

# GEOCLUB Annual Festivities

*Nancy Mahlen,  
Geoclub President*

What a year! Geoclub was busy with day-to-day activities in the department as well as with the organization and successful orchestration of the annual departmental events.

The 2001 spring semester ended with the spring banquet and the picnic. The banquet was held at Fyfe's Corner Bistro and had almost 100 people in attendance, including numerous alumni. The 2001 Oops award was given to Alan Carroll, in absentia, for the flurry of phone calls received by various campus offices from an unhappy restaurant owner in Michigan. Apparently the owner was dissatisfied with Alan's field trip group abusing parking privileges while not patronizing his establishment.

Stoops award went hands-down to Mike Smith for, as Meredith Rhodes so eloquently put it, "finally realizing that there is no June 31<sup>st</sup>...priceless." Following the distribution of many awards and scholarships (see page 47), the new Geoclub officers were introduced and then gleefully took over the set-up and final organization of the 2001 Spring Picnic, which was held at Westmoreland Park on a beautiful day in early May.

The fall 2001 semester welcomed 15 new graduate students to UW-Madison (see page 47). While I was hiking the Alps during September collecting rocks, the annual fall events transpired with efficiency and tons-o-fun.

Special thanks go to my fellow Geoclub officers, Liz Leslie (vice-president), Steph Maes (secretary), and Kate McColgin (treasurer), for taking charge in my absence and making the fall events successful.

The 2001 fall picnic, at Garner Park, carried on with tasty grilled foods and lots of munchies on the side. Although rain hindered outdoor activity, the evening was still entertaining thanks to a geologist's natural ability to have fun even during inclement weather!

Anders Carlson headed up the fall field trip, which

turned northwest for a tour of Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. The field trip had some great geology from the Precambrian to the Quaternary—including metamorphic grading, structure, paleontology, sedimentology,



*2001-2002 Geoclub officers, left to right: Kate McColgin, Nancy Mahlen, Liz Leslie, Steph Maes.*

hydrogeology, geomorphology, and glacial geology. Of course, all work and no play makes a geologist dull, so a couple of extracurricular activities were thrown in to give the new grads a taste of Wisconsin, like swimming in Lake Wissota, touring the Leinenkugel's Brewery, and visiting Big Sky

Apple Orchards where several new graduate students experienced their first Taffy Apple.

The 2001 holiday party was held at the historic University Club on Memorial Square. Santa Claus (Clay Kelly) visited with his merry elves (Jessica Darter and Jeff Wilcox) and presented lots of neat presents to the good boys and girls and also to various professors and students (naughty or nice?!). The night was festive and cozy amid the chilly December air.

Geoclub is proudly participating in more departmental daily activities, including having representatives attend faculty meetings, assist in selecting Weeks distinguished lecturers, participate on the newly set-up safety committee, and continue to collaborate with the department's Alumni Board mentor program.

2002 spring events planned are Elucidation, compliments of Ye Ole Elucidator Cory Clechenko, the spring banquet to be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel, and the spring picnic at Westmoreland Park, which will be headed up by the new Geoclub inductees introduced at the 2002 banquet.

I would personally like to thank all the Geoclub officers for their companionship, advice, and enduring support throughout the year: Liz, Steph, Kate, Anders, Cory, Soda Czars Brian Jicha and John Marma, and Monitors Eric Carson, Jeff Pietras, and Sarah Titus. None of the above would have been possible without them. Check us out at <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub> and have a great 2002!