Faculty News 2002

Richard Allen
Professor Allen’s report is published on preceding pages.

Mary Anderson
The year 2002 was a year of transition as I began a three-year term as Editor-in-Chief of the journal Ground Water in January, completed my term as department chairman in June, and rotated off GSA’s Council in October. A colleague warned me that it would take about three months to “decompress” from being department chairman and this proved to be true. A bumper crop of students finished in 2002. Yu-Feng Lin completed the PhD in Geological Engineering and started a job at the Wisconsin State Water Survey in Champaign. Tina Pint finished the MS (co-advised with Randy Hunt) and is at Barr Engineering in Minneapolis. Tim Eaton finished the PhD (co-advised with Ken Bradbury) and is currently finishing up other projects at the WGNHS. Wes Dripps and Paul Juckem are on track to finish in 2003, while new students Raycine Hodo (BS, Smith College), Rahul John (MS, Univ. of New Orleans) and Chris Lowry (BS, Pacific Union College) arrived in September.

I taught the contaminant transport modeling course in the spring and a graduate seminar in the fall. Randy Hunt helped us out by teaching 627 (Introduction to Hydrogeology) while Jean Bahr took a sabbatical and I tended to my editorial duties. Foreign visitors to the hydrogeology program in 2002 included Professor K. Fujinawa (Nagano, Japan), Professor C. Tang (Chiba, Japan), and Professor H. Klempe (Norway). I took Prof. Fujinawa along to Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, in Door County in May where I helped convene a very successful workshop sponsored by the National Research Council’s Committee on Hydrologic Sciences (see picture). The topic was “Groundwater Fluxes across Interfaces”. Ken Bradbury, Randy Hunt, Jean Bahr, and Yu-Feng Lin also attended the workshop. In addition to stimulating scientific discussions, we were treated to wonderful Door County sunsets.

Yu-Feng, Tina, Tim and I went off to the ModeCARE conference in Prague in June, where all three of them presented papers, allowing me to sit back and bask in the reflected glory of their success. The conference was carefully timed to occur before the terrible floods that devastated the city later in the year. I had an opportunity to travel to Snowbird, Utah, in October for an excellent workshop on transboundary aquifers. The workshop included about 60 water specialists including some 30 lawyers! The discussions were fascinating but after two days at an elevation of 8000 feet, I was feeling a little strange and was very glad to return to a more sensible altitude. The year ended up with a trip to Las Vegas for NGWA’s Expo. I hadn’t been to an Expo in 10 years but made the trip this time in my role as Editor-in-Chief of Ground Water. I attended committee meetings related to the journal and also attended the excellent technical sessions run by AGWSE. Kudos to the technical session co-chairs Dave Rudolph and HydroBadger Bill Woessner. Other trips in 2002 included Traverse City, Michigan, in July for a conference on transboundary water issues and to Denver for GSA where I re-united with many HydroBadgers at the department’s alumni party.

Jean Bahr
My group of talented graduate students remained at the steady number of five in 2002. Kristin Anderson completed her thesis in the summer and is now working in Oregon. She was replaced by Hilary Gittings, who came to Madison in the fall after completing her undergraduate degree at Carleton. Tara Root’s study of arsenic contamination received funding through the WI DNR to drill a 300-foot rotosonic borehole through the glacial deposits. The core from this hole is providing useful data on arsenic concentrations as well as a valuable record of Pleistocene stratigraphy. Ingrid Ekstrom’s monitoring results from our Fort McCoy research site were presented as a poster at a bioremediation conference in California and in an oral presentation at GSA. Jeff Wilcox has now collected over a year’s worth of background data at the site of a new unsewered subdivision that will be used to assess impacts of conventional and novel septic systems on groundwater. Abby McDermott’s transect through an undisturbed wetland has revealed the importance of shallow hydrostratigraphy in controlling water levels and water chemistry, both of which likely contribute to observed vegetation gradients.

The National Research Council committee on the Everglades kept me busy with periodic meetings in Florida and Washington DC. We put out two reports this year and are in the process of revising a third that should come out early in 2003. Additional trips to DC were courtesy of EPA, NSF, and DOE panels. I also had...