

Professional Honors

- **Mary Anderson** received the year 2000 C.V. Theis Award from the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) in recognition of “outstanding contributions in hydrology.”

The award was established after Theis’ death in 1987 to honor a man who had a tremendous impact on the science of groundwater hydrology. It was said that Theis was “recognized by all of his associates as having no peers.”

Former student Chunmiao Zheng presented the citation for Mary at the annual meeting of the AIA.

- Hydro alums Chunmiao Zheng, Charlie Andrews, and Ken Bradbury convened a special all day session at the GSA meeting in Reno entitled: “25 Years of Groundwater Modeling: A Special Session in Honor of Professor **Mary Anderson**.” The event drew many former hydros as well as a large audience of colleagues. Mary presented a paper as did Herb Wang and current students Wes Dripps (with Mary and Randy Hunt as co-authors), Tyson Strand (with co-author Herb Wang), and Sue Swanson (with co-author Jean Bahr). Other former hydros who presented papers included Charlie Andrews, Ken Bradbury, Daniel Feinstein, Randy Hunt, Galen Kenoyer, Dave Krabbenhoft, Peter Riemersma, Bill Simpkins, Loran Toran, Erik Webb, Bill Woessner, Joe Yelderman, and Chunmiao Zheng. A reception following the technical session was sponsored by Papadopoulos and Associates, Inc.

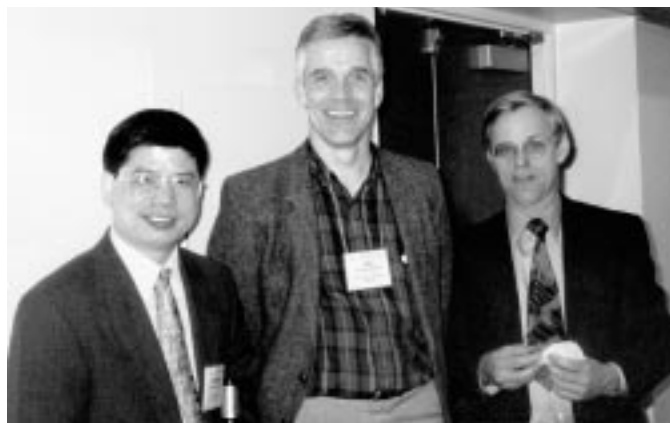


photo: Mary Anderson

Chunmiao Zheng, left, Ken Bradbury and Charlie Andrews, right, convened a special session at the GSA meeting in Reno in honor of Professor Mary Anderson.

- **Charles W. Byers** was one of four professors (UW system-wide) to receive the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award for the year 2000. The award is sponsored annually by Alliant Energy (Wisconsin Power and Light) and administered by the UW System. Awardees are nominated by their departments and must demonstrate dedication to and mastery of the craft of teaching. Named for James Underkofler, a former CEO of Alliant, the award was set up as an endowment to reward and encourage outstanding teaching. Under the guidelines, a maximum of two professors can come from the Madison campus. Professor Byers was cited for his dynamic and wide-ranging lectures and his use of many avenues to learning. He has taught the freshman course G110, Evolution and Extinction annually for 17 years, with consistently large enrollments and strong evaluations from the students. Byers was elected to the UW Madison Teaching Academy in 1995.

- Emeritus Professor **Dave Clark** received the 2001 R.C. Moore Medal for Paleontology from the SEPM. Dave will accept the medal at the 2001 annual meeting of SEPM in Denver.



photo: Becky Byers

UW System President Katharine C. Lyall, left, and Professor Charles W. Byers, recipient of the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award for the year 2000.



Professor Basil Tikoff, left, and Emeritus Professor Cam Craddock at GSA, where Basil was awarded the Donath Medal for 2000.

• **Basil Tikoff** was awarded the Young Scientist Award (Donath Medal) of the Geological Society of America.

The Young Scientist Award was established in 1988 to be awarded to a scientist (35 or younger during the year in which the award is to be presented) for outstanding achievement in contributing to geologic knowledge through original research that marks a major advance in the earth sciences.

Consisting of a gold medal called the Donath Medal and a cash prize, the award was endowed by Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Donath.

It was presented at the opening ceremony at the Geological Society of America meeting in Reno, Nevada. The citation was given by Professor Peter Hudleston and the award presented by Mary Lou Zoback, president of the Geological Society of America.

Part of Professor Tikoff's acceptance speech is excerpted below:

I would like to sincerely thank the Geological Society of America for the honor of the Donath medal. I find it particularly satisfying because I am not in a "hot" area of earth sciences, nor am I part of the increasing specialization that is occurring throughout the geosciences. I am a field scientist, which means that I am inherently a generalist. It is when I am staring at a confusing outcrop that I am most aware of my limitations. The strict subdivisions that we choose to accept in the geoscience community—for teaching classes, hiring, or any other purpose—tend to fade in this

context. In the field, the strength of knowing something about geochemistry, geomorphology, geophysics, weathering and all branches of traditional geology is paramount. I sometimes think that structural geology mistakenly tends toward engineering, rather than encouraging a more integrative approach toward studying the earth. In a rush for quantification, the geosciences have downplayed much of their strength. Geology is rich in a variety of data sets and has a virtual monopoly on the key element of time. These data sets are the ultimate test to which all models must answer, if the goal is to understand the history and processes recorded in the rocks. Modeling something and understanding something are often confused for the same thing, which they certainly are not. Or, as stated more succinctly by C. Box, "All models are wrong, some models are useful."

The generalist tradition is also the key to our future. The intellectual tradition of historical science pioneered in geology is not only being used in the biological sciences, but it is increasingly being incorporated into the social sciences and human history. The integration of physical, chemical, and biological processes is just one example of the type of generalist investigation that the geoscience community has engaged in for the last century. In a world of increasing specialization, the geoscience community offers a real contribution to both science and society in our ability to approach a problem from a variety of different angles. Teaching this approach to students is critical for two reasons. First, because education and research are inseparable. Second, because the most important decisions of the future will be made with a variety of disparate, incomplete data sets, of the type geologists are accustomed to and can make sense of. I think that developing this academic tradition of generalism is where we can make the greatest contribution for the future.

• **John Valley** received a prestigious WARF-Kellett Mid-Career Award in recognition of his outstanding research accomplishments. The UW-Madison Graduate School gives this award on a competitive basis. The award includes a generous five-year research grant.