



Board of Visitors' chair Jay Nania (right) and Ken Ciriacks (left), development chair, at the board meeting in Weeks Hall, Oct. 5, 2001.

Board of Visitors News

Greetings from your Department of Geology and Geophysics Board of Visitors! 2001 was an active year for our team, making significant progress on several core initiatives. However, like the rest of the nation, our activities were overshadowed by the events of 9-11. In the days following the tragedy, in one way or another, each of us was involved in the recovery, whether via corporate sponsorship in the relief effort, volunteerism, or through personal contributions to those most affected. In the light of such horrific events, it is a testament to the dedication of our alumni, that eleven of our fourteen members were still able to make the trip to Madison for our fall meeting, only three weeks after September 11. Our members made the journey from all three coasts, including New York City. While we are all mindful of how the world has changed, we believe that it is important for each of us to continue working on the things we care most about.

The sustained educational and research excellence of our alma mater is very important to us all.

The Board of Visitors

CURRENT

Jay Nania, Chair
 Kenneth W. Ciriacks
 James F. Davis
 David Divine
 Mark Emerson
 Carl A. P. Fricke
 Robert J. Karnauskas
 John W. Mack, Jr.
 Carol McCartney
 Jean Morrison
 Marjory Rinaldo-Lee
 James D. (Jamie) Robertson
 Rick Sarg
 M. Ray Thomasson

FORMER

Nikolas I. Christensen
 Craig Eisen
 Donald H. Freas
 Stanley Hamilton
 Carroll Ann Hodges
 Richard Hutchinson
 Patrick Lehmann
 Walter D. Mooney
 Ned Ostenso (deceased)
 Christine Rossen
 Phillip "Pete" Stark

Our **Student Mentor Program** continues to gain momentum with several new volunteers this year. "Mentors" are those willing to serve as advisors to the department's graduate and undergraduate student population. The portal to establish mentor contacts is located on the departments website at www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/mentor.html. Contacts are initiated by the students, and can be as simple as the establishment of an email dialog, or as involved as a visit to the mentor's work location. The degree of appropriate interaction is decided upon jointly by the student and the mentor. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile program, please contact board member Jamie Robertson at jdr@alumni.princeton.edu.

Our **Diversity** Initiatives have also born fruit over the last year. As we reported in the last newsletter, the board supported Associate Dean Herb Wang's attendance at the National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists Conference in Houston. Papers that were presented on the topic of Environmental Justice inspired Dr. Wang to coordinate a very successful Summer Forum on the subject at the UW in Madison. A comprehensive website detailing the forum may be found at www.ies.wisc.edu/forum.htm. Dr. Wang returned to the NABGG Conference in the fall of 2001 accompanied by UW undergraduate Alissa DeVaughn. At the conference held in New Orleans, Dr. Wang presented a paper regarding the UW Forum. As a result of our involvement, an Internet link to the department has been placed on the official website of the NABGG at www.nabgg.org. Our board is looking to expand our effort in this arena, and recognizes that "diversity" goes beyond ethnicity, to include gender, and diversity of thought. I would very much like to hear my fellow alumni's views on this topic, including any ideas on how we might further our diversity initiatives.

Our “**Building for the New Millennium**” campaign is still on track, and despite these uncertain economic times, alumni across the country are coming together to support this critical initiative. Our board is continuing to focus much of our effort to raise the needed funds in support of the proposed \$5 million addition to Weeks Hall. With the support of the University of Wisconsin Foundation’s Teresa Midthun, our board members have been reconnecting with fellow UW geoscientists across the country. The construction of this new wing will provide state-of-the-art research facilities, ensuring the UW’s continued leadership in the most exciting new areas of geoscience study. Expanded student-friendly workspace, and a high-tech 75-seat classroom are also core elements of the new construction. Board member Ken Ciriacks is taking the lead on this exciting development effort. We are planning to hold a major alumni reunion and conference to coincide with the building dedication in the spring of 2004. This is a once in a lifetime chance for all of us to participate in building a lasting legacy that will impact generations of geoscientists yet to come. Your support at any level is greatly appreciated. *(See Lou Maher’s article about Weeks 3 on page 34.)*

Finally, you may have noticed that we have changed our name. In October, the “Alumni Board” amended its constitution, and officially changed our name to the “Board of Visitors.” This name change will place our designation more in-line with advisory boards at other levels in the institution, such as the L&S Board of Visitors. After a spirited debate, and one ‘60’s era board member offering to lead a charge up Bascom Hill, demanding that they change their name, the amendment was adopted. The new name acknowledges that our membership is not restricted solely to alumni. Although we are confident that alumni will always be the core of our organization, providing room for a more diverse membership will serve to enrich our discussion and enhance our perspective. This paves the way for future

board members to include past UW faculty, leaders in the community, and national figures that have taken an interest in our department.

In spite of the name change, your board continues to be recognized as one of the oldest, and most influential advisory boards on the Madison campus. I want to thank all of its members, past and present, for the time and effort they have put forward to support our alma mater. Likewise, I want to thank alumni everywhere for the generosity they have shown in supporting our department, in particular with regard to the building campaign. This is an ambitious effort, and we still have a long way to go. We are all grateful for the excellent education we received at the UW, and I hope that each of you will consider giving something back in support of this significant department milestone.

I encourage each of you to reconnect with our department. A website has been established at www.geology.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/netforum/geo_alumni/a/3-1 as a bulletin board for alumni to contact one another. In addition, I encourage you to email me directly with any issues you would like our board to address. I will include your requested topics on the agenda for either the October 2002 or May 2003 board meetings. Our Board of Visitors is always happy to hear from our fellow alumni. Don’t hesitate to let us know if there is ever anything we can do, to help you play a continuing role in the advancement of geology and geophysics study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Good health and good fortune,

Chairman Jay C. Nania
 naniajc@bp.com



Department chair Mary Anderson, left, and Lou Maher, right, Weeks 3 building committee chair, accept a check presented by Jay Nania, center, on Oct. 24, 2001. The generous gift from BP is in support of the Weeks 3 (West Wing Addition) building campaign.