In the spring I was appointed to serve on a multi-departmental search committee to hire professors in the new field of Science Studies, the investigation of how science itself is conducted. The field is mostly the province of sociologists, historians, philosophers, anthropologists, and journalists. As the only natural scientist on the committee, I got a quick and fascinating education in how our humanities colleagues view us (they agonize over theories of knowledge that we don't even know exist) and in what constitutes meritorious work in various disciplines. In the end the committee picked three new profs, who will be the nucleation point for science studies on the Madison campus.

On the research front, I'm back in the bone business, with two students working on dinosaurs. Chris Ott is conducting a Master's thesis on taphonomy of dino bone beds in the Interior Cretaceous. Lisa Buckley is studying theropod tooth structure, again from Cretaceous rocks. Lisa is a senior; she won a Hilldale Fellowship in the spring to support her research. I am also continuing our Ordovician stratigraphic project. Norlene Emerson's PhD project (principal advisor Toni Simo) has demonstrated a new sequence stratigraphic interpretation for the well-known carbonate-to-shale facies transition in the Decorah Formation.

At home, Becky and I are continually amazed at the size, growth rate, and food-consumption ability of the kids. We live in a maelstrom of sports, pizza, loud TV, video games, and thug-like adolescent apparitions. And nobody is even in high school yet. Now I know what the Romans felt like when the Huns appeared at the gates.

❖ Alan Carroll

Jeff Pietras and **Meredith Rhodes** completed most of their fieldwork on the Green River Formation, based out of scenic Rock Springs and assisted by undergraduates **Reuben Johnson** and **Jana Van Alstine**. They are completing the first detailed basin-scale stratigraphic cross-sections of the Green River Formation, as part of a project to document the relationship between nonmarine sedimentation and Laramide tectonics (supported by Conoco and Texaco). They also continued working in the Radiogenic Isotopes Laboratory with **Clark Johnson** and **Brian Beard**, and have recognized systematic trends in $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios in lacustrine carbonate facies that are related to weathering and drainage patterns in the area surrounding Eocene Lake Gosiute. **Mike Smith** and **Brad Singer** also joined us in the field to sample tuffs for and NSF-supported project to establish a high-resolution radioisotopic geochronology of the Green River Formation. Mike and his undergraduate field assistant, **Nick Delebo**, took an early break from fieldwork to drive their $400 Subaru to Seattle to hear a concert that Mike thought was scheduled for June 31 (*Mike: "30 days have September…"*). They returned several days later, wiser for the experience.

Colin Walling achieved a major milestone by completing his MS thesis on the Permian Phosphoria Formation, and began his PhD on the same subject. Colin is looking at the origin of windblown dust (silt) deposited in offshore areas of the Phosphoria sea, and is getting some very interesting oxygen isotopic results in collaboration with **John Valley** and **Mike Spicuzza**. A new PhD student, **Martin Shields**, joined our group with plans to work on an extensive subsurface data set from the Java basin. Martin spent approximately 18 years in industry and has expertise in 3-D seismic interpretation and structural geology. He is currently helping us to get our Sedimentary Basin Visualization Laboratory up and running (with assistance from ExxonMobil and BP-Amoco).

Perhaps the highlight of last summer was two weeks of reconnaissance-level fieldwork in southern Alaska with **Marwan Wartes**, who was investigating possible PhD projects involving the Neogene uplift of the Chugach-St. Elias range and derivative deep marine sedimentary units. This was primarily a feasibility study, during which we learned several things: 1) there are plenty of really spectacular exposures that are virtually impossible to reach, 2) it is possible to walk hundreds of yards through dense alder without ever actually touching the ground, and 3) it rains a lot in southern Alaska. The low point came when our food box became contaminated with Coleman fuel, forcing us to beg at a nearby logging camp. We had briefly considered turning our 357-magnums on the local shore birds, but thought better of it. Fortunately, Marwan was able to develop an alternate project on the Fortress Mountain Formation in the much drier northern Brooks Range, to be supported in full by Anadarko Petroleum.

❖ Nik Christensen

This past year I began work on a new five-year NSF Continental Dynamics sponsored interdisciplinary study of an exposed crustal section of an early Jurassic island arc in South Central Alaska. The Talkeetna arc is one of only a few examples of exposed arc crustal sections. In the same way that ophiolite studies have provided an ideal counterpoint to both marine geophysics and analysis of mid-ocean ridge rocks in developing a complete picture of crustal accretion at oceanic spreading ridges, this geochemical and geophysical study of the Talkeetna arc will provide critical information on arc magmatism and crustal genesis.

I'm also involved in a new research program