• 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 Aksawaneelert, and Jana Van Alstine. In addition, Laura Craig received an Eckenstein Fellowship 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, and the National Academy of Engineering in Feb., 2006. See the Alumnus News at www.geotimes.org/oct06/profiles.html.

• The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Bush’s nomination of 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 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.

• 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.”

• The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Bush’s nomination of alumnus Mark D. Myers as the new director of the U.S. Geological Survey. See more on page 19.

• 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.

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Professional HONORS

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