

Sedimentary Visualization Laboratory Opens



Martin Shields, standing center, leads a class in the Sedimentary Visualization Laboratory. Photo by Carl Bowser.

The Sedimentary Visualization Laboratory, room 408 Weeks Hall, celebrated its Open House on May 18, 2001.

The lab has been under development for several years and a new graduate course entitled “Fundamentals of Workstation Interpretation” was coordinated for the spring semester (2002) by Martin L. Shields, a PhD candidate with 20 years industry experience as a workstation interpreter.

Martin is part of a team of instructors that includes Alan Carroll, Toni Simo, Cliff Thurber, and Richard Allen (future offerings will be taught by smaller instructor teams). The goal of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the subsurface investigation of sedimentary basins and structures using 2-D and 3-D reflection seismic and well log data. The lab currently operates six Sun Ultra workstations equipped with Geoquest software.

We have received remodeling support, hardware,

software, and data sets from the Weeks fund, the College of Letters and Science, Schumberger/Geoquest, BP, ExxonMobil, Santa Fe Energy, Hampson-Russell, System Development Inc., and Seismic Microtechnologies. Martin has been responsible for coordinating the development of this facility, and computer guru Ben Abernathy has put in long hours getting all of the machines and software to work properly (an ongoing commitment).

A plaque is now displayed at the entrance to the new laboratory, which bears the names of the companies that have so generously donated to the facility. We would like to thank each of the contributors.

We plan to continue developing this facility and to add new data sets in the future; for further information please contact Martin L. Shields (shields@geology.wisc.edu) or Alan Carroll (carroll@geology.wisc.edu).