

Professional HONORS

- Thirteen of our grad students were awarded research grants from the Geological Society of America: congratulations to Nianli Zhang, Eric Shullenberger, Mei-mei Tang, Kathy Bolger, Tim Oleson, Jeff Wilcox, Penny Lancaster, Morgan Herrick, Jennie Cook, Matt Kuchta, Carrie Moeller, Wasinee Aswasereelert, and Jana Van Alstine. In addition, Laura Craig received an Eckenfelder Scholarship from Brown and Caldwell (an environmental firm) and an Anna Birge Memorial Award (for research in limnology).
- AAPG has made research awards to six of our grad students—the largest number for any school outside of Texas. The AAPG grant recipients are Lauren Chetel, Kathy Bolger, Jennie Cook, John Naranjo (L. Austin Weeks Memorial Grant), Jessica Lopez (R. Dana Russell Memorial Grant), Jana Van Alstine (Gordon I. Atwater Memorial Grant).
- Kevin D. Christie and Matthew Ludwig are recipients of SEG Foundation Scholarships.
- John Kutzback (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences; Limnology and Marine Science), and former department faculty member Jill Banfield (now Berkeley) have been elected to the National Academy of Science.
- The department's 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Richard Alley has been awarded the Seligman Crystal, the highest award of the International Glaciological Society, "For his prodigious contribution to our understanding of the stability of the ice sheets and glaciers of Antarctica and Greenland, and of erosion and sedimentation by this moving ice. Through the interpretation of paleoclimatic records from ice cores, Alley has examined their response to past and future climate change. He has provided evidence that large, abrupt global climate changes have occurred repeatedly in the Earth's history and has contributed to our understanding of the driving mechanisms of these changes." The Seligman Crystal is awarded from time to time to one who has made an outstanding scientific contribution to glaciology so that the subject is now enriched. In the 43 years since the award was first presented in 1963, only 28 people have received the award.
- Mary Anderson was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in Feb., 2006. See the Outcrop for 2005 (p. 16) for more details, and in this Outcrop, and a photo, on page 45.
- Jean Bahr received the GSA Hydrogeology Division Distinguished Service Award at the GSA 2006 conference in Philadelphia, "in recognition of her exceptional service to the profession of hydrogeology." See a photo on page 46.
- Alumnus David Fastovsky (PhD 1986) was profiled in the October issue of Geotimes. It is on the web at <Geotimeshttp://www.geotimes.org/oct06/profiles.html>.
- Graduate student Emily Freeman has been selected to receive Graduate Fellowship of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 2007.
- Undergrad Daniel Hallau received the American Mineralogist Undergraduate Award (for 2006) of the Mineralogical Society of America in recognition of exceptional interest, ability and performance as a student of mineralogy and petrology.
- A senior geology student, Jason Huberty has received "The American Mineralogist Undergraduate Award" for year 2006 in recognition of exceptional interest, ability and performance as a student of mineralogy.
- Emeritus Professor Gordon Medaris was named recipient of the 2006 Emanuel Boricky Medal from Charles University in the Czech Republic. He was recognized for his contributions to the petrology of metamorphic rocks. Boricky (1840-1881) was an early mineralogist and petrographer, who joined the Charles University faculty in 1872. (See photos on page 57.)
- Board of Visitors' member Jean Morrison has been promoted to Vice Provost at the University of Southern California. In this role she will assume primary responsibility for oversight of graduate affairs and of the graduate school; she will coordinate participation in the National Research Council's Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs, and will continue to lead USC's Women in Science and Engineering program.
- The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Bush's nomination of alumnus Mark D. Myers as director of the U.S. Geological Survey. See more on page 19.
- Tina Nielsen was awarded a scholarship from the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT Scholars Program. The program offers long-term professional development opportunities for students interested in careers in the energy business.
- Emeritus Professor Lloyd Pray received the West Texas Geological Society's Pioneer Award at the society's annual awards dinner May 18 in Midland Texas. Much of Lloyd's field work was in West Texas.
- Clay Kelly's graduate student, Eric Shullenberger, had his GSA student grant proposal recognized for exceptional merit. Eric's proposal was ranked in the top 3% of proposals received nationwide by the Committee on Research Grants of GSA. A certificate of excellence was presented to Eric at the Annual GSA Meeting in Philadelphia during the president's student breakfast.
- The department's 1999 Distinguished Alumnus M. Ray Thomasson is the 2006 recipient of the William B. Heroy, Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI. This annual award is given in recognition of exceptional long-term service and support of AGI programs and activities.
- John Valley presented the 2006 Presidential Address to Mineralogical Society of America at the Annual GSA Meeting in Philadelphia on October 24. The title of his lecture was "New Tools for Old Minerals." The talk featured revolutionary advances in mineralogy and geochemistry that have been made possible by new technology. The new capabilities of the Department's CAMECA ims-1280 ion microprobe were discussed along with discoveries of the Earth's oldest zircons. Valley also ran the MSA Council Meeting and Luncheon, concluding his term as MSA President.
- John Valley has been elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. The letter from AGU President, Tom Killeen, states that "Fellowship is awarded to scientists who have attained acknowledged eminence in one or more branches of geophysics. The number of Fellows elected each year is limited to no more than 0.1% of the total membership of AGU."
- John Valley was appointed to the National Research Council's Committee on the Scientific Context for Exploration of the Moon. This 20 member panel is charged to articulate the scientific challenges and opportunities for future robotic and manned missions to the Moon. NASA has asked the NRC to provide guidance on science that will be enabled by a sustained program of exploration of the Moon during the period 2008-2023+ as its Vision for Space Exploration evolves.
- Jeff Wilcox received the award for best student presentation at the 2006 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Resources Association. ●