

Student Field Experience Campaign

The UW-Madison Geology and Geophysics **Student Field Experience Campaign** has been established by the Department's Board of Visitors with the goal of establishing a \$2 million endowment to provide ongoing support for undergraduate and graduate field-experience opportunities in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. In addition to rapidly evolving laboratory and computer-based technologies that are now important elements of the current geological and geophysical curriculum, it is imperative to continue providing students with field-based experiences, which provide an enriching and invaluable component of the traditional geological education at UW-Madison.

Background

The UW-Madison Department of Geology and Geophysics has a long tradition of training undergraduates and graduates in the critical skills of field observations, measurements, and interpretation. Most alumni will remember field trips to nearby classic localities along the Wisconsin River, Devils Lake and the Baraboo Hills. There are also the legendary trips to the Yukon led by Lowell Laudon, the carbonate trips to the Guadalupe Mountains led by Lloyd Pray and more recently by Toni Simo, and structural geology trips to Wyoming and Lake Superior led by Cam Craddock. In recent years, there have been trips to Argentina, the Canary Islands, the Yucatan, and to Yucca Mountain, Yellowstone and Dinosaur National Monument. The museum has also led very popular summer museum expeditions for students, teachers and others from the Madison community to collect fossils in Wyoming. The Department also sponsors regular course-related field trips to the Black Hills, Badlands, White Lake (Canada), and several Wisconsin locations. There are pictures of many of these field trips and courses on the Department web-site (http://www.geology.wisc.edu/field_work/weeks_trips.html).

Challenges

For many years, expenses for course-related field trips were covered by the educational budget provided to the Department by the State of Wisconsin. However, in recent years, decreasing state budgets for educational expenses and increased costs have forced the Department to rely almost exclusively on gift-funds, plus modest field trip fees, to support educational field experiences. Furthermore, university support for Geology Museum summer fossil collecting expeditions to Wyoming ended in 2005. As a result of these decreases in state



A Paleoclub field trip.

support and with increasing costs, the Department has been forced to increasingly rely on gift funds to support student field activities.

Campaign Goal

The goal of this five-year campaign is to build a permanent endowment fund of two million dollars to support current student field trips, field camp tuition scholarships, museum field activities and other field experiences to sustain field

experiences for decades to come.

Campaign Progress

Through the generous donations and pledges from several very dedicated alumni, and with the recent gift from Marta Weeks, we are well on our way to realizing the \$2 million goal. With the generous support of you, our friends and alumni, we are confident that we can achieve our goals so that UW-Madison represents the best in geological education and opportunity.

Donations to the Student Field Experience Campaign can be designated for Student Field Experiences and/or for Museum Field Experiences. Donations to the Student Field Experience Campaign can be made in several ways, including direct gifts, multi-year pledges, matching gifts, appreciated securities, and estate giving commitments. Donation pledges can be made for a multi-year period.

Gift Levels

Following is a list of gift levels that recognize different contribution amounts (funding level is inclusive of matching corporate grants):

- Yukon Level:*.....\$25-\$99
- Baraboo Hills Level:*.....\$100-\$999
- Kettle Moraine Level:*.....\$1,000-\$4,999
- White Lake Level:*\$5,000-\$9,999
- Van Hise Rock Level:*\$10,000-\$24,999
- Westphal Quarry Level:*.....\$25,000-\$49,999
- Parfrey's Glen Level:*.....\$50,000+

Estate gifts or deferred gifts of \$25,000 and above can be applied to this campaign and also qualify for membership in the Bascom Hill Society.

For more information please contact
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