



The Grad Geoclub Fall Field Trip with new grad students at the Eau Claire Dells: Left to right, Jeremy Pesicek, Stuart Schmitt, Amalia Doebbert, Paul Riley, Nate Keller, Justin Gosses, Mei-mei Tang, Michael Cobb, Rachel Greve, Kathy Staffier, Nate Meyer, and Jennifer Nielson.

GRAD GEOCLUB

Carrie Moeller, President

The year 2004 has been yet another full and exciting year for Geoclub. Former President Jake Eaton announced the new group of officers at the Spring Banquet held again at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. This year's was warm and sunny enough to enjoy Lussier's balcony and beautiful prairie views. The comic relief provided by "Oopps" and "Stoopps" presentation went long into the night, but in the end the results were clear. Brad Singer took home the "Oopps" award for run-ins with the Argentine border patrol, and for potentially dining on an endangered species. The "Stoopps" award went to Cory Clechenko and Aaron Cavoise for not only getting themselves locked inside a room in Weeks, but then emailing the department from inside the room to ask someone to let them out.

At the end of the spring semester, the comedy continued with a spirited presentation from the 2003 Elucidator Aaron Cavoise. The usual incriminating jokes, stories, and photos were shared. We are all looking forward to continuing the tradition this upcoming spring with our new Elucidator Brad Sleeth. Aaron's excellent elucidation was followed up by the annual Spring Picnic, held at Garner Park. Everyone managed to keep their spirits up for an unusually cold and rainy May day, which may have been fostered by the Usinger bratwurst beer boiled by Dave Mickelson. The day included a heated ultimate frisbee game between the undergraduates and the grad students, and we eventually took advantage of the nice fireplace in the shelter as the evening went on. Many thanks to all of the Geoclub officers who were well tempered enough to grill in the rain alongside me.

The fall semester opened up with our Fall Picnic, which had great attendance and perfect weather. The wonderful conditions allowed the celebration to continue well past sunset

once again! Field Trip Coordinator Nate Keller, a native of Wisconsin, led this year's fall field trip. The annual Geoclub Fall Fieldtrip was held on a beautiful weekend in September. Fortunately, we had a large turnout of new graduate students to experience the geology of Wisconsin. The first night was spent camping at Hartman Creek State Park, and the second at High Cliff State Park. During the three-day trip, the group traveled to the east-central region of Wisconsin stopping at such highlights as the Wolf River batholith, Rapakivi granite, the Eau Claire Dells, Two Creeks Buried Forest, the Niagara Escarpment and numerous glacial landforms in Kettle Moraine State Forest.

To wrap up the first semester, our Holiday Party was held at the University Club, and was so well attended that we absolutely packed the front hall for Santa's arrival. Folks managed to brave the cold weather and icy sidewalks to see gifts handed out by this year's Santa, Steve Ralser and our dancing elves Kurt Refsnider and Jen Nielsen.

Our Grad Geoclub Secretary Heidi Crosby has made "new" t-shirts for the department. This year, we opted to hold a design contest and elect a t-shirt design. An older design featuring cowhide (Wisconsin Holstein) sauropods won by more than a few votes, and the t-shirts are now available in Badger red, light blue, and sport grey. Check out the order form in the back of the *Outcrop* to order your t-shirts!

We've also accrued revenue through the sales of geology lab books, coordinated by Geoclub Treasurer Caroline Webber.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Geoclub officers for their help and support: Tim Oleson, Heidi Crosby, Caroline Webber, Nate Keller, Brad Sleeth, Richard Becker, Melissa Masbruch, Lauren Chetel, and Erik Olson. These events would not have been possible without your input and assistance!

UNDERGRAD GEOCLUB

David O. Doncheck, President

During the fall semester 2004, the undergrad GeoClub hosted a speaker on Environmental Geology, had several social events and other opportunities for the members to network, including a movie night and a Thanksgiving dinner. We also started an Undergrad Reading group, which met every other Tuesday to discuss papers recommended to us by faculty in several areas of Geology. Some of the papers last semester included research on arsenic content in wells in East Central Wisconsin and an article on volcanic activity at Mt. Katmai in Alaska. To our knowledge we are the only Geology undergrads to have formed such a reading group, and hope to keep it going strong in the semester to come. Our other plans for spring semester 2005 include hosting more speakers, planning several socials and possibly a camping trip to Devil's Lake.



Dan Hyslop, center, explains the initiatives of the Paleoclub to the Board of Visitors. The club was featured in an extensive article in the September 2004 issue of Geotimes.

PALEOCLUB

Daniel B. Hyslop, President

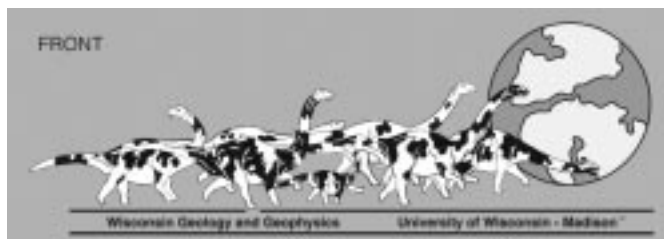
In March 2004 undergrad and grad students from across the Midwest and Great Plains presented over 20 abstracts at the Midwest Symposium of Student Paleontologic Research (MSSPR) hosted by the department's Paleoclub. The event included a welcome reception at the Geology Museum including behind-the-scenes collection and lab tours. A full day of talks and an evening poster session were followed by a dinner and keynote lecture by Emeritus Professor Robert H. Dott, Jr.

After the support and attention the conference earned last year, it was a natural decision that MSSPR should become an annual event. The 2005 symposium will again be hosted on the Madison campus April 8-9th, 2005. Last year's abstract book has become the first volume in an annual journal indexed in the popular GeoRef database. Due to national coverage of last year's event—including an article in the September *Geotimes*—abstract submission and registration for this year's conference have already exceeded our expectations. This event will include more social events for students and an optional field trip.

For more information, please visit <http://www.msspr.net>.



Gneiss chert! Grad Geoclub officers Carrie Moeller and Heidi Crosby promote Wisconsin geoscience.



Back by popular demand: Black and white "Holsteinized" sauropods won the recent Geoclub t-shirt contest. The happy herd was created by alum Kent Kirkby (MS 1982, PhD 1994) and first featured on the cover of the 1991 Newsletter.