Distinguished Alumni Awards 2002

Richard A. Paull
and Rachel Krebs Paull
...for exceptional contributions to geological education and especially for outreach activities to enhance public awareness and appreciation of geology as well as for outstanding commitment to and support of the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Richard A. Paull (BS 52; MS 53; PhD 57) did two graduate theses under Lowell Laudon, with field areas in the Canadian Rockies and Big Horn Basin of Wyoming, separated by an interval doing missile site surveys in the Caribbean and South America and some “spook” work in Europe for the USAF. In 1957 he began a five-year sojourn with Jersey Production Research in Tulsa as a clastic sedimentologist. In 1962, Dick became the first chair of the geology department at UW-Milwaukee. He and Katherine Nelson developed the curriculum, and Dick covered the schedule with physical geology, stratigraphy, petroleum geology, field methods, and his true love, a traveling summer field program for geology majors. The Paulls traveled west every summer for 31 years, as far afield as the Yukon and the Pacific, and concentrating on Wyoming and Idaho, where he and stalwart grad students did pioneering work in south-central Idaho.

Dick did committee work for GSA and AGI, was president of NAGT, and received an AMOCO teaching award at UWM. He and Rachel managed the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Field Program for five years and wrote a series of four books and field guides on the geology of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Rachel Krebs Paull (BS 54; MS 70 UW-Milwaukee; PhD 80) began to teach on the summer field program in 1980, and continued 14 additional years at UW-Milwaukee, also covering physical and environmental geology, micropaleontology, geology of Wisconsin, and carbonate sedimentology (thanks to Lloyd Pray!).

In 1977, Dick began a long-time role as field partner and rock hauler for Rachel’s research. (Conodont workers collect serious samples!). Her work was originally centered on a site that only Dave Clark could invent—the Terrace Mountains of Utah, between Salt Lake and the Great Salt Lake Desert. To avoid the superheated air shimmering over the vulture-populated salt flats, her field work eventually migrated northward into Wyoming and southern Idaho. This became an ongoing project post-PhD that resulted in about 225 measured and sampled Lower Triassic sections in the Rockies and Colorado Plateau regions.

Dick retired in 1997 and Rachel in ’98 and they moved to the Colorado Foothills. Volunteer naturalist work at the nearby state park and a great deal of foreign travel followed; more was planned until Dick’s stroke in the fall of 2001.

Philip H. (Pete) Stark
...for scholarly contributions to understanding the geological controls on oil and gas, for leadership and vision within the hydrocarbon industry and for dedicated service to the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Pete Stark received his BSc (Geology) from the University of Oklahoma (1958) and his MS (1960) and PhD (1962) degrees in geology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Pete joined Petroleum Information Corporation (PI) in 1969 and has served in senior management positions in Technical Services, Technical Marketing and International Operations with PI and its successors, now the IHS Energy Group, Denver, where he currently holds the position of Vice President, Industry Relations. Prior to joining IHS, Pete was Geological Computing Coordinator for Mobil Oil. He has published papers concerning E&P databases, information management trends, industry data standards, petroleum GIS and mapping, horizontal drilling, global offshore petroleum trends, drilling statistics, hydrocarbon shows in exploration and annual reviews/outlooks for the global petroleum industry.

He was co-author for comprehensive studies of U.S. natural gas productivity during 1992 and 1994. He has organized and served as moderator for IHS Energy Group’s annual “Perspectives” conferences, which feature a review and outlook of global petroleum industry challenges and opportunities. He is on the Board of the Public Petroleum Data Model Association (PPDM).

He served on the AAPG Computer Applications and Education Committees and was a lecturer on Geologic Computer Applications for the AAPG Continuing Education Program. Current memberships include AAPG, RMAG and the Denver International Petroleum Society.

Pete is a charter member of our Board of Visitors and served as its first chair.