



## Department of Geology and Geophysics

Dear Fellow Alumni of the UW Department of Geology and Geophysics,

Greetings! The Board of Visitors of the Department of Geology and Geophysics is taking this opportunity to present our message in the *OUTCROP* to personally invite each of you to participate in the **2005 Department of Geology and Geophysics Alumni Reunion on May 6 and 7 in Madison.**

The Reunion will be an exciting opportunity for you to renew friendships and gather with the hundreds of fellow alumni that we expect to participate, and see the wonderful changes that have occurred in our Department and on the remainder of the beautiful UW campus.

The Reunion begins in the morning of May 6 with a Building Dedication Ceremony to celebrate the newly-completed addition and remodeling of Weeks Hall. You will hear from Deans from the Graduate School and the College of Letters and Science, Department faculty, the Board of Visitors and the UW Foundation regarding their visions for the future for the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

During the lunch break, Weeks Hall will be open for you to visit and view student posters and other exhibits, and to chat with students, faculty and friends. This will be followed in the afternoon by a stimulating conference that is being planned to provide a program of interest to spouses as well as Department alumni and friends.

The theme for the afternoon conference is "21st Century Challenges for Earth Science". We have a very prestigious slate of speakers, all of whom have a connection to UW-Madison:

- Dr. Harrison Schmitt, former Astronaut and UW Madison Professor—"Responsibilities and Challenges for Earth Science in 21st Century Space"
- Dr. Marjorie Chan, University of Utah—"Red Rock to Red Planet: From Utah Marbles to Mars Blueberries"
- Dr. Richard Alley, Penn State University—"Weird Climate, Big Ice, and How to 'Clean Up' by Cleaning Up"
- Dr. John Eiler, CalTech—"The Future of the Hydrogen Economy"
- Dr. Raymond Murray, University of Montana—"Evidence from the Earth—Forensic Geology"

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The conference will be followed by the opportunity to tour the “new” Weeks Hall in small groups. For those who would prefer visiting with their friends and classmates during this time, break-out areas will also be available.

As a fitting end to the day, there will be a courtyard reception and brat cookout for all Department alumni, family, faculty, staff, students and friends!

Saturday, May 7 will begin with an alumni continental breakfast, where Drs. Robert Dott and John Attig will be present to sign copies of their recent best seller, *Roadside Geology of Wisconsin*. After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to experience Wisconsin geology again on a field trip with Dave Mickelson and Toni Simo to the Horicon Marsh, the Niagaran Escarpment, the Kettle Moraine, and the Ice Age Trail. Or, you can spend the day with friends visiting the wonderful campus and Madison area.

We conclude the event with the Department’s Annual Spring Banquet, which is sponsored by the Geology Club and the faculty. The humor and satire that many of you remember from your student days are still part of this enjoyable event which includes student awards and faculty citations for various mistakes and misdeeds during the academic year as it approaches its conclusion.

The Department of Geology and Geophysics Board of Visitors (known until 2003 as the Alumni Board) is the oldest group of its kind in the College of Letters and Science. It was established over a decade and a half ago by our Department faculty. The original group was appointed by the faculty, but now the Board nominates and votes on its members who are then presented to the faculty for concurrence. We are a very committed and motivated group that advises the faculty on issues they bring before us, suggest strategies to the Department to reach their goals, advocate selected Department goals to the Dean of Letters and Science and others and undertake outreach to you, the Alumni. Due to the successful efforts of the Department of Geology and Geophysics Board of Visitors, many other departments have organized similar groups to assist them.

We really hope to see you in Madison for this exciting and memorable event.

We welcome your suggestions and comments.



**James Davis, PhD (1965)**

Chair, Board of Visitors of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, 2004-05

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**Tom Johnson, MS (1975)**

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