

I do not recommend fieldwork in July there unless you are lizard-like. **Selena Mederos** (MS candidate) is continuing her geophysical work on uplifts and basins in the Utah-Wyoming area, having completed her fieldwork last summer. **Sarah Titus** (MS candidate) decided to do a combined gravity, magnetic, and structural study of some shallow-level plutonic bodies that intrude shear zones in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. It was fun to wander around the old stomping grounds (I did my PhD research there). **Ryan Clark** is also working on the rocks from the Sierra Nevada as part of his undergraduate senior thesis. **Karoun Charkoudian**, recently graduated from John Hopkins University, is planning to work in the upper Midwest for her Masters' project.

The two new postdoctoral fellows—**Eric Ferre** and **Sarah Tindall**—continue to make the lab a vibrant place to be. **Eric Ferre** is helping out with several of the student projects that use the Anisotropy of Magnetic Susceptibility technique. **Sarah Tindall** is continuing with field research in the western United States and physical modeling.

I was able to travel multiple times last year, including Europe three times: For the European Union of Geoscientists in Strasbourg last spring (I was co-convening a session), Spain for the Pyrenees field trip, and the Czech republic where I was a lecturer for a pan-European one-week summer school. I have to admit that a vacation would be just sitting around home for a week. It won't happen anytime soon.

❖ John W. Valley

2001 was a busy year for me. It started with the Jan. 11 publication of my paper with William Peck (UW-PhD 2000) and others on the now famous 4.4 Ga zircon from the Jack Hills of Western Australia (see last year's *Outcrop*). As attention from the science paparazzi died down to an acceptable level, Peck et al. published a second more detailed paper. A third paper by Valley et al. will appear in *Geology* (April 2002). In June, new graduate student, Aaron Cavosie, and I started an expanded project in the Jack Hills with a month in the outback. The high point was collecting 3.0 Ga quartzites that contain the oldest samples yet identified on the Earth. The low point was getting three flat tires on the same vehicle, on the same afternoon, 50 km from the nearest building with a roof.

I spent much of last year editing and writing a new book on Stable Isotope Geochemistry that was published by the Mineralogical Society of America last November. This volume updates the previous MSA volume on the same subject I edited in 1986.

Publication coincided with a short course just before the Boston GSA meeting which was a big success, and



Lawford Anderson seems perplexed. Read John Valley's report below to find out why. Photo by Dave Mickelson.

was attended by 80 scientists, including a number of geo-Badgers: Richard Alley, Ilya Bindeman, Aaron Cavosie, Cory Clechenko, Steve Dunn, John Eiler, Liz King, Matt Kohn, Jade Star Lackey, Stephanie Maes, William Peck, Greg Roselle, Pat Shanks, Joyashish Thakurta, and Julie Vry.

At the GSA meeting, I also had dinner with three incorrigible geo-B's: Charlie Guidotti, Lawford Anderson, and Darrell Henry. The first announced that he had a secret that he would not divulge, while the second agreed to pay, but lost his credit card through a crack in the floor. The ensuing disruption was photographed by Dave Mickelson who conveniently was at a nearby table. This event occurred *before* the Wisconsin alumni cocktail gathering.

I did not learn the dinner secret until the next day at the MSA business meeting when it was announced that John Eiler (UW-PhD 1994) will receive the MSA Award in 2002. This highly prestigious award goes to one person a year for scientific achievement before the age of 35. The list of past awardees is truly impressive.

❖ Herb Wang

In last year's *Outcrop* I described how sponsorship by BP arranged by Jay Nania enabled me to attend a conference of the National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists. This led me to propose a summer session forum on Environmental Justice. With lots of help from Barbara Borns in IES, the course was a big success. The eight-lecture series brought together approximately 100 students, staff, and faculty from the university together with participants from the community. The