



Dazzling as a group, some of Dave's current and former students show their loyalty by wearing his colors at the retirement event held for him in Weeks Hall, October 21. They are, l to r: Steve Kostka, Ben Laabs, Carrie Moeller, Bill Mode, Kurt Refsnider, Tom Johnson, Carol McCartney, Nelson Ham, hatless Dave, Bob Nauta, Richard Becker, John Chapman, and Cornelia Winguth.

DAVE MICKELSON RETIRES

David M. Mickelson joined the Geology and Geophysics department in 1971 after completing his dissertation on Alaska's Burroughs Glacier under Prof. Goldthwait at Ohio State University. During his 34 years at Madison Dave has directed 19 PhD and 68 MS degrees in Geology, Water Resource Management, and Geological Engineering. Dave became an Emeritus Professor at the end of the 2004-05 academic year although he is continuing his research as a Senior Scientist. Dave was Department Chair during the 1980's, and he has also chaired Geological Engineering.

Dave's official retirement ceremony was held October 21, 2005. It started like a normal Friday Weeks End Seminar. At 3:30 p.m. students, staff, and friends met in the lobby outside AB20 for coffee, cookies and discussion. The program began at 4:00 p.m. Chairperson Jean Bahr began by reviewing Dave's long history with the department and the many duties he has so capably handled over the years. She read a congratulatory letter sent to Dave from the L&S Dean, and she commented on Dave's important services to Water Resources and to the Nelson Institute for Environmental Sciences. Jean then gave Dave an envelope containing a check that department members had contributed for a new digital projector he can use during his many presentations around the State.

Prof. James Knox discussed the many ways Dave had interacted with the Department of Geography both in research and teaching. On a lighter note, Jim projected a magnitude/frequency chart that purported to show that Dave's activities had resulted in a steady stream of minor gaffs but none (or few) of large magnitude. Dave's many projects with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey were discussed by Tom Evans, and Lee Clayton nodded agreement from the audience.

Prof. Bezalel Haimson described Dave's services to GLE, the Geological Engineering Program. Bezalel showed several slides of Dave scaling steep lakeshore bluffs in their shoreline

stability studies, pointing out that Dave's red and white engineer's cap showed he was predisposed to engineering.

Bob and Nancy Dott presented Dave with a hand-sized tractor, fabricated from miscellaneous bits of scrap metal, which Dave could use when his many real tractors were stored for the winter.

Emeritus Prof. Lou Maher then conducted a mild roast by discussing and illustrating a number of Dave's OOPPS awards that had accumulated over the years. He mentioned Dave's creation of the Badgeria Quaternary Institute which was relying on developing computational theory to explore not only questions of "what is?" or "what was?" but also the new line of research "what if?" Alas, the Institute's first major call for papers for its symposium, "The evaluation of the global and more local parameters if Wisconsin had a mountain massif," submitted to The Journal of Irreproducible Results was the only paper Dave ever wrote that was rejected out of hand. To prove that Dave has had a long and productive career in the Midwest, Lou showed a slide of Dave sitting on a log next to T.C. Chamberlin. You can obtain a copy of this picture at:

< <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~maher/chamberlin> >. There are two choices of the same photo (pre-FOP.jpg or pre-FOPk1.jpg); pick the one with the size and detail most suited to your needs.

At that point, Dave's students in the audience donned red (with white polka dots) engineer caps that have long been Dave's trademark. Dave then was awarded a bound thesis-like book with the gold-leaf title: David M. Mickelson, Department of Geology and Geophysics, 1971-2005, A History in Letters which contained over 60 letters from his former students and post-docs. After singing the "Friends of the Pleistocene" digging song, the audience adjourned to the lobby where a keg of beer had discreetly appeared. Later about 50 of Dave's family and friends moved up to the museum area where a catered meal was served, and an evening of great conversation ensued.

GO TO ICELAND IN SEPTEMBER 2006 WITH DAVE MICKELSON AND THE UW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Join us if you can!

Dave Mickelson is providing geology background for a trip (described below) sponsored by the UW Alumni Association. Many you probably have received a mailing about this, but if not, go to the web site < <http://www.uwalumni.com/home/travel/travel.aspx> > for more information. Although this is not a student trip, you can see slides of Dave's recent classes there at < <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~qlab> >

Please join us in 2006 on a special journey to Iceland.

It's a surprising, even astonishing land; one of massive glaciers and rumbling volcanoes, bubbling mud holes and powerful waterfalls; hugely abundant bird life and just 280,000 people; and where the sun never sets for six splendid weeks. It's also perfect for exploring in a small group, as we discover traveling the breadth of the country and staying in excellent lodgings.

Our exclusive tour is being offered only to University of Wisconsin alumni and their guests and will be limited to 24 travelers.

Our journey begins in Stykkisholmur, an important fishing and trading center. From here explore the Snaefellsnes peninsula with its small fishing villages, lava fields, bizarre rock formations, and rugged shoreline. Continue north to Akureyri, the region's capital and an urban gem. See lovely Lake Myvatn surrounded by bubbling mud flats, lava fields, and volcanic craters, and also "Glacial River Canyon" National Park, the site of Europe's most



Dave in Iceland with a group of Quaternary students, 2004.

powerful waterfall. Then travel to southern Iceland and Thingvellir National Park, where the country's historic parliament was founded in AD 930. From our base in the beautiful agricultural area of Hella, take a boat ride to a thriving bird refuge, visit the southernmost village of Vik, and tour the excellent museum in Skogar. En route back to Reykjavik, pass through the setting of the country's cherished literary tradition, the Icelandic saga. Spend two days exploring Iceland's sophisticated capital, including a visit to the Blue Lagoon, before returning home.



Board of Visitors' member and Alumni Mentoring Committee Chair, Carol McCartney, right, answers an undergrad's question about her experiences as career geologist. Carol coordinated the BOV's third annual Mentor Panel Discussion in the department.

Alumni Mentor Panel, October 2005:

Sherren Clark, BT2
Susan Courter, Courter Resource Group
Madeline Gotkowitz, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
T.K. (Tom) Holley, Shell Oil Company
Thomas M. Johnson, LFR Levine Fricke
Dave Krabbenhoft, USGS
Carol McCartney, M.C. McCartney, LLC
William A. Morgan, ConocoPhillips
Dan Reid, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Mark A. Solien, ExxonMobil Exploration
Dave Stephenson, GSA Foundation
Susan Swanson, Beloit College