



Norlene Emerson and Charlie Byers at GSA.

will see that many this year. I have agreed to take over the camp directorship for the next few years (I am sharing it this summer) and I hope that we can sustain and regenerate the interest in this traditional but I believe still very important capstone experience for most of our majors in the years to come.

My teaching schedule continues to be full and varied. I taught my introductory ore deposits class in the fall and we took a fun field trip to the Ozarks to visit current and historic lead and iron mines. The combined Earth Materials course continues to be a real challenge to cover the material in one semester—I am thinking about literally “writing the book” so that at least a resource would be available for the way the course has evolved.

A quick update on my family. Jason graduated from Carleton College a year and a half ago and is employed by Epic computer—amazingly enough in Madison. Peter is a junior computer science major at Grinnell College. Although she swore she wouldn't do it, Karin ended up enrolling as a freshman at Carleton, absolutely loves it, and continues to burn several candles at both ends simultaneously. We are happy that our kids continue to do well and certainly know where the paychecks go. Peter and Karin continue to swim successfully and this keeps them lean and TALL, both the boys are substantially taller than I am. Kris continues to be convinced that she has the best job in the world as the librarian at our kids' high school a mile from our house.

I reported last year on our kitchen renovation project and can now report that we still absolutely love the result especially the dark green charnockite counter top from coastal Brazil. I certainly learned a lot about choosing “granite” for a kitchen and would be happy to provide advice if you are considering a similar project.

Hope you have a safe and healthy 2005.

CHARLIE BYERS

In 2004 I was the chair of GSA's History of Geology Division. This was an exceptional learning experience. Division chairs also serve on the Joint Technical Program Committee, which arranges the meeting. The “committee” is a virtual entity, as all the session proposals and abstracts are reviewed via email, under an intimidating timetable. Having seen the complexity of how a GSA meeting is put together, I will never again complain about overlapping sessions. For the HoG Division, I set up and chaired the annual symposium, which focused on one of my pets, the history of the concept of layer-cake stratigraphy. We had talks describing the origins of the idea in the early Nineteenth century, and descriptions of examples of the layer-cake interpretation that flew in the face of the prevailing facies model during the 1950s and 60s. We concluded with presentations on layer-cake stratigraphy in its modern guise, as part of event and sequence stratigraphy. Many authors enjoyed extending the pastry metaphor, with references to frosting, petits-fours, etc. At the Denver meeting I also presided at the HoG luncheon and got to hand out the Division awards.

Last spring I taught Geology 101 for the very first time, sharing the duty with **Brad Singer**. It was fun to revisit topics that I had never tried to organize in a teaching framework or even thought about very much in the decades since I first learned them (What? You mean there's been research in geomorph!). I am currently on sabbatical, converting my Evolution and Extinction course to a web-based format. On the home front we just passed a big milestone, as Wesley J. Byers turned 18. Can't imagine that I have a grown-up kid; does this mean I'm old?

ALAN CARROLL

During 2004 my research group continued to work on a variety of projects related to sedimentary basins, with the largest emphasis on the Green River Formation. Several students finished (or nearly finished) degrees and have accepted new jobs. **Ben Byers** completed his MS on the Gualala basin, and is presently working for the relatively new company EnCana in downtown Denver. **Martin Shields** finished work for his PhD on the East Java Basin, and continues to work for Fusion in Houston. **Marwan Wartes** is close to finishing his PhD, and meanwhile has accepted a position with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys in Fairbanks. I am eagerly awaiting his final thesis chapters, promised to arrive soon!

I've also taken on several new students. **Lauren Chetel** has begun working on a Green River Formation PhD after finishing her MS with **Toni Simo**. **Amalia Doebbert** has starting working on stable isotopes in the Green River Formation for a MS, in collaboration with Page Chamberlain at Stanford. We've already discovered something surprising, an approximately 6 per mil negative shift in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ that coincides