



*Outgoing Geoclub President Jessica Darter announces election results and introduces new officers at the Spring Banquet: Standing left to right: Beth Valaas, Al Kobussen, Raycine Hodo, Miriam Barquero-Molina, Eric Hoffman, Aaron Cavosie, Cory Clechenko, Drew Lockman, and John Hora. President Jake Eaton and vice-president Rebecca Poulsen are missing from the photo. At the far left of the picture are Clark Johnson, Jim Davis, and Bob Sneider. Photo, Mary Diman.*

## GRAD GEOCLUB

*Jake Eaton, President*

Another year under the belt for Geoclub. It is now my job to share some of the highlights of the past year.

We finished last academic year with the annual Spring Banquet and Spring Picnic. Both events were well attended. The 2002 Spring Banquet was celebrated at the beautiful Lussier Heritage Center. The evening was capped off with the presentation of awards, including the Oopps and Stoops award. The Oopps award went to John Valley for thinking he found Archean diamonds in Western Australia when in fact the diamonds' provenance was the lab's drill. The Stoops award went to Stoops award veteran, Jeff Pietras for being overzealous in a wrestling match with a prospective grad. I look forward to another successful Spring Banquet at the Lussier Center on April 2.

Alan Kobussen led this year's fall field trip on a giant loop through Northern Wisconsin. Some of the more memorable stops were the Paleozoic/Precambrian unconformity at

Chippewa Falls, glacial features at Chippewa Moraine State Park, the Douglas Fault, the Mellen Gabbro, and the Powell Kyanite. We especially wanted to thank Bob Dott for sharing a manuscript of *The Roadside Geology of Wisconsin* before it hit the presses. Be sure to buy one.

This fall we introduced 17 new graduate students to our Weeks community at the Fall Picnic. Cory Clechenko dazzled us with his culinary expertise in preparing the finest beer-boiled brats Madison has to offer. The event lasted well after dark with spirited games of soccer, catch, and ultimate Frisbee.

The holiday banquet was held this year at the University Club. We were lucky again to have Santa (Clark Johnson) and his elves (new grads Brad Sleeth and Kuwana Dyer) appear. The elves presented Santa with a priceless gift this year—a wind chime made of old mass spectrometer parts. The event was probably most memorable for the surprise appearance of a grad student dressed up as a gorilla to present John Valley with a montage of pictures of the gorilla doing work around the lab. His students wanted to assure Valley that, "any reasonably well-trained monkey could do stable isotope work."



*Bratwurst roasting on an open fire: Miriam Barquero-Molina, left, and John Hora, right, do some Geoclub cooking at the Fall Picnic. Photo, Dave Mickelson.*



*Santa confronts one of John Valley's able lab assistants ("a reasonably well-trained monkey"), at the Geoclub Holiday Party. Left to right are John Valley, Santa Clark Johnson, and elves Brad Sleeth and Kuwana Dyer. Photo, Dave Mickelson.*

A major goal for Geoclub this year has been the shoring up of the Geoclub budget. The other officers and I have sought to do this primarily through soda and lab manual sales. Due to the hard work of graduate student Eric Hoffman and several others, Geoclub has broadened its financial base by the distribution of geology 100 lab manuals. The lab manual is a compilation of past labs and added background that caters to the educational needs of students at the University of Wisconsin. We hope the sales will give Geoclub the sound financial

base that would better allow it to meet the desires of Weeks residents.

Please check out the Geoclub website <[www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub](http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~geoclub)> to see our many pictures of this past year. Finally, I would like to give thanks to my fellow Geoclub officers Rebecca Poulsen, Beth Valaas, John Hora, Cory Clechenko, Al Kobussen, Aaron Cavosie, Eric Hoffman, Raycine Hodo, and Drew Lockman. Geoclub would not run like the well-oiled machine that it is without them.

## UNDERGRAD GEOCLUB—CONTINUING THE TRADITION

*Simon L. Masters, President*

The past year has been both a trying and exciting time for the Undergrad Geoclub. The University of Wisconsin's new rule specifying drivers of department or university full-size vans must be over the age of 25, has seriously hampered future plans for undergrad field trips. As an alternative, the club has instituted bi-weekly meetings where professionals from all fields of geological sciences come and speak with undergrads.

This past semester, Board of Visitors member Dr. Carol McCartney graciously accepted the position of Mentor Liaison to undergraduates, and she will help us find motivated local alumni to come to the department and talk with undergraduates. Guest speakers for this past semester included, Dr. McCartney, Dr. Chuck Dunning from the USGS, and Prof. Basil Tikoff. One meeting was devoted to undergraduate research in the department, and featured the Undergrad Geoclub's Public Relations Officer Peter Gill's senior thesis on Micropaleontology, Shannon Briscoe's summer internship with WesternGeco, and my REU experience this past summer.

Another change in the Undergrad Geoclub is the changing of a position title. The Director of Corporate and Industry Relations has been changed to Mentor Liaison. This change is being brought about by the need for one person to connect the bridge the mentors have started with Dr. McCartney. The primary job of the Mentor Liaison is to be the primary contact for Dr. McCartney, the Mentor Program, and the Board of Visitors.

Our club has also been involved in community outreach programs, and will continue to do so in the following year.

This May (2004) a large number of the Undergrad Geoclub officers will be graduating, including myself. This will provide a great opportunity to have motivated and creative undergrad geology majors take over the leadership and direction of the club so that our undergrads may continue to enjoy the its benefits.



*On a snowy February night Undergrad Geoclub members met to discuss upcoming activities. Phil Brown, standing second from the left, is the club's faculty advisor. Photo, Simon Masters.*

*Love is in the air: Enjoying some sunshine and togetherness at the Grad Geoclub's Fall Picnic are, front, grad students Cory Clechenko and Liz Leslie, and, back Melissa High and grad student Alan Kobussen. Both couples are engaged to be married. Photo, Dave Mickelson.*



## AAPG STUDENT CHAPTER

*Kuwanna Dyer, President*

I am pleased to announce the startup of the University of Wisconsin-Madison AAPG Student Chapter! The chapter received its nod of approval from AAPG headquarters in November 2003 and had its first meeting on December 8, 2003.

Our chapter advisor is Prof. Alan Carroll and our co-advisor is Prof. Toni Simo; our society sponsor is Tom Hoane of the Michigan Basin Geological Society.

The absence of an AAPG student chapter at the UW-Madison has been felt for several years and we felt that it was crucial for the university to get one started. The department has strong ties to the oil and gas industry, and many alumni have enjoyed distinguished careers in industry. Building on this rich tradition, our newly inaugurated AAPG Student Chapter will further student awareness of career opportunities in the geosciences, as well as encourage students to take advantage of those career opportunities.

We invite alumni in the petroleum industry to submit your name, graduation year, concentration, adviser name, and employment information to be added to the chapter list of UW alumni in petroleum, which we are compiling. Please direct your correspondence to [kmdyer@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:kmdyer@geology.wisc.edu).

For meeting dates, the chapter newsletter, and more information, please visit our chapter web page at [www.geology.wisc.edu/~aapg](http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~aapg).



*AAPG Student Chapter officers and members: Left to right, first row, Kuwanna Dyer (President), Marwan Wartes (Secretary), Chris Gordon (Vice President), Skylar Primm (Treasurer); second row, Amy Garbowicz; Leonardo Piccoli, Erik Hoffmann, Colin Walling; third row, Erik Olson, Ben Bymers, Tim Oleson; fourth row, Preeya Jirutthitijaroen, Steve Beyer, and Simon Masters. Club members not pictured: Shannon Briscoe, Tina Johnson, Alan Kobussen, Liz Leslie, Stuart Schmitt, Essam Sharaf, and Brad Sleeth. Photo, Mary Diman.*