



## Department of Geology and Geophysics

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

In less than two months we will have our West Wing Building Dedication and Alumni Reunion on May 6 and 7, 2005, and we certainly hope you will join us for this event. By now you should have received a separate mailing on the event, and additional information is given on pages 4 and 5 of this issue in the Board of Visitors' letter from Jim Davis and Tom Johnson. Be sure to visit the Department's web site at [www.geology.wisc.edu](http://www.geology.wisc.edu) if you need additional copies of the materials.

I am pleased to introduce another issue of *The Outcrop*, which comes to you via the efforts and talents of Mary Diman and John Valley, editors. This is an exceptionally packed issue. In 2004 we awarded three Distinguished Alumni Awards, and these recipients are recognized on pages 8 and 9.

You can catch up on your fellow alumni on pages 14 through 20. Three articles by faculty touch on a variety of subjects. The long awaited earthquake in Parkfield, California in 2004 brought new focus on the SAFOD drilling program in the San Andreas fault, and UW Professor Cliff Thurber provides an excellent research report on this program on pages 6 and 7. Mary Anderson traces the Wisconsin roots of ground water hydrology on pages 21 and 22, and Bob Dott reflects on his introduction to Wisconsin in the Archivist's Corner on pages 33 through 35.

As I noted in my year-end letter, 2004 was a contrast in transitions. The excitement of moving into the new building addition was clearly tempered by the loss of several people in the Department, including Prof. Robert Gates and Sharon Meinholz, and we remember these people, as well as alumni who have passed away, on pages 10 through 12. In 2004 we welcomed several new additions, including Dr. Noriko Kita, Director of the Ion Microprobe Laboratory (page 25) and Assistant Professor Huifang Xu, whose expertise lies in mineralogy and electron microscopy (page 36). John Randall, our machinist, retired at the beginning of 2005 (page 27).

A number of you have responded to our announcement last fall of the biography on Lowell Laudon, *Busbel Baskets of Fossils*, by James M. Parks. Jim was a student of Laudon's, with MS ('49) and PhD ('51) degrees from Madison. This promises to be a superb volume, which will be distributed through the University of Wisconsin Press. Sadly, however, during the last edit pass of the book, Jim Parks slipped on the ice in late January this year, fell into a coma, and passed away in a few days. Bob Dott and Bud Holland will take over the final editing of the book, and we hope to have this published early in the second half of 2005. We appreciate your donations and pre-publication orders in support of this important biography (rest assured, we have good records on this), and look forward to its publication in the coming months.

Finally, I sign off with only a few months left as Department Chair. It has been an exciting (though often stressful) period to be Chair. The Department will pass into the capable hands of Professor Jean Bahr in July, and I have promised her that I will have the Chair's office tidied up by then!

Rest regards,

Clark M. Johnson  
Professor and Department Chair