



*Marwan Wartes,
Geoclub President*

The year 2000 was another exciting year for the UW Geoclub. Highlights for the year included increased involvement of graduate students in various department activities as well as abundant social events.

The new Geoclub officers were introduced at the annual spring banquet held at the White Horse Inn. As usual, the night included comic relief provided by the infamous “Oops” and “Stoops” awards for faculty and students. Phil Brown took home the Oops award in honor of his repeated run-ins with the Alabama State Patrol during a field trip. Peter Taglia was a unanimous winner of the Stoops award after a series of unintentional (?) but suggestive comments during a talk at a professional conference. This year’s awards were also memorable for the introduction of digital multimedia

presentations—the new opportunities for subtle photographic “alterations” will no doubt become a source of clever nominations in years to come! Later in the fall, our 2000 elucidator Matt Kuchta also added many more incriminating and otherwise humorous photos to the enjoyment of all.

The spring picnic was held on a beautiful day in early May at Westmoreland Park. When not enjoying the great food, many people played basketball, football, baseball, and Frisbee. The fall picnic was also an enjoyable gathering of Weeks Hall residents. For many of the new students, this event marks their first experience with Wisconsin “cuisine” including brats boiled in beer and grilled corn.

Scott Brown led twenty-two graduate students on the annual Geoclub fall field trip. The group traveled to Door County this year where they spent two days looking at paleo-shoreline features, glacial landforms, and sections of Silurian dolomite of the Niagara formation. Perhaps most importantly, the group had a fun night getting to know fellow students around a warm campfire at Potawatomi State Park.

The social calendar for 2000 closed with a festive holiday party held at the historic University Club. Bob Dott was persuaded into playing Santa and, not surprisingly, happened to have a few lumps of coal lying around his house that he doled out to those he deemed naughty. Santa’s cheery elves (Tom Lapen and Kate McColgin) were also able to give presents to all the good boys and girls.

On a more serious note, Geoclub has taken steps to become more involved within the department by



photo: Mary Diman

New grad students enjoy Geoclub hospitality. They are (foreground, left to right), Sarah Titus, Anders Carlson, John Marma, Kate McColgin, Tina Pint and Nancy Mahlen.

electing three graduate student “monitors” to attend faculty meetings. In addition, two students also now participate on the committee selecting Weeks distinguished lecturers. Geoclub is also collaborating with the department’s Alumni Board in a mentor program. A long list of alumni from various fields have volunteered to be mentors to students interested in explanations of what one does as a professional geologist or geophysicist in different types of employment. We are also happy to announce the formation of an undergraduate Geoclub. This new organization will create a forum for issues such as the new geology curriculum and graduate school application procedures.

Finally, none of the above would have been possible without the support of the Geoclub officers: Jeffrey Brownson (Vice President), Monica Relle (Secretary), Megan Mandernach (Treasurer), Matt Kuchta (Elucidator), Blair Tormey (Soda Czar), Scott Brown (Field Trip Coordinator), Ellen Mallman (Undergraduate representative), and Kristin Anderson, Shaili Pfeiffer, and Cheryl Waters (Monitors).