



Richard E. Senger (BS 1960), inset and third from the right in a group of Peace Corps volunteers to Ghana. These 1963 photos were originally published in *Peace Corps Trainees' Ghana Public Works (Geology) Project* by UC-Berkeley. Also in the group are alumni David Behnke (BS 1963), sixth from the right, and Richard Schroeder (BS 1963) fourth from the right. (Courtesy of Jean Bahr)

The Richard E. Senger Bequest

Last May the UW Foundation notified the department that we will be receiving a gift of approximately \$700,000 from the estate of Richard A. Senger (BS 1960), who had passed away in January 2006. We have only incomplete information on Dick Senger's life since his graduation in 1960. He joined the Peace Corps in 1963 as part of the Ghana Public Works (Geology) Project and served in that capacity as part of the staff of the Ghana Geological Survey from 1963 to 1965. There were two other UW geology graduates in his Peace Corps group: Dave Behnke (BS 1963) and Dick Schroeder (BS 1963). Unlike Behnke and Schroeder, Senger had been out of college for several years before joining the Peace Corps. His brief bio listed in the publication announcing the Ghana Peace Corps project notes that he had experience working in geology and chemistry laboratories and had traveled in Europe, Japan and Korea. During his Peace Corps service he also overlapped in Ghana with several other UW geology grads including Bill Kaiser (BS 1959, MS 1962) and R. Stephen Saunders (BS 1963). After possibly a short stint in the US, Dick returned to Ghana and spent 30 years as part of the professional staff of the Ghana Geological Survey where he focused on mapping the West African Precambrian Shield and was one of the editors of the 1994 publication *Explanatory Notes for the Geological Map of Southwest Ghana* 1:100,000 (Geologisches

Jahrbuch Reihe B, Band B 83). After his retirement he lived for some years in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana, but returned to the US sometime in the last few years.

The department managed to contact several people who knew Senger during the Peace Corps and/or later in his career in Ghana. One described him as "one of the most knowledgeable geologists in Ghana and sought after for geological advice." Another remembers him as a "warm, caring human being" with whom he often enjoyed sharing a few Star beers while discussing geological phenomena and human philosophy or playing Snooker.

Dick Senger had been a loyal supporter of the department for many years through generous annual contributions, but this final unrestricted gift was as unexpected as it is welcome. After carefully weighing a variety of departmental needs, the faculty has decided to initially make use of income from this gift to offer a **Richard Senger Graduate Research Assistantship** to a student beginning graduate studies this coming fall. We hope that using this gift to help us recruit the best candidates from our pool of applicants will be a fitting way to honor Senger's memory and to continue the tradition of strong geologic training at UW that he obviously valued in his own career.

—Jean Bahr