

GRAD GEOCLUB

Kathy Staffier, President

2006 promises to be a little quieter for the Geoclub than 2005. With the dedication of the new wing and alumni weekend over last May, there has been no large scale planning of events for the new officers. Those events were of course a great success, thanks mostly to the careful planning of the administration of 2005, led by president Carrie Moeller. During the alumni banquet at the Monona Terrace, the annual OOPPS award was given to Dave Mickelson for putting a tractor up a tree (you see why he won). The STOOPPS award went to Kurt Refsnider for melting tupperware in the cosmo oven. There was also an ALOOPPS awarded to Lawford Anderson for his 1971 White Lake field trip notebook. Elucidation was held in late April by Brad Sleeth, with a special tribute to events surrounding the dedication of the new wing. We look forward to this year's elucidation by Adam Eisenach.

We started off the fall semester of '05 with the annual fall picnic at Garner Park. There was no shortage of food and drink and a good time was had by all. The fall field trip was run in conjunction with a field trip sponsored by the UW chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). Amalia Doebbert (Secretary) and Kurt Refsnider (field trip coordinator) led a group of 12 graduate students, most of whom were new additions to the department, to northern Wisconsin and the western end of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a three-day trip in mid-September. The great geology, combined with beautiful campsites in the Porcupine Mountains and near Trout Lake, made for a very enjoyable trip.



Santa 2005 was played by the versatile Paul Riley (soda czar), and his dancing elves were first year graduate students Bryn Benford, left, and Morgan Herrick.

The December holiday party, sponsored entirely by the Geoclub, was a big hit. It was held in a “room with a view” in the Social Science building on campus and featured a potluck dinner and of course a visit from Santa.

In addition to the traditional social activities, we decided to give back to the community. We held a food drive the week before Thanksgiving to collect items for the Atwood Community Center's Thanksgiving Day baskets. We filled four bags of groceries and raised \$106. Geoclub matched the monetary donations, spending \$116 on more groceries, including two large turkeys.

In conjunction with the holiday party, we organized a coat and winter clothing drive and encouraged attendees to bring an item with them to the party. We collected over 25 coats and three large bags of hats, mittens and gloves and donated them to the Community Action Coalition's Clothing Center. The ACA accepts and distributes donated new and used, seasonally appropriate clothing to individuals and families with a self-declared need for clothing.

In the works for the spring semester 2006 is the annual awards banquet to be held on May 5. A large surplus of funds has allowed us to reserve a great room at the Overture Center for the Arts. I'm sure it will be what some might call a “fancy pants” event, and I'm looking forward to a great time.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow officers Jennifer Nielsen, Mike Cobb, Amalia Doebbert, Paul Riley, Kurt Refsnider, Stuart Schmitt, Adam Eisenach, Mei-mei Tang, Justin Gosses, and Rachel Greve for helping to make this a great year for the Geoclub. This “absentee president” couldn't have done it without you!



Jean Bahr received the latest in ground water equipment from her students at the 2005 Geoclub holiday party. Here she demonstrates the “Model 2000GT Dowsing Tool,” and it seems to be in great working order, much to the delight of Chris Lowry, Jeff Wilcox (back), and Laura Craig.