

# LOU MAHER RETIRES

Lou Maher retired after more than 34 years of teaching in the department at the end of spring semester. We had a program followed by a reception that was well attended by students and faculty. To Lou's surprise, all three of his children were there along with his wife Jane (photo). Also attending was Herb Wright, Lou's former PhD advisor at the University of Minnesota (photo). Many friends of Lou's from across campus also attended, and retired faculty members. Dave Clark even managed to get back to Madison from California for the event! After glowing testimonials by Clark Johnson on his service to the department and Sara Hotchkiss on his research contributions to palynology, Dave Mickelson roasted Lou with slides highlighting a career that generated an OOPPS Award every seven years for 35 years!



Lou and Jane Maher, far right, with their three children, Barbara Flatt, far left, Jim Maher, front, and Rob Maher, next to Lou. Photo, Dave Mickelson.

Lou has provided great service to the department. He served a Chair of the department in the 1980's. He served on the building committee for Weeks I and chaired the committees for the Weeks II and Weeks III additions. He was long time building manager, and has taken great pride in making Weeks Hall a great place to work! Lou's research on improving technique in pollen counting and statistical analysis has profoundly influenced the field. His early work in the Rockies and more recently in Wisconsin has also contributed substantially to our understanding of past environments and chronology.

Figure 1 below illustrates the basis for Lou's outstanding OOPPS Award record. No one in the history of the department has captured this award with such consistency. Beginning in 1964, when he won the award for accepting Charlie Schweger as a graduate student, Lou has won the award every seven years. Early awards focused on incidents with his motorcycle and various minor accidents through the fieldwork years. More recently, OOPPS Awards focused on his research on bat guano and important work on generating hypothetical pollen diagrams for a hypothetical Badgerian Mountain Range.

The Quat students and a few friends then led the audience in singing the "Friends of the Pleistocene" digging song. The ceremony ended with the presentation of *Terroir*, a book on *Geology and the Wines of France*, along with plane tickets for Lou and Jane to do field work on the topic, which they did in fall, 2003! (Read more about Lou on pages 54–55.)

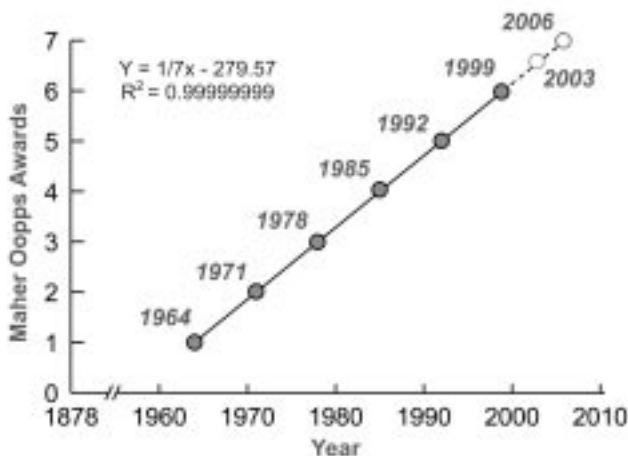


Fig. 1. Lou Maher's outstanding OOPPS Award record.



Left, Herb Wright, Lou's former Ph.D. advisor at the University of Minnesota, and Lou Maher, May 9, 2003. Photo, Dave Mickelson.