



Dear Alumni and Friends:

The 2006 edition of the **Outcrop** brought to you by the outstanding editorial team of John Valley and Mary Diman, documents another busy year in Weeks Hall. Last year at this time we were in the midst of faculty searches in geophysics and earth surface processes. Both of those searches came to successful conclusions in the early summer and our two new geophysicists, Harold Tobin and Kurt Feigl, arrived in Madison last August.

Our cover photo shows the new drilling vessel that Harold will be sailing on next fall. Articles describing Harold and Kurt's exciting new research programs can be found on pages 42-44. (Our new earth surface processes colleague, Anders Carlson, will be arriving this summer and we will be introducing his research in the 2007 **Outcrop**)

With the generous gifts from alumni and friends, the Department was able to support student travel for a variety of field experiences in 2006. Highlights of field trips to the Yucatan, Nevada and Argentina are described on pages 16-18. The Wasatch Uinta Field Camp was the subject of an article published in a local Park City paper, reprinted for your enjoyment on pages 12-13.

The long-awaited biography of Lowell Laudon finally came off the press last fall, just in time for the GSA meeting in Philadelphia. We hope that Bob Dott's profile of Laudon in this year's "Archivist's Corner" (pages 30-31) will entice you to order a copy **Bushels of Fossils** to get the full story of this legendary teacher's fascinating life.

We look forward every year to getting news of our alumni to include in the **Outcrop**. In addition to the short notes from many of you, we are pleased this year to be able to include two longer reports from alumni: Ted Best's recollections of a contingent of Canadian geobadgers who attended graduate school at UW in the late 40s to mid-50s and Jim Haebig's account of his 50 years in exploration geophysics around the world. You can also read about the accomplishments of our 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awardees (pages 10-11) and about the unusual career path of the late Richard Senger (BS 1960), who surprised the Department with a substantial gift from his estate (page 6).

Bill Unger's retirement in June, after 50 years in the department, was truly a milestone event. Chuck DeMets provides a summary of a few of his many contributions to the geophysics research program, and the department in general, on page 9. We will be honoring Bill at this year's spring banquet and hope that many of his friends and family will join us in that celebration.

As is always the case, we lost a number of good friends in the past year. The "In Memoriam" section (page 32) pays tribute to nine alumni. Emeritus Professor Cam Craddock's long and productive career is recalled in an article contributed by Basil Tikoff, Bob Dott and Gordon Medaris (pages 33-34).

Finally, you will see from Toni Simo's news on page 50 that he has accepted a position at ExxonMobil. We will miss Toni's presence in Weeks Hall, but look forward to his continued interaction with UW students and faculty in his new position. With Toni's departure, spring semester finds us again in the midst of a faculty search for which I hope to be able to report a successful conclusion in next year's **Outcrop**

Best regards,

Jean Bahr  
Professor and Department Chair