The Board of Visitors’ Meeting, September 25, 2008, in Weeks Hall: Standing, David Stephenson, Maitri Venkat-Ramani, Kenneth Ciriacks, Mark Solien, Rick Sarg, Mark Emerson, Jamie Robertson, Alfred James, Jay Nania, and Donald Cameron. Seated, Carol McCartney, Cliff Thurber (Department Chair), Thomas Johnson (Board Chair), and Jim Davis.

Greetings from your Department of Geology and Geophysics Board of Visitors! It is a challenging time for both the University and the Department, but 2008 also was an eventful year for alumni connections and fund raising for student field experiences. Some highlights follow:

This past fall, the Department and BOV sponsored an Alumni Reunion Event on September 25-27, 2008 attended by more than 100 alumni and friends. This event focused on student and faculty field experiences, highlighting the importance of Department funding to support class field trips, museum collecting expeditions, summer field camp, and field excursions. Many of you have played a critical role in supporting this outstanding institution. For those of you who have not yet reconnected with the Department, I encourage you to do so now.

Photos taken at the alumni reunion and the day’s schedule of events can be seen on the web at (http://www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/reunion_08/program.html). The BOV-sponsored Student Field Experience Campaign, launched in 2007, reached 75% of its goal with the generous gift of $1 million from Marta Weeks in memory of Lewis G. Weeks along with generous gifts and pledges from many of you. We encourage all of you to consider donating to this campaign or any of the other Department funds.

Critical needs for the Department in the next few years include:
- increased funding for student and faculty support,
- stable funding for Geology Museum facilities,
- graduate fellowships, and equipment, and
- faculty expansion through an endowed professorship.

Anne Lucke of the UW Foundation is assisting the Board to address at our spring and fall meetings in Madison. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile and personally rewarding program, please contact Carol McCartney at (mmccartney@wisc.edu). The Mentoring Committee has revised the Student Mentoring web page at (www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/mentor.html).

The Board has also continued to work with faculty members to implement an Industrial Associates Program with funding by industry to help the UW develop research programs that are of mutual interest and benefit to industry and the Department.

Jay Nania, is chairing the BOV’s efforts to expand our Diversity Initiative. Jean Bahr, former Department Chair, also is an integral member of the UW PEOPLE Program, which provides increased education opportunities for disadvantaged high-school students in Wisconsin. For more information about this exciting initiative, please visit the website at (www.geology.wisc.edu/misc/diversity.html) or contact Jay (naniajc@bp.com).

Last, but certainly not least, Bill Morgan and I are seeking alumni and other interested persons to serve on the BOV. If you are interested in serving or in nominating a colleague, please contact me. Please also contact me with any questions, topics, issues or suggestions that you would like the Board to address at our spring and fall meetings in Madison.

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