



The Board of Visitors' Meeting, September 25, 2009. Left to right, front row: Bill Morgan (Board Vice Chair), Tom Holley, Carol McCartney, Robert Nauta, Tom Johnson (Board Chair), and Cliff Thurber (Department Chair). Back row: Mark Solien, Jay Nania, Ken Ciriacks, Dave Stephenson, and Charles Andrews.

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The Board of Visitors

Greetings from your Department of Geoscience Board of Visitors! 2009 was an eventful year for the Department. Most visible was the name change to the Department of Geoscience, which more accurately represents its broad and diverse fields of study. In the midst of very difficult economic conditions, with the generous assistance of its alumni and friends, the Department was also able to maintain important programs related to student assistance, field trips and the museum. 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.

The BOV-sponsored Student Field Experience Campaign launched in 2007 has been very successful thanks to generous gifts and pledges from many of you. However, we still need substantial contributions to reach the ambitious goals of the campaign. We encourage all of you to consider donating to this campaign or any of the other Department funds. Another noteworthy and deserving BOV effort is to raise funds for publication of an upcoming book by Emeritus Professors David Mickelson and Lou Maher, *Geology of Wisconsin's Ice Age National Scenic Trail and Ice Age Parks in Wisconsin*, to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press. The Department has many other critical priorities. Your support can make a real difference toward helping us accomplish these goals:

- increase funding for student scholarships and faculty research support
- secure stable funding for Geology Museum facilities
- offer competitive graduate fellowships
- purchase state-of-the art research equipment
- expand our faculty with an endowed chair

Anne Lucke of the UW Foundation is assisting us with all of our Geoscience fund-raising initiatives, and would be happy to provide you

with any additional information. Anne can be reached at (608) 262-6242 or Anne.Lucke@uwfoundation.wisc.edu. To learn more about these and other related activities, please contact Ken Ciriacks, Chair of the Board's Development Committee at kwcir@msn.com.

The Mentoring Committee has revised the Student Mentoring web page at www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/mentor.html. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile and personally rewarding program, please contact Tom Holley at tom.holley@shell.com.

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, while 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. These diversity initiatives have also benefited from generous industry and corporate support. For more information about the Diversity initiative, please visit the website at www.geology.wisc.edu/misc/diversity.html. or contact Jay (nanaijc@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.

Thomas M. Johnson
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