

Faculty Activities in 2001

❖ Mary Anderson

The year 2001 will be remembered for one day—September 11th. I was in Golden, Colorado, for the MODFLOW 2001 conference. The conference was scheduled to start late in the day on September 11th with a reception. Most people had planned to travel to Golden on Sept. 11th but I had arrived a day early. A few others had also arrived early, especially participants from Europe. We all gathered that evening for the reception, each of us in various states of shock. The decision was made to go ahead with the conference. In the next two days, I gave my own keynote presentation, plus two presentations that were supposed to be given by my co-authors (UW student **Yu-Feng Lin** and Prof. Scot Bair from Ohio State University), neither of whom made it to Golden, as well as a fourth talk for a colleague from Madison (**Randy Hunt**) who managed to email me his Powerpoint presentation. I ended up driving back to Madison with two colleagues from Illinois (Tom Prickett and Doug Walker)—a surreal trip back to the Midwest.

Other trips in 2001 included Boulder in the spring for a GSA council meeting, the annual GSA conference in Boston in November, also Washington, D.C. for meetings of the Committee on Hydrologic Sciences (National Research Council), and Urbana, Illinois in October for a meeting with other department chairs of the CIC universities. Research on groundwater/lake systems in the Trout Lake Basin in Northern Wisconsin continues as students **Wes Dripps** and **Tina Pint** complete thesis work. GLE student **Yu-Feng Lin** as well as **Tim Eaton** and **Paul Juckem** are also scheduled to complete thesis work sometime in 2002. This makes five students finishing in 2002, which is the most I have ever had finish in one year. Fortunately, **Ken Bradbury** (WGNHS) is co-advising Tim's work and **Randy Hunt** (USGS) is co-advising Paul. Randy is also working with Wes and Tina on the Trout Lake work. I taught my course on groundwater flow modeling in the spring and a seminar on classic papers in hydrogeology drawn from the Meinzer Award Canon in the fall. In January 2002, I took on the duties of Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Ground Water* and look forward to the challenge of bringing this popular and highly respected journal to the next level of excellence. I am fortunate that several Geo-Badger Hydros were already on the editorial board of the journal, including **Charlie Andrews**, **Chunmiao Zheng**, **Randy Hunt**, **Bill Simpkins**, **Laura Toran**, and **Richelle Allen-King**. **Joe Yelderman** accepted my invitation to join the board and **Chunmiao Zheng** agreed to take on additional duties as co-editor of the software column. **Ken Bradbury** is the advisor to the Editor-in-

Chief and **Stuart Rojstaczer** came on board as book editor. I am indeed fortunate that so many of our alums are so well qualified and willing to help me out! As we go to press, I am looking forward to the end of my three year term as chair of the department and getting back my life as a full-time professor.

❖ Jean Bahr

Work continued this year on the interdisciplinary Water and Watersheds project funded by the EPA and involving faculty and students from a number of departments on campus. The overall goal of this project is to evaluate hydrologic, ecologic, and social processes that may contribute to degraded water quality and reduced water availability as agricultural watersheds are converted to urban and suburban uses. Continuing graduate students **Sue Swanson**, **Kristin Anderson**, and **Laura Parent** participated in various aspects of this project. In the fall, two new students, **Jeff Wilcox** and **Abby McDermott** also joined in this effort. Sue Swanson completed her dissertation in the summer, demonstrating the importance of stratigraphically controlled preferential flow paths in sustaining spring flow. In the fall Sue began her first semester as an assistant professor at Beloit College. Kristin and Laura continued field and modeling efforts building on Sue's results. In conjunction with a WGNHS project initiated by **Ken Bradbury**, Jeff's project will address agricultural and suburban impacts on water quality. Abby is beginning a comparative study of hydrogeologic and geochemical characteristics across a wetland gradient. This work will be particularly useful to the plant ecologists on the interdisciplinary team.

Research on biodegradation of petroleum contaminants is continuing at Fort McCoy. A paper



Jean Bahr, left, and Sue Swanson, at the spring picnic.