

## JEAN BAHR

After my marathon travel schedule in 2003, I enjoyed a much calmer 2004 with only a few out-of-state trips and even fewer guest lectures. I returned to a regular teaching load, offering my contaminant course in the spring and Hydrogeology in the fall, plus sharing Environmental Geology in spring with **Richard Allen** and in the fall with **Chuck DeMets**. We introduced new technology to that large undergraduate course this year: remote control “clickers” with which the students respond to questions posed during lecture. While learning how to use the technology was a bit of a challenge, I believe it was effective in making the lectures more engaging, and it definitely increased attendance since we awarded part of the course credit based on clicker participation. **Jeff Wilcox**, who served as the TA for the course, gave a talk at the GSA Annual Meeting on our experience.

On the research front, my students continue to work on a wide variety of projects related to both ecosystem hydrogeology and to natural and anthropogenic contaminants. A paper based on former PhD student **Sue Swanson’s** studies of Madison area springs appeared in *Ground Water* and another (with **Kristin Anderson** as a co-author) is in press. Sue’s work provided the basis for current studies in the Mukwonago River watershed being conducted by **Hilary Gittings**. Papers are in press resulting from **Tara Root’s** work on naturally occurring arsenic and **Jeff Wilcox’s** study of a site being developed as an unsewered subdivision. A manuscript is about to go out for review based on the wetland hydrogeology study by **Abby McDermott**. Abby graduated in the summer and has just started a consulting job in DC after an internship at the National Research Council (NRC). In January, we began a new EPA funded study in collaboration with the WI Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce. MS students **Nate Keller** and **Rachel Greve** are involved in this effort to assess the effectiveness of their protocols for “closing” sites with gasoline contaminants based on the assumption that natural attenuation by biodegradation will stabilize and, eventually, shrink existing plumes.

My term as chair of the NRC Everglades committee is ending with the release of a final report in early 2005. Before I had a chance to recover from that, I was enlisted in a new NRC initiative to define a research agenda for Earth Science and Public Health. I was also involved last summer in a workshop for faculty on to how to incorporate health issues in the geoscience curriculum. Held at Chico Hot Springs, MT, the workshop was intellectually stimulating and provided a chance for relaxing conversations with colleagues including UW alumni **Bill Woessner** and **Audrey Rule**.

I enjoyed seeing former students **Ingrid Ekstrom** and **Dawn Chapel** in Seattle (during a brief summer vacation trip) and a number of former students and alumni at the GSA reunion in Denver.



*At the GSA Badger reception: Maddy Schreiber and Jean Bahr, foreground. Ken Bradbury and Lukas Baumgartner are in back.*

## PHIL BROWN

Greetings from frosty, snowy (but I am still biking to work) Madison. Last year was an interesting year for me, my students and my family. Following are a few highlights.

After several years of depressed mineral commodity prices with the resultant sleepiness of the mining industry, 2003 and in particular 2004 saw renewed life in the industry which resulted in **John Marma**, who had completed a MS in the department, deciding to take a job with Newmont in Nevada. He and his family moved to Winnemucca in June and John loves his job as an ore control geologist at the Midas underground gold mine. I visited him a couple of weeks ago and hope to find a new Master’s student to undertake one of several interesting projects that cropped up. Newmont has more than a dozen openings for geologists in Nevada as I write this so the immediate future seems bright for students who are willing to go get dirty and work in the real world of mineral exploration and production. **Stephanie Maes** continues to work on her PhD studying magma flow, recharge and crystallization in layered mafic intrusions with an eye on the formation of nickel and platinum group element concentrations. A major manuscript has been submitted and there is a good chance that a year from now Stephanie will have completed her thesis.

In June-July I again taught three weeks of Field Camp in Park City. The five school consortium continues to draw 40-50 students each summer but the time remaining at the Chateau may be limited to a couple of years and big changes may be coming for camp. Last year I reported here that UW-Madison students were not in general going to field camp for a variety (time, money) of reasons. I am pleased that last year 12 students (nine from Madison, three from UW-Milwaukee) signed up through our department although I doubt that we