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Anders Carlson (front) took a group of grad students to the West Greenland Ice Sheet in the summer of '09. Read about students in the field on pages 18-21.



TA Chloë Bonamici shows a structural cross section of the Ouachitas to undergraduate majors on a Spring Break '09 field trip.

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Student Field Experience Campaign

The Board of Visitors of the UW-Madison Geoscience Department has established the Student Field Experience Campaign with a goal of building a \$2 million endowment to provide ongoing support for undergraduate and graduate student field experience education. In addition to rapidly evolving technologies that are now important elements of the current geoscience curriculum, it is imperative to continue providing students with field-based experiences, which provide an invaluable component of the traditional geological education.

Background

The UW-Madison Department of Geoscience 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 Wisconsin localities, legendary trips to the Yukon, carbonate trips to the Guadalupe Mountains, and structural geology trips to Wyoming and Lake Superior. The Geology Museum has led popular summer museum expeditions to collect fossils in Wyoming. The Department sponsors regular course-related field trips to the Black Hills, the Badlands, White Lake (Canada), and several Wisconsin locations.

Challenges

For many years, expenses for course-related field trips were covered by the educational budget provided 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.

Campaign Goal

The goal of this campaign is to build a permanent endowment fund of two million dollars to support student field trips, field camp tuition scholarships, and museum field activities to sustain field experiences for decades to come.

Campaign Progress

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

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

There are several gift levels that recognize different contribution amounts (funding level is inclusive of matching corporate grants):

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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