

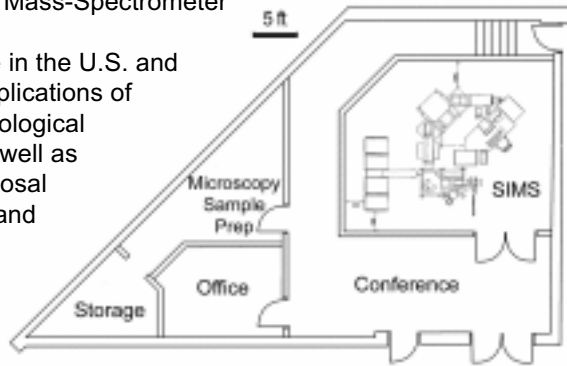


**University
of Wisconsin**
**Ion Microprobe/
Secondary Ion
Mass Spectrometer**

John Valley

The Department of Geology & Geophysics has taken the lead in 2003 for a Major Research Instrumentation proposal to the National Science Foundation to establish WISC-SIMS, the Wisconsin Ion Microprobe/Secondary Ion Mass-Spectrometer Laboratory.

WISC-SIMS will be unique in the U.S. and create synergy among new applications of Stable Isotope Chemistry to Biological Sciences and Engineering, as well as Earth Sciences. The NSF proposal includes research statements and letters of support from 41 researchers in 13 departments at the University of Wisconsin, plus scientists at other universities.



Research in many disciplines would benefit from this new lab. The dramatic reductions of sample size and the ability to put analysis spots into spatial context offers many exciting, potentially revolutionary, research opportunities. Research projects are proposed in areas where in situ ion probe analysis has already proved important, including: petrology, paleoclimatology, meteoritics, materials science, and environmental sciences, as well as in new areas where the potential has not yet been explored, including: plant pathology, nutrition, biochemistry and medicine.

This proposal requests \$2,000,000 from NSF and NIH, and is possible because of matching commitments of \$450,000 of endowment funds from the Department of Geology and Geophysics, and \$450,000 from the Graduate School. The College of Letters and Science has allocated new salary for the director of this facility. If successful, WISC-SIMS will be located in approximately 1500 sq. ft. of newly renovated space in the basement of Weeks Hall (figure left), which can be made available because of the new west-wing addition (see p. 5).



Members of the Board of Visitors joined department faculty, students, and guests on a field trip to the Baraboo area May 4, 2002. This photo was taken at Natural Bridge State Park.

Pictured, left to right: Standing, back row—Fabian Wirnkar, Jay Nania, Steve Byer, Ken Ciriacks, Linda Ciriacks, Sharon Hall, Bob Dott, Mark Emerson, and Dave Divine. Front row—Zhou Shangtze, Toni Simo, Dave Mickelson, and Carl Fricke. (photo by Vin Mickelson)