

GRADUATE geoclub

Jessica Darter, President

What another tremendous year for the Geoclub. Last academic year wrapped up with the Spring Banquet, Spring Picnic, and Elucidation. The Spring Banquet was held at the Madison Concourse Hotel and was well attended. The annual Oops award was presented to Brad Singer for assembling several sample disks with an ordinary metal screw. Upon irradiation, the screw became extremely radioactive and had to be specially removed and stored for later disposal after the level of radioactivity lowered. The Stoops award was given to Melissa Harper for spilling coffee on the very expensive electronics for the electron microprobe in the Rare Gas Lab. The Spring Picnic was held at Westmoreland Park, where a lighted playing field and good weather facilitated an intense game of ultimate frisbee. Elucidation was held in mid-May by Cory Clechenko. The usual embarrassing stories and photos were shared in addition to a special tribute to new faculty member Clay Kelly. We are looking forward to Jeff Wilcox's Elucidation this upcoming spring.

The fall season was kicked off to a great start with the Fall Picnic at Garner Park the first week in September. The excellent weather allowed the celebration to continue well past sunset. Again, a competitive, yet friendly game of ultimate frisbee was one of the highlights. The fall field trip, led by field trip coordinator Ben Laabs, was a great way for the new graduate students to familiarize themselves with Wisconsin geology and culture while

getting to know the other graduate students. A great percentage of new and returning students were present. Sites visited included Devil's Lake, Rib Mountain, Athen's County Park, Eau Claire River Dells, part of the Ice Age Trail, a fantastic outcrop of quartz syenite, and a small detour to the Mullins' cheese factory and Point Brewery.

The Holiday Party was an enormous success. It was held early December at the Badger Columbus Club. Due to the depleted financial status of the Geoclub, this year's party was not the traditional catered party, but instead was run potluck style. We discovered that the department has several incredibly talented gourmet chefs. Certificates for categories such as "Most Wisconsin" were awarded. Santa and his elves made their usual appearance to hand out gifts to all who behaved this past year. Santa was played by Clark Johnson and the elves were played by first year graduate students Erik Hoffmann and Carrie Moeller.

New T-shirts have been made to help raise money for the rest of our annual activities and went on sale just in time for the holidays. Sales have been profitable and we are hoping to increase our bank account substantially (see an order form in back of the Outcrop).

In other news, the Geoclub website has a dramatically new appearance thanks to Danny Douglass, the website czar. Please take a look at: <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub>

I would sincerely like to thank the other Geoclub officers for help and support in planning and carrying out the above events: Abby McDermott, Brooke Swanson, Lindsay Anderson, Ben Laabs, Melissa Harper, Mike Smith, Jeff Wilcox, Karoun Charkoudian, Matthew Ludwig, and Katie Thornburg. Our department's working and social environment wouldn't be the same without you!



Geoclub officers: front, left to right, Abby McDermott, Lindsay Anderson; back, Jessica Darter and Brooke Swanson. (photo by Neal Lord)



Phil Brown, frequent field trip chef, got a frying pan big enough for some serious cooking from his students at the Holiday Party. (photo by Neal Lord)



Elf Carrie Moeller explains to Dave Mickelson why his students felt he needed to add their gift of an "R" to his New England dialect. (photo by Neal Lord)



Clay Kelly, right, is impressed with his gift from Santa Clark as Elf Erik Hoffmann (back) dances and Elf Carrie amuses Clay's son, Reece. (photo by Mary Diman)