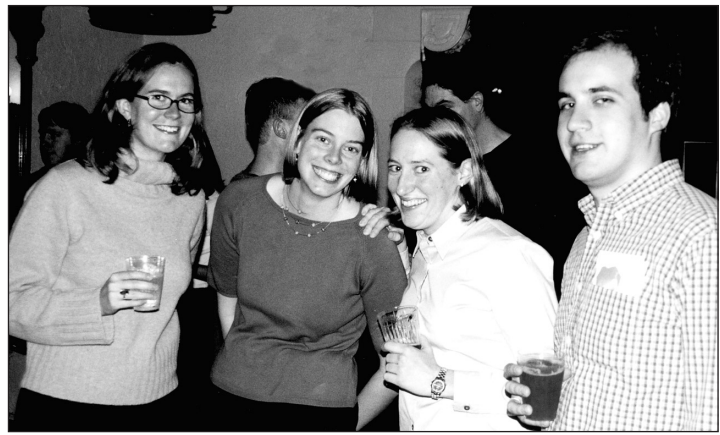




At the holiday party Santa (Clay Kelly) with his jolly elves (Jeff Wilcox and Jessica Darter) surprise Jean Bahr with a gift.



Sharing the holiday spirit are, left to right, Kristin Anderson, Sarah Titus, Tina Pint, and Cory Clechenko. Photo by Liz Leslie.

Undergrad Geoclub

Reuben Johnson, Undergrad Geoclub President

In its second year of operation, the Undergraduate Geoclub (UGC) has implemented several positive changes in the department. Here are the highlights from UGC's most significant endeavors for this academic year...

Involvement in the Department:

Student involvement within the department is a goal outlined in the club's new Mission Statement. In this undertaking, UGC organized several tours of the department's research labs and in return, invited the entire department to explore the Moon and planets by telescope at a recent "star party." Last fall, the club took action to involve undergrads in the department's Undergrad and Weeks Lecture Committees. Moreover, UGC supplied some of the impetus behind the department's formation of a new Safety Committee, and has offered constructive feedback about the curriculum's recent modifications. At present, the club is creating posters highlighting some of the more noteworthy precautions one should take in the field. Our aim is to permanently display them in the 100 and 200-level labs.

For Undergrads:

To help ensure member participation, the club hosted several field trips and games. Some of our more exciting events included a tour of Soudan Mine State Park in Minnesota, and a Geo-Jopardy game with prizes such as a Bausch and Lomb hand lens and an Estwing rock hammer. The club has also



New to our department is the Undergrad Geo-Club—organized and run by geology undergrads. The club sponsored a tour of Soudan Mine State Park in Minnesota in September. Photo by Reuben Johnson.

been dedicated to aiding students in pursuit of the geosciences by continuing its participation in the Alumni Mentor Program whereby students correspond with alums in a variety of geo-related fields. Currently, the most successful resource (developed by UGC last summer) is a website proving to be of tremendous value in accessing information for many aspects of geology (particularly field geology). The site is found at <http://undergradgeoclub.tripod.com/> and receives over 2500 visits monthly! We are very proud to say it is among the largest university geoclub web sites on the internet.

For the Community:

To date, we have provided mineral samples and dinosaur bones to the Madison Children's Museum, and we made a TV appearance on WYOU's "Imagination Factory" to explain why some minerals glow in the dark. We also held a star party for a Cub Scout troop in Evansville, WI. and the club is creating a mentor program for high school students among other presentations for local schools currently in the works.

Thanks:

Our amazing progress would not have been possible without the department's generous financial support and a willingness to allow us great latitude in bringing about our goals. We anticipate continued success and expect to serve student and department interests well.