

# Grad Geoclub

## Jonathon Carter, President

Historically, Geoclub stays pretty busy fulfilling its role as the social engine of the department; last year was no exception. Here's a rundown of the highlights of 2006.

Former Geoclub president Kathy Staffier took her administration out in style at the spring banquet held at the Overture Center for the Arts on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendees enjoyed a pleasurable evening among Madison's elite, with beverages courtesy of Jay Nania of BP. The night was capped by the crowning of the year's OOPPS and STOOPPS award winners. The OOPPS award went to Laurel Goodwin for forgetting her purse in the Australian Outback and the measures she



**Hark, the Harold! Santa (Harold Tobin) is surrounded by his adoring fans at the Holiday Party.** (Dave Mickelson)



**It's brats, beer, and babies at the fall picnic. Left to right: Kathy Staffier, Skylar Primm, Cory Clechenko, Jeff Wilcox with Anna, Matt Ludwig with Wesley, Amy Ludwig, Laurel Goodwin, Jeremy Pesicek, and Erik Hoffmann.** (Neal Lord)

took to ensure it didn't happen again. The STOOPPS award went to Justin Gosses for mishaps during his Argentine field work with Jessica Lopez that included car crashes, forgotten gear, and calls to Alan Carroll in hopes of receiving more money and peanut butter. Adam Eisenach manned the helm at a raucous Elucidation held in May that set the bar high for 2007's Elucidation.

One of the first actions of the newly appointed administration was the overhaul of the Geoclub website <[www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub](http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub)>. The new website is a great improvement and is so well-stocked with up-to-date material that at times I wonder if Geoclub webmaster Penny Lancaster is doing any other work at all.

In the fall, the ushering in of the new semester and the welcoming of new students were facilitated by two Geoclub mainstays: the fall field trip and the fall picnic. The field trip was coordinated by everyone's favorite hydro grad students: Chris Lowry and Chris Muffels. They led a group of about twelve grad students—half of which were new to the department—on a tour of the Trout Lake Basin in the Northern Highlands—American Legion State Forest near Minocqua, Wisconsin. Soggy conditions at night gave way to perfect canoeing weather during the day. The fall picnic was held at Elver Park with about sixty-five GeoBadgers, friends and family in

attendance. A considerably larger number of mosquitoes arrived late to the picnic, and managed to drive off all but a stout-hearted, and possibly West Nile-ridden, group of students.

In keeping with the charitable spirit of last year's Geoclub administration, we sponsored a food drive over the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. In total, the department gave seven bags of groceries and twenty-two dollars. The food was donated to the Atwood Community Center <[www.atwoodcc.org](http://www.atwoodcc.org)> in support of their annual effort to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to local families in need. The monetary contributions were donated to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southbank of Southern Wisconsin <[www.secondharvestmadison.org](http://www.secondharvestmadison.org)>.

The holiday party was Geoclub-subsidized and featured a potluck dinner for the second year running. Held in a conference room on the top floor of Van Vleck, the venue offered an evening view of Madison that provided the backdrop to a very enjoyable evening. Both young and old rejoiced at the arrival of Santa, masterfully played by faculty new-comer Harold Tobin, and his elfish helpers, played by first-year graduate students Emily Freeman and Seann McClure.

Looking to the rest of our tenure, we have a few events planned for the spring semester. Eric Shullenberger will host his highly-anticipated Elucidation sometime in late April or early May. The annual spring banquet is slated for April 20<sup>th</sup> and, in a break from the "fancy-pants" Overture Center banquet of 2006, will be held at the Lussier Family Heritage Center and will be decidedly "business-casual-pants". The upcoming year will also mark the return of the spring picnic to be hosted by the newly elected officers. It will be held sometime between the spring banquet and the end of the semester at any city park other than Elver Park.

A big thanks goes to everyone who pitched in at the events and an extra big thanks and shout-out go to the officers of the current administration who helped in numerous ways: Morgan Herrick, Bryn Benford, Mark Stevens, JoAnn Gage, Eric Shullenberger, Penny Lancaster, Chris Lowry, Chris Muffels, Kathy Bolger, Jessica Lopez and Ninfa Harrington. ●