



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are pleased to send to you the 2009 edition of the *Outcrop*. My sincere thanks once again to Professor John Valley and Graphic Artist Mary Diman for assembling an informative, photo-filled overview of what GeoBadgers have been up to lately.

The cover story by Professor Anders Carlson (pages 16-17) provides a rather sobering view of what the geologic record can tell us about the impact our greenhouse gas emissions are likely to have on sea level in the coming decades. This is a fine example of fundamental research that provides an opportunity for students to learn geoscience in the field. Speaking of which, pages 18-21 provide examples of field trips enabled by support from the Student Field Experience Fund (page 3). The generosity of so many of you in helping endow this fund is deeply appreciated.

2009 was a year of many changes in Weeks Hall. Professor Stephen Meyers (page 29) joined our faculty, and he is in the process of building a new lab to house a state-of-the-art X-Ray Fluorescence core scanner. Professor Mary Anderson (page 36) retired after 34 years on the faculty. Mary was an integral part of making UW hydrogeology one of the top programs in the world. Christine Damon retired from her position in the main office, where she helped keep everything in Weeks Hall running smoothly. Our name change to Department of Geoscience also became official over the summer.

And after working hard all year long on developing a new curriculum for our undergraduate majors, in January 2010 the faculty approved a new, flexible curriculum plan that has now also been approved by the college. The new curriculum will appear on our undergraduate web page soon.

As always, we encourage you to let us know about your personal news and activities so we can continue to keep our alumni and friends informed of the exciting things GeoBadgers are doing. Thanks!

Best wishes,

Cliff Thurber
Professor and Department Chair