
Evan Lundeen | Geotechnical Drilling Intern

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park, WY
Maria Delgado Gomez | Social Service Aid

MARKET & JOHNSON
Eau Claire, WI
Eliott Draxler | Construction Management Intern

WISCONSIN DOT
Eau Claire, WI (Fall)
Olivia Alloy | Environmental Intern (Wetlands)
the amazing Precambrian geology all over the Upper Midwest. The Economic Geology class did our annual tour of mines near Marquette, MI. The Structural Geology class got their usual tour through the Archean Superior Province in northeastern Minnesota. It has been hard to do so, that they are motivated to learn the difficult material without them hating me for all the work and shutting down. Nonetheless, students seem to be enjoying my classes and I think that’s a win! Students continue to get a healthy dose of the Precambrian geology and hydrothermal chemistry of the Flambeau Cu-Au Mine (Regan, Kaelyn), constructing a 3D model of the Crandon Cu-Zn deposit (Lucy), and exploring for Ni-Cu mineralization in komatiites in Ontario (Maile). I also had a student working on “that garnet rock from the strat section in Montana” (Nathaniel) and collaborated with Bob Hooper and Billy Fitzpatrick (’18) on the chemistry of alteration minerals associated with a gold prospect in Ontario. Our work together was presented at the NC GSA meeting in Ames, IA, the Institute on Lake Superior Geology (ILSG) meeting in Iron Mountain, MI, and the annual CERCA week at UWEC. I’m proud of the professionalism of the students at these meetings and the quality of their research. In fact – Billy won the Best Student Poster presentation award at the ILSG meeting!

I am still teaching Physical Geology, Structural Geology, Economic Geology, and Field Camp II. I am also now teaching our Computers in Geology class. I continue to refine my teaching craft and chase pedagogical perfection. It’s a balance of challenging students just enough so that they are motivated to learn the difficult material without them hating me for all the work and shutting down. Nonetheless, students seem to be enjoying my classes and I think that’s a win! Students continue to get a healthy dose of the amazing Precambrian geology all over the Upper Midwest.*

Robert Lodge, Assistant Professor

*Students continue to get a healthy dose of the amazing Precambrian geology all over the Upper Midwest.
level of productivity and the quality and success of our graduates will shield the Department from the continual threat of programmatic cuts and staff reductions. I am proud to be a member of this amazing program and hope it continues long into the future. All the best.


"I continue to attempt to enlighten young minds to the wonder of earth science in my introductory courses, and to convince my upper-division students that the best geologists have seen the most rocks!"

Brian Mahoney, Professor

LORI SNYDER
Senior Lecturer and Undergrad Program Coordinator
snyderld@uwec.edu

Hello Everyone! Yet another year gone by and it was a full one. Almost a month in western Europe began the academic year. It was my first visit to that region and it was just as spectacular as anticipated! The goal was the Goldschmidt Conference in Paris, but along the way, we got to visit The Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland, and to spend some time with our niece in southern France. What a wonderful part of the world with fantastic sites and people. The trip was a nice change of pace before the very full school year.

National Parks and Environmental Geology were on the teaching agenda as usual – almost 400 students in the fall semester. The Future of Global Energy was offered online in the new 4-week format over Winterim and it went very well. After years of altering content and fitting the course into ever-changing time frames, I have found a format that works well and is sustainable.

I began the year working on a project in the College of Arts and Sciences to build connections with the UW colleges, particularly those who supply UWEC with the most transfer students. During the course of this project, the UW System made the decision to “join” each 2-year campus with a 4-year campus. Needless to say, this development changed the focus of our work because UW-Barron County will be “joined” to UWEC. It was an interesting challenge and I hope the work of the group will help during the next few years as the mechanics of the “joining” is accomplished.

In March, Brian and I went to Cuba with a few friends. We had visited in 2009 and it was great to go back and see how things have changed. What a beautiful country with truly wonderful people. If only the silly embargo would end. Well, that’s about it from my end except for one final note. Thanks to Phil, who has agreed to teach National Parks this fall so I can take a break from that course. I am certain that he will enjoy it and grow from the experience. And on a final, final note, I hope you all have a wonderful year!

LORILIE STEINKE
Academic Department Associate syeinklm@uwec.edu

Greetings from Command Central of the Geology Department! As always, things continue to be busy (especially during field season). It is very fortunate that I have great helpers to make sure the vehicles are cleaned, filled with gas and ready to roll as soon as the weather permits. Weather was the biggest challenge this spring with way too much snow and freezing temps hindering taking students into the field. But, once again, we survived!

On a personal note my granddaughter continues to be the light of my life and it is so much fun to see how fast she grows and changes. Her personality is larger than life and she is an absolute joy. My oldest child, Morgan, moved from Illinois to Iowa this past year. Seems like only yesterday that Morgan was graduating from UWEC! Margo is continuing classes at CVTC while working full-time. She is one busy young lady!

One of the added perks of my position here at UWEC is getting to meet many very interesting people, and I love to stay informed on what you are doing once you leave this beautiful campus. Remember to stop by the office to visit, send me an email, or friend request me on Facebook. I would love to hear from each of you!

KENT SYVERSON
Professor syverskm@uwec.edu

Greetings from Eau Claire! I have now completed my 26th year in the department. I still enjoy teaching college students very much! The past year I taught Glacial Geology, Oceanography, and the Responsible Mining Seminar. However, it seems like meetings and writing internal reports consume more of my time each year…

My fall semester was a whirlwind, as always. Grading Glacial Geology papers always keeps me hopping. In September I accompanied three Responsible Mining Initiative interns to the 6th Annual Frac Sand Supply & Logistics conference in Houston, TX, where I co-presented an invited talk on the properties of Wisconsin and Texas sands—a huge topic right now—and met many Blugold alumni.

I continue to seek more internships, scholarships, and other educational opportunities for our students. I am thankful for industry stakeholders who have assisted our students. The 3rd Advisory Board meeting held in mid-May was extremely valuable—we always receive good input from the stakeholders.

Carter Boswell and I used ArcGIS to crunch data from several glacial geology mapping projects in Maine to evaluate evidence for a calving embayment in the Penobscot River valley. We made excellent progress on the project and Carter presented his work at NC GSA in Ames, IA, where I visited with Anna Baker ’09, Angela Berthold ’12, Audrey (Mohr) Boerner ’11, Corrie Floyd ’11, Kristie Franz ’96, and Katherine Grote. I am still actively consulting in the Wisconsin and Texas frac sand industries. I have also been part of a multidisciplinary team using geotechnical data to evaluate evidence for a perched water table.

My family and I had a good year. One of my
daughters just graduated from UWEC with a degree in Spanish Education. We stayed rather close to Eau Claire during the summer. We attended the Syverson family reunion in northwestern MN and my wife and I made a brief trip to Prairie du Chien (an interesting place, and the site of the only War of 1812 battle on Wisconsin soil). I attended both games of the NCAA D1 Frozen Four in St. Paul and watched my UMD Bulldogs win the NCAA championship! Very exciting—one item checked off my bucket list! I am (slowly) writing about my Alaskan geology adventures for family and friends. With chapter titles such as “First Contact,” “Death March I,” “What a Man Truly Needs in the Wilderness,” and “The Plain of Doom,” the work promises to be a real page-turner!

I will be around Eau Claire much of the summer. If you are around, please visit the department!

Hello all! I am very pleased to introduce myself to you all, having just finished my first year. Before coming to UWEC I completed my Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut with expertise in aquifer flow characterization. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching both Hydrogeology courses as well as Environmental Geology at UWEC. We spent a substantial amount of time outdoors for labs during the Fall semester. Unfortunately, the long winter did not allow for much field time during the Spring, but we got out when we could!

Since my arrival in Eau Claire, I have hit the ground running with student research. I have been working with Duabchi Vang and Emily Finger, analyzing long-term groundwater trends in Wisconsin to determine potential impacts from climate change and increased precipitation. They presented their work at NC GSA in Ames, Iowa, and competed in the WiSys Quick Pitch Competition (giving an elevator pitch of their research to non-experts in only 3 minutes!). I have also begun working with Jonah Shoemaker-Gagnon and Chloe Malin to investigate the contribution of nutrient loading through lacustrine groundwater discharge to lake eutrophication (at Mud Lake in Chetek/Cameron, WI).

I attended the Wisconsin Section American Water Resources Association meeting in Appleton, where I met a few UWEC alumni as well as water-resource experts from all over the region. Carly Mueller and Melissa Hackenmueller presented a poster at the meeting and won the Best Undergraduate Poster award. Overall, it has been very exciting to be exposed to so much undergraduate research throughout this first year, including attending my first CERCA. UWEC is truly exceptional in the quality of its undergraduate research.

To finish this year, I attended UWEC’s graduation. It was very exciting to see so many Geology graduates walk across the stage. It has been a productive and fulfilling first year, and I am looking forward to what the next year brings!

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This southwest view shows the clouded crater (left rear) with a lava dome in front of it. The white streaks are fumeroles. The city of Volcan is in the valley in the right distance. During a major eruption about 40,000 years ago, a huge section of this volcano slid off and flowed down the canyon to the right, and traveled at least 25 km beyond Volcan.

With all the interest in the recent eruption of Fuego in Guatemala, it’s certain that I’ll have plenty to do when we return to Boquete in November. Once a geologist, always a geologist.

In addition to the geology, I continue painting, sketching, hiking, and sightseeing. Welthy, as always, continues important volunteer work. Fortunately, we’re both healthy and busy. Come and visit us in Vermont or Panama.

JOHN TINKER, Professor Emeritus
tinkerjr@triwest.net

I send a warm hello to all current and past students and faculty of the UWEC Geology Department. I have had a sad and happy past year. The sadness was the loss of my 13-year-old golden retriever named Scout. She was the best dog that Christine and I have had. The happiness was deciding to get a new puppy. Our new dog is again a golden retriever and her name is Charlie. Now I must live another 13 years to take care of the dog. Charlie has much energy and is very frustrating at times.

Another happy event this past year was that Christine and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. I met Christine when I was in graduate school at the University of North Dakota, and Christine was just starting her undergraduate education. We are still both happy with our decision to get married over 50 years ago.

Consulting and work on our farms in Wisconsin and in North Dakota have kept us busy. Christine and I travelled to our North Dakota farm five times last year. I will travel again next summer to North Dakota but for another reason. I just received permission to re-measure my erosion stakes in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I started the hillslope erosion study in 1967 and with re-measurement in 2018 I will have erosion data for 51 years. My granddaughter will be my field assistant. She will have the responsibility of hauling me out of the badlands if I get in trouble.

I hope all is well with each of you, your families, and friends. Keep in touch with Dr. Syverson and the department. I sure like reading about your experiences in the department newsletter. I thank each of my former students for making my life happier.

“I started the hillslope erosion study in 1967 and with re-measurement in 2018 I will have erosion data for 51 years.”

John Tinker, Professor Emeritus

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COVIA (FORMERLY UNIMIN) AND UW-EAU CLAIRE CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP ON RESPONSIBLE MINING INITIATIVE

Unimin (now Covia) continues to invest approximately $25,000 annually in UW-Eau Claire’s Responsible Mining Initiative. For the fifth year, Unimin has committed resources for the upcoming 2018-19 academic year to fund five $1,000 scholarships for first-year geology students, four $2,500 scholarships for sophomore geology students, and $10,000 in grants to be distributed to UW-Eau Claire geology field camp II students. Over the past five years, Unimin has donated $140,000 in cash to our program. We thank this organization for its continued investment in our program!

Unimin’s interns from UWEC have gained valuable work experience and applied knowledge from the classroom. Such experiences can give students an advantage when searching for jobs after they graduate. This spring Unimin representatives came to campus once again to interview internship candidates. They decided to hire one of our graduating seniors, Carter Boswell, into a full-time “real” job instead in Minnesota. That was a good outcome! In addition, last year’s intern at Tunnel City, Rachel Lair, won a $5000 Unimin Corp. Business Idea Scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year. Her proposal to improve an aspect of business operations competed against a pool of submissions from other Unimin interns in North America! Wow!

The scholarships and grants have reduced student dependence on loans. The freshman scholarships have helped recruit students into our program. The quality of our incoming freshman class is extremely high, and Unimin’s commitment to the Responsible Mining Initiative has contributed in a positive way. It will be exciting to see this class become involved in collaborative research and internships!

Built from the merging of Fairmount Santrol and Unimin Corporation, Covia is a leading provider of minerals and material solutions for the Industrial and Energy markets, with a broad array of high-quality products and the industry’s most comprehensive and accessible distribution network. To deliver shared success and a sustainable future, they have harnessed the power of long-term partnerships – built on integrity, reliability and an innovative solutions mindset. As a new company and the industry leader, Covia will be well positioned to continue offering support to the Responsible Mining Initiative program. For more information visit https://www.coviacorp.com/.

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Unimin Corp. intern and scholarship recipient, Rachel Lair.
AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN GEOLOGY AWARDS IN 2017-2018

The “Excellence in Geology” award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major, both in coursework and in faculty/student collaborative research. The winners of the Excellence in Geology award for 2017-2018 are Billy Fitzpatrick, Carly Mueller, and Adam Wiest.

Billy Fitzpatrick, from Madison, WI, immediately enrolled in geology at UWEC where he started research with Phil Ihinger as a sophomore. Billy worked in Phil Ihinger’s lab on the distribution of hydroxyl in hydrothermal quartz from the Swiss Alps and presented his research at GSA-Seattle in fall 2017. Billy has an insatiable interest in economic mineral deposits and he also worked on developing a technique to use the TEM to study nanoparticles in groundwater as an exploration tool for deeply buried metallic ore deposits. He also worked with Bob Hooper and Rob Lodge on the mineral chemistry of alkaline igneous rocks hosting gold mineralization in southern Ontario, presented at ILSG, and won a Best Poster Award. Billy will attend graduate school at the University of Arizona this fall with full funding to study economic mineral deposits.

Adam Wiest is a native of Green Bay, WI. Adam graduated with a double major in Geology and Mathematics. He participated in several research projects with Dr. Brian Mahoney, including basin analysis and detrital zircon geochronology in Mendoza, Argentina, rare earth element geochemistry technique development on the high-resolution ICPMS, and developing a regional baseline for surface and groundwater chemistry in western Wisconsin. He gave an oral presentation at GSA-Seattle last year, and has presented the results of his research with his colleagues at the CUR Posters on the Hill event in Washington, DC, in front of the Board of Regents, and at several CERCA events. He and his colleagues won a Best Poster Award at the national SME meeting in Minneapolis in February. This fall Adam will attend graduate school at Memorial University in Newfoundland with full funding where he will study sedimentation and tectonics in Yukon with Dr. Luke Beranek (UWEC Geology ’05)!

Carly Mueller is a native of Andover, MN. Carly participated in a number research projects with Dr. Brian Mahoney, including examination of a low sulphidization epithermal gold deposit in Honduras, a regional water chemistry project with Adam Wiest, and a sequential extraction project with Melissa Hackenmueller trying to understand groundwater phosphorus contamination in western Wisconsin. Carly presented her research at the Posters on the Hill in Washington DC, several GSA meetings, and the Wisconsin chapter of the American Water Resources Association where Carly and Melissa received the Best Undergraduate Poster award. Carly held a prestigious internship with Rio Tinto in southern California last summer. She will attend graduate school at Memorial University in Newfoundland with full funding to study economic mineral deposits.

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JAMES WATKINS ’05 RECEIVES 2017 HISASHI KUNO AWARD FROM AGU

Dr. James Watkins (UWEC Geology ’05, now a faculty member at the Univ. of Oregon) received a prestigious American Geophysical Union early career award at the 2017 AGU Meeting in New Orleans. The Hisashi Kuno Award recognizes “outstanding contributions to the fields of volcanology, geochemistry, or petrology.” This is an AMAZING honor! Jim did collaborative research with Dr. Phil Ihinger while an undergraduate at UWEC, and then went on to complete his Ph.D. with full funding at the Univ. of California-Berkeley. Congratulations, Jim! You can read the full award citation here https://eos.org/agu-news/steele-macinnis-and-watkins-receive-2017-hisashi-kuno-award.
CONGRATS, GRADS!

RECENT GEOLOGY GRADUATES
Fall 2017, Spring & Summer 2018 (unofficial list)

Alloy, Olivia
Aranda, Veronica
Banach, Mitchell Charles
Blotz, Kaelyn Elizabeth
Boswell, Carter Wren
Delgado Gomez, Maria Juliana
Feldschneider, Riley Scott
Fitzpatrick, William Arthur
Hackenmueller, Melissa Ann
Hoekstra, Hunter Brady
Horst, Lucy M.
Howard, Will Riley
Huber, Keely Rae
Kubishak, Morgan Elizabeth
Lair, Rachel Ann
Mataitis, Richard James
Miller, Walker Joseph
Moore, Claudia Grace
Mueller, Carly Ann
Plaziak, Charles
Rodriguez, Nolan Edward
Sander, Colton Alan
Susen, McKayla
Thompson, Ashley Elizabeth
Wiest, Adam
Wilmoth, Robert Francis

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2017-18!
Please stay in touch! Make sure we have your email address.
Angela Berthold ’12. Angela writes, “I am still a Quaternary geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey working on Hennepin County. I am in the final stages of putting everything together so it looks good for publication. My Hennepin County data is being used by the DNR, a state representative, and other interested parties to determine how to deal with water-level controversies in Minneapolis. I find it intimidating to a certain extent, but rewarding, to know that what I do for a living is useful/necessary. My next county, in which I will be doing fieldwork this summer, is Lac qui Parle, which is along the South Dakota border. I am very much looking forward to a change of pace. I’ll go from working on the most populated county in the state to the 76th most populous county out of 87.”

Jeff Baker ’71. Jeff writes, “Char and I moved to the White Mountains of East Central Arizona in summer 2001. I first taught in Pepin, WI, from 1989-1995 (all the sciences, both Junior and Senior High). I moved to our alma mater, North High School in Eau Claire from 1995-2001, and my final tenure was in Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ, from 2001-08 where I taught high school earth science and anatomy and physiology. I really didn’t need a lesson plan when teaching geology sections, as I accumulated teaching slides and rock samples helping Dr. Bob Hooper with the Rocky Mountain Field Studies class from 1988-1995. Arizona has been plagued with wildfires, the worst being in our backyard as our home was being built in summer 2001. We began using salvaged juniper and ponderosa logs from the fire to build rustic furnishings and furniture. We also stay busy traveling around the country and world…well some parts. We have been to Alaska, Hawaii, the Caribbean 4 times, Mexico, Panama Canal, Mediterranean and our favorites, Norway and New Zealand. Our son and I have summited several major peaks in the West including Mt. Shasta and our namesake, Mt. Baker. Our daughter is an avid mountain trail runner. Char and I love to ski and I served on our local ski patrol at Sunrise Ski Park (>2000’ relief) for six years. Yes, we ski in Arizona! In June Char and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise with our daughter. And then again in August with our wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise with Ski Park (>2000’ relief) for six years. Yes, we ski in Arizona! In June Char and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise with our daughter. And then again in August with our wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise with Ski Park (>2000’ relief) for six years. Yes, we ski in Arizona!”

“Ours and I have summited several major peaks in the West including Mt. Shasta and our namesake, Mt. Baker.”

Jeff Baker

“Dakota and I am a fully certified nuclear and missile operations officer. My job places me in charge of the security, maintenance, and operations of our nation’s Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System. Additionally, I have started a master’s program with the University of Nebraska-Omaha in Political Science (International Relations focus).”

Jacob Boer ’08. Jacob writes, “At present I am stationed at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota and I am a fully certified nuclear and missile operations officer. My job places me in charge of the security, maintenance, and operations of our nation’s Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System. Additionally, I have started a master’s program with the University of Nebraska-Omaha in Political Science (International Relations focus).”

Carter Boswell ’18. Carter accepted a Production & Shipping Supervisor position with Unimin Corp’s Ottawa (MN) plant.

Casey Bowe ’04. Casey is the Director of Technology at Greybull Public Schools in Greybull, WY.

Greg Burgess ’15. Greg is an Audit Client Specialist at Concur in Eden Prairie, MN.

Travis Bushendorf ’09. Travis is a Field Operations Manager at Core Geologic in Denver, CO.

Jake Charneski ’17. Jake writes, “Things are going great, I’m still in the Air Force. I am currently at Edwards AFB in the Mojave Desert. I am helping out here for 45 days. I went to some national parks in Utah along the way—very cool geology. I still live in Madison but I have been traveling quite a bit. I was in South Korea for three months. I also traveled to Romania for a solo backpacking trip and to Nicaragua recently with friends.”

Ryan Conway ’15. Ryan is working for Barr Engineering in Minneapolis, MN, as a Computational Hydrologist.

Rev. Rick Christy, ’85. Rick became Senior Pastor at Doster Community Reformed Church in Michigan in April 2018.

Taylor (Crist) Pierce ’12. Taylor writes, “My husband and I relocated to Colorado last year. It is impressive being around so many rocks! There’s so much to explore. Last year I also became a Professional Engineer. If you are in the Denver area, please reach out!”

Eric Dahl ’99. Eric is a Hydrogeologist with METCO in Onalaska, WI.

Thomas Danielson ’98. Tom is a Senior Geologist and Project Manager at Puget Sound Energy in Burlington, WA.

Joe Drapeau ’85. Joe writes, “I have worked in the environmental consulting industry in Minnesota & Wisconsin since 1988. The last 15 years I have been with Pioneer Environmental Inc. performing environmental due diligence, risk assessments, and site investigations. Also provide clients with environmental design and contracting services for groundwater dewatering projects. I find working for a small consulting business allows me to wear many hats/helmets…. Keeps it interesting, keeps me young.”

Greg Durocher ’82. Greg writes, “After working over 30 very satisfying, rewarding years with the USGS in Anchorage, I retired at the end of December 2016. I have been so busy traveling, rockhounding and volunteering, that I’ve joked about working part-time to rest! If any of you plan on passing through Anchorage on a visit, I’d be delighted to provide you with information covering a range of Alaska-related topics.”

Eli Fredrickson ’17. Eli is a Geologist with Haley & Aldrich in Phoenix, AZ.

Chase Friedemann ’17. Chase reports, “I’m currently living in Little Falls, MN, and working a six-month GIS data-processing internship for Lakemaster-Humminbird (subsidiary of Johnson Outdoors).”

Anne Gauer ’08. Anne writes, “This year has been a whirlwind! Besides the usual training, consulting and support as a geologist for Maptek in Denver and at different mine sites around the USA, I have added a few things to my resume. During the summer I completed a four-week citation course for Geostatistics through the University of Alberta. Shortly after, I was accepted to work out of a new office in Montreal, Canada. Here I have changed my role to be a technical sales expert for our software, Vulcan. This new role has given me the opportunity to improve my presentation skills, learn French (Québécoise), attend mining conferences, and visit the east coast of the continent. Hank (my dog) and I look forward to our new life here!”

“Anya and I look forward to our new life here!”

Eric Dahl
“This new role has given me the opportunity to improve my presentation skills, learn French (Quebecoise), attend mining conferences, and visit the east coast of the continent.”

Anne Gauer

Alexandra (Guy) Strand ’07. Alex is a Software Quality Analyst at Franklin Energy Services in the Milwaukee, WI, area.

Olivia Haas’14. Olivia is a staff accountant at Furniture for Life in Boulder, CO.

Doug Hallum ’96. Doug writes, “Paula and I have had another year of The Good Life. Living in the path of totality for the Great American Eclipse, we had house guests to enjoy and Extension work to do. I experienced a partial eclipse as a child, but I had no idea that totality would be so profound – everyone should plan a trip to see that at least once in their lifetime! The Geological Society of Minnesota brought a group for eclipse week, and I was privileged to spend a day exploring water resources and geology with them. Paula and I spent three weeks on the road; west to the Pacific Ocean and back, and east to Nashville, TN, plus a side trip to see our grandkids. Finally, we unexpectedly lost several dear friends/colleagues this year, reminding us to notice the small blessings and give thanks for what we experience every day.”

“Notice the small blessings and give thanks for what we experience every day.”

Doug Hallum

Samuel Helmhut ’16. Sam writes, “The USGS has started giving me some training as a drill rig assistant, and have already signed me up for the required 40-hour OSHA training. I’ll be responsible for logging the core I’m helping to pull out as well as some GIS stuff and reports. The 7.5’ quad that they had me complete had much Quaternary basalt in the eastern Snake River Plain.”

Mark Hostak ’89. Mark reports, “For the past three years I have been volunteering full-time at Habitat for Humanity’s Oshkosh “ReStore” store. My efforts, and those of other volunteers, go a long way to providing homes for those in need. It’s a great way for me to give back to the world a little bit for all that I’ve been so fortunate to receive. I’m also still an avid “privy digger” – hand-digging excavations behind old historic homes. It’s GREAT exercise and always fascinating to recover artifacts. In short, I’m VERY grateful for everything that life brings, and I’m looking forward to each new day!”

Olivia (Iverson) Giles ’12. Olivia reports, “I moved back to the Midwest from Arizona and am taking a break from geology for a little while. I am currently focusing on being a mama to my new little girl!”

Nathaniel Jackson ’17. Nate writes, “Life has been busy! I hung it up at the sand plant! I’m currently working full-time through the National Guard as an artillery instructor.”

Bridget Kelly ’09. Bridget writes, “Things are going great in Madison where I work for WDNR; we just wrapped up our first year here. We just bought a house and moved my mom to Madison from Eau Claire, too, so there is no shortage of crazy in our lives.”

Andrew Kennedy ’04. Andrew is a science teacher at Phillips Community School in the Twin Cities area.

Dale Kerner ’96. Dale is helping Midas Gold Idaho work with federal, state and local regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public to obtain the permits and approvals required for mining and reclaiming the historic Stibnite Gold Project in central Idaho.

Ric Kopp ’75. Rick writes, “The latter part of 2017 into 2018 has been an interesting time in the oil and gas industry–fluctuating prices have created much M&A activity. One company I consult for made a large acquisition in late 2016, and after several show and tells sold half their interest for the original purchase price. Thus, they kept me as a consultant! In late 2017, the other company I have been working for elected to sell, thus more show and tells and a sale... The principals wanted to start over, so more show and tells to assemble a newly funded project with a new company. All in the family are doing well—the grandchildren keep Jacqueline and myself very busy following their sports and school programs. Hope all is well at UWEC and hopefully get back again to visit with staff and students.”

Morgan Kubishak ’17. Morgan is in the Peace Corps and serving in Thailand as a youth development volunteer. Kubishak is living and working in a community to help Thai youth develop skills and attributes that will prepare them to be healthy, engaged citizens who will positively contribute to their communities.

Steph Larsen ’01. Steph has been working with the Sierra Club for nearly three years in online organizing, and recently changed from the Beyond Coal Campaign to the Clean Transportation for All campaign, where she advocates for fuel efficiency, electric vehicles, and other clean transportation initiatives. Steph and her husband have one daughter and are expecting their second child. They’re planning a move to upstate New York sometime this summer to be closer to family, but plan to continue operating Moon & Raven Farm once they settle in their new location.

Mitch Lassa ’16. Mitch is a Big Sky Watershed Corps Member with the Montana Conservation Corps in the Bozeman area.

Josh Leable ’12. Josh reports, “Things at Cedar Corp. in Menomonie are going well. My position allows me to dabble in a good variety of hydrogeology and environmental work throughout Wisconsin. I also work with three UWEC geology alumni, so I’m in good company! I received my PG license in WI this January.”

Taryn Lopez ’03. Taryn reports, “After 8 years of graduate school and 3 years of postdoctoral research, I am happy to report that I finally have a “real job” as a research faculty member with the UA-Fairbanks Geophysical Institute and the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO). My research focuses on using the composition and flux of volcanic gases to learn about volcanic processes and volatile cycling. I have enjoyed working with the AVO and doing field work in remote regions of Alaska. I got married 3 years ago and my husband is also a volcanologist at UAF/AVO. I recently attended the 2017 IAVCEI conference where I saw fellow UWEC alum, Jim Watkins, receive the Hasashi Kuno Award for outstanding contributions to the fields of volcanology, geochemistry & petrology! Congratulations, Jim! Way to make us all proud.”
Matthew Michalski ’15. Matthew is a Hydrogeologist at REI Engineering, Inc. in Wausau, WI.

Audrey (Mohr) Boerner ’11. Audrey writes, “I am finishing my third year as project manager at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. I work a wide array of programs, including sampling for nitrate and pharmaceutical contamination in private wells, health impact assessment, and healthy community design. A highlight from the past year was the chance to hike into the Grand Canyon for the first time (though, not all the way)!”

Rebecca (Moore) Ryser ’13. Rebecca writes, “I recently started working as a hydrogeologist for Golder Associates in Phoenix, AZ. I spend most of my time report writing or conducting field work for mine site Aquifer Protection Permit applications around the state. This February my fiancé and I were married in Phoenix and we enjoy all the hiking and camping nearby. I look forward to visiting Eau Claire every year for the holidays because my husband grew up there and is also a UWEC alum.”

Troy Moseley ’09. Troy reports, “It’s been a busy year for both family and work. My wife and I welcomed our second child last summer and I received my PG license last June. This year will be my sixth at Hi-Crush Proppants as a Senior Environmental Specialist. Over the past year I have been busy with the startup and operation of our drone mapping program for the company, which has assisted with compliance and mine planning.”

Chris Nimon ’16. Chris is a Staff Geologist at PSI in Chippewa Falls, WI.

Josh Olson ’13. Josh completed a dual master’s degree in Hydrogeology and Water Resources Management at UW-Madison. He writes, “I started working as a field hydrogeologist for WSP (Twin Cities) in July 2017. It’s been a nice mix of office work with water sampling, soil sampling, and drilling thrown in pretty frequently.”

Isaac Orr ’10. Isaac reports, “I have taken a new job—I’m now working as a policy fellow at the Center of the American Experiment, a Minnesota-based think tank. I’ll be working on mining issues in northern Minnesota and working energy issues, too.”

Mark Powers ’80. Mark is a Project Manager/Environmental Geologist for CQM, Inc. in Green Bay, WI.

Kenneth Ritt ’14. Kenny is a Senior Account Specialist at Enterprise Truck Rental in the Milwaukee area.

David Sander ’86. David writes, “Life has been busy since graduation. My wife and I live in the Woodville, WI, area and I enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping. After graduation I worked in county land conservation for many years. I currently work for the State of Wisconsin DATCP as a Weights and Measures Inspector. I enjoyed attending the UWEC Geology Banquet last spring with my son, Colton (also a geology major).”

Hannah Semonick ’15. Hannah is a Quality Assurance Technician at Donaldson Company, Inc. in the Twin Cities area.

Kinsey Stoll ’17. Kinsey is in graduate school in the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. (Editor’s note—The editor, by chance, sat directly by Kinsey and her mom at a UMD hockey game in March!) 

Mark Strobel ’88. Mark is a managing member at MC Environmental Consultants in Wausau, WI.

Alex Thompson ’09. Alex writes, “I left the gold mines of Alaska this year and have moved to New Orleans where I now work on environmental projects. Look me up if you’re in the neighborhood.” 

Chad Underwood ’96. Chad writes, “Over our kids’ spring break the last two years we went hiking out west. This year I had a conference in Florida during their spring break, so we traded the hiking boots for swim suits and did a more “traditional” beach spring break instead.

Although the beach was nice, I have to admit that I missed the hiking. Maybe we can sneak out west this summer. Until then, I will get to view some great Wisconsin glacial geology in April at the Chippewa 10k trail run, which takes place at the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area near New Auburn. I haven’t been on that portion of the Ice Age Trail since my Glacial Geology class! Work continues to keep my busy and Alison and the kids are doing well.”

Mark Strobel ’88. mark is a managing member at MC Environmental Consultants in Wausau, WI.

Robert Wilmoth ’18. Rob accepted a job with landfill geotechnical testing firm CQM, Inc. in Green Bay.

“I haven’t been on that portion of Ice Age Trail since my Glacial Geology class!”

Chad Underwood
STUDENT RESEARCH DAY – SPRING 2018

The Twenty Sixth Annual UW-Eau Claire Student Research Week was held April 30-May 4, 2018 in Davies Center on the UWEC campus. This event showcases faculty/student collaborative research occurring on campus. The Geology Department has been very well represented throughout the years, and this year was no exception. All of the students noted below presented posters this year. We are very proud of our students!

Note: Students who presented posters at professional conferences are also indicated. Student travel to conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

JACKEYLN ANDERSON WITH PHILLIP IHINGER. Chemical Characterization of Native American Glass Trade Beads.

KALEY BLOTZ WITH ROBERT LODGE. Characteristics of Ore and Trace Mineral Assemblages at the Flambeau Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide Deposit, Northwestern Wisconsin; also presented at the North-Central (NC) GSA meeting in Ames, IA, April 16-17, 2018, and the Institute on Lake Superior Geology (ILSG) meeting in Iron Mountain, MI, May 16-17, 2018.

CARTER BOSWELL WITH KENT SYVERSON. GIS Analysis of Evidence for a Late Wisconsinan Calving Embayment in the Penobscot River Valley Region near Bangor, Maine; also presented at the NC GSA meeting in Ames, IA, April 16-17, 2018.

MARIA DELGADO GOMEZ AND MICHAEL WENZEL WITH PATRICIA CLEARY. Pushing the Envelope: MP-AES Detection Limits for Pb in Drinking Water.

EMILY FINGER AND DUABCHI VANG WITH SARAH VITALE. Assessment of Long-Term Groundwater Level Records in Wisconsin from 1937-2017; also presented at the NC GSA meeting in Ames, IA, April 16-17, 2018.

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK WITH PHILLIP IHINGER. The Distribution of Hydrous Impurities in Quartz: The Role of Twinning. also presented at the GSA-Seattle meeting, October 22-25, 2017.

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK WITH ROBERT HOOPER AND ROBERT LODGE. Mineral Chemistry of the Tower Mountain Gold Prospect; also presented at the ILSG meeting in Iron Mountain, MI, May 16-17, 2018 where he received the Best Student Poster Award (graduate and undergraduate). MELISSA HACKENMUELLER, CARLY MUELLER, AND ADAM WIEST WITH BRIAN MAHONEY, LAUREL MC ELLISTREM, SARAH VITALE. Source Identification of Phosphorous Contamination Pathways in Surface Water and Groundwater of Western Wisconsin: Recognizing a Phosphorous Problem. A similar poster received the Best Undergraduate Poster award at the Wisconsin Section of the AWRA, Appleton, WI, March 8-9, 2018. Melissa also gave an oral presentation of this work at the NC GSA meeting in Ames, IA, April 16-17, 2018.

LUKE BURDS, JOSEPH BECK AND RICHARD MATAITIS WITH HARRY JOL. Ground Penetrating Radar Investigation of a Mass Grave and Malina Entrance at the HKP Site, Vilnius, Lithuania.

NATHANIEL MCFARLAND WITH ROBERT LODGE. Metamorphic Petrography and Geochemistry of Garnet-Bearing Gneisses in the Tobacco Root Mountains, Southwestern Montana.

TYSON NOFFKE, MAKAYLA CHANDLER, AND TREVOR NELSON WITH PHILLIP IHINGER. Color Variation in Gemmy Amethyst from Vera Cruz, Mexico: The Role of Contaminant Diffusion.

MAILE OLSON WITH ROBERT LODGE. Komatiite-Hosted Nickel-Copper Mineralization Potential in the Eastern Shebandowan Greenstone Belt, Ontario, Canada; also presented at the ILSG meeting in Iron Mountain, MI, May 16-17, 2018.


KYLE TOLLEFSON WITH PHILLIP IHINGER. Color in Watermelon Tourmaline: The Role of Hydroxyl Diffusion; also presented at the GSA-Seattle meeting, October 22-25, 2017.

JACOB VIRCKS WITH PHILLIP IHINGER. Major Element Variations in the Evolving Skaergaard Magma Chamber: A Computer Simulation to Test the Sequential Extraction Model.

ADAM WIEST AND CARLY MUELLER WITH BRIAN MAHONEY, LAUREL MC ELLISTREM, AND SARAH VITALE. An Environmental Baseline for Western Wisconsin Trace Metal Concentrations; modified versions also presented at GSA-Seattle October 22-25, 2017, and the national SME meeting in Minneapolis February 26-28, 2018. Received Best Poster Award in Environmental Division (graduate and undergraduate) and a $1000 prize.

MELISSA HACKENMUELLER WITH ROBERT HOOPER AND ROBERT LODGE. Geomorphic Interpretation of Connor Point and Rice Point: Analysis through Ground Penetrating Radar.

Adam Wiest, Carly Mueller, and Melissa Hackenmueller with award-winning SME poster.
DONATIONS
HOW TO DONATE

The Geology funds with UW-Eau Claire Foundation are used to support a wide range of activities in the Department, including student travel to professional meetings, faculty/student field trips, faculty recruitment, and student scholarships. The attached slip is intended to make it easy to contribute to the Geology funds. Please be assured that your gift will be greatly appreciated and it will be used effectively within the Department. In addition to financial support, we also welcome and encourage your support by volunteering to speak to our majors/minors about your job experiences, offering possible job opportunities to our students, or by the donation of equipment or field supplies.

During the past year, 86 individuals/companies donated $70,355 to the Geology Foundation accounts—a new record! Please understand that all gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated! Please consider giving something back to your undergraduate department.

Due to state budget cuts and increasing gasoline prices, alumni gifts to the department's advancement funds are becoming increasingly critical. Therefore, we have been working with the Foundation Office to learn more about establishing a named lecture series, new scholarships, etc. If you would happen to be interested in establishing a scholarship within the Department of Geology, here are a few basic guidelines from the Foundation Office.

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

If you would like more information about establishing an annual or endowed scholarship, please feel free to contact the Foundation Office at 715/836-5630. We ask that if the UWEC Foundation Office calls you asking for a donation, please remember the Geology advancement funds! If you work for a corporation or a geology-related firm, please inquire if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.

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