



Department of Geology and Geophysics

Lewis G. Weeks Hall for Geological Sciences
1215 W. Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1692

<http://www.geology.wisc.edu>
Phone: 608/262-8960 / Fax: 608/262-0693
E-mail: geodept@geology.wisc.edu



The Chair's Letter

Dear Geo-Badgers:

On behalf of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, I send you greetings and another edition of our newsletter, *The Outcrop*. We've had another eventful year, which started off with the retirement in January of two long-time residents of Weeks Hall. Carl Bowser retired from the faculty (see article on pp. 40-41) and Jo Bailey retired from the staff (see article on p. 42). Assistant Professor Nita Sahai (see p. 34) arrived in Madison during the summer to oversee the remodeling of space on the fourth floor to create her new computer and chemistry labs. She officially joined the faculty in August, providing expertise in biogeochemistry. We are also very pleased to announce that Dr. Richard Allen will join the faculty as an assistant professor in January 2002, providing expertise in seismology. Finally, we are in the process of making an offer to a potential new faculty member in Geobiology.

The department received national attention when Assistant Professor Basil Tikoff accepted the prestigious Donath Medal at the GSA meeting in Reno in November. He gave a very thoughtful acceptance speech (for an excerpt, see p. 36) at the opening ceremony. For other alumni events at GSA see p. 35. We were also pleased that Professor John Valley received a WARF-Kellett Mid-Career Award from UW-Madison. He also received widespread recognition for his co-authored article that appeared in the prestigious journal, *Nature*, (see cover of *The Outcrop*) and Professor Jill Banfield co-authored an article appearing in the prestigious journal, *Science*, (see articles on pp. 23-28).

Our Alumni Board, chaired by Jay Nania, continues to be extremely active and helpful to the department. See pp. 5-6 for a summary of their activities.

We continue to make progress toward the day when we will have a new addition to Weeks Hall. Professor Lou Maher is chairing the committee that will oversee the design and construction. We expect to have an architect on board by May 2001. The new addition will provide badly needed additional space for the museum, the library, as well as for research and instructional laboratories and office space, and a new medium-size lecture hall. The addition has received generous pledges of support from the College of Letters and Science and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, as well as several alumni. You will be hearing more about the fund raising campaign for the new addition later this year. All the many gifts we have received from our friends and alums over the years for a variety of purposes (see p. 2 for a list of recent donors and p. 3 for a list of departmental funds) are very much appreciated. Our Geo-Badgers are incredibly loyal and generous to the department and we know that we can count on your continued support.

Best regards,

Mary P. Anderson
Professor and Chairman