



Department of Geology and Geophysics

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

Many of us entered geology because of the field component of this science. After sliding yet another block down an inclined plane in Introductory Physics class to measure the coefficient of friction, I remember how refreshing it was to get out into the field for weekend field trips when I was an undergraduate student. And yet, at the time, I was largely ignorant of the insights that laboratory studies could provide into the geologic history and evolution of a region. Modern work in earth sciences, of course, involves a marriage of field- and laboratory-based approaches, and this theme can be found throughout this year's issue of *The Outcrop*.

Our Department remains well grounded in field-based work, where the vast majority of faculty, staff, and students spend time each year. Annual field excursions to unusual places continue to be an important component to our students' education, such as the trip to the South African craton Phil Brown and Basil Tikoff led last year (p. 16). Also, be sure to catch John Fournelle's article on Cam Craddock (p. 18), which touches on Cam's long history of field work in such diverse places as Alaska, Antarctica, and Spitsbergen. This year's Archivist's Corner (p. 28) revisits the Baraboo Quartzite (a unit I know all of you have seen!), where Bob Dott and Gordon Medaris highlight how initial field-based work has led to detailed, state-of-the-art laboratory investigations of the metamorphic conditions and age relations of deposition and deformation of this classic unit.

Critical to our success in combining field- and laboratory-based approaches to our work in the earth sciences is our current plans to expand Weeks Hall. As highlighted on our cover, as well as on p. 5, we will approach this as a Phase 1 and Phase 2 plan, where Phase 1 will begin later this year and will involve expansion of the library, new laboratories, classrooms, and offices, as well as new storage space. Phase 2, dedicated to an expansion of the Museum, is planned to follow on a slightly longer timetable. We are currently about halfway toward our \$1M fund-raising goal from alumni and friends, which is superb, but it also means we have a fair distance to go. The addition to Weeks Hall will position the Department for the next several decades, and if you have not yet made a contribution to this campaign, please consider this at this critical time for us. I would like to thank you for your continuing support of the Department, and we acknowledge the donations that many of you have made for 2002 on page 2. It is no exaggeration that your support provides the critical difference between a fine and a superb educational experience for our students.

Finally, I want to acknowledge a couple of transitions in the Department last year. I would like to thank Mary Anderson for her service to the Department as Department Chair over the last three years. I would also like to call to your attention our newest faculty member, Richard Allen, who describes his geophysical research on p. 36.

Warm regards,

Clark M. Johnson
Professor and Department Chair