Postdoc Heather DeShon, and engineer Lee Powell, in Parkfield California for Cliff Thurber. The SAFOD drill rig is in the background. See more about their work on page 6.

explosive eruption and were presented at the general assembly of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) in beautiful Pucon, Chile in November.

The IAVCEI meeting was easily the highlight of the year. PhD student **John Hora** and I participated in a week-long pre-meeting field trip to Parinacota Volcano in northernmost Chile, where John's disseration focuses on the chronology and origin of its lavas. John, Brian Jicha, **Melissa Harper**, and I presented papers at the meeting after which I headed to Argentina with Melissa to study the Holocene ash falls from Puyehue volcano as part of an NSF-funded project on timescales of arc magmatic processes.

I continued to participate in the NSF-sponsored "Earthtime" initiative at a weekend meeting of 50 geochronologists at MIT in October. The $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ results from several standards that I presented as part of a multi-laboratory intercalibration exercise were measured by **Mike Smith** as part of his dissertation on the chronology of Eocene tuffs in the Rocky Mountains. The year ended in a flurry with no fewer than 11 presentations of geochronologic results from the argon and cosmogenic labs at the fall AGU meeting in San Francisco. I am looking forward to my sabbatical next year!

Clifford Thurber

Without doubt this past year will go down as one of the most exciting and productive years of my carer. Two of the biggest highlights were the initiation of the drilling for the San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth (SAFOD—see feature article, p. 6) and the completion of the inverse theory textbook authored by **Richard Aster** (UW G&G MS 1986), Brian Borchers, and myself. For SAFOD, major challenges lie ahead as our group works to help define the drilling trajectory to aim the SAFOD borehole at a fault patch where magnitude 2 earthquakes occur repeatedly, about 3 km below the Earth's surface (the proverbial needle in the haystack). Once drilling is complete in 2007, SAFOD will open up a new window into our understanding of faults and earthquakes. Completion of "the book" is the realization of a career-long dream. I am already enjoying teaching from the new book in my inverse theory course this semester. 2004 also saw a few changes in my research group. New grad students **Jemery Pesicek** and **Nate Meyer** joined the group in September, and **Xiaowei Yan** defended her MS thesis in December. Post-doc **Heather DeShon** joined the group, while post-doc **Wayne Du** moved on to a new career. **Dr. Haijiang Zhang** (UW G&G PhD 2003) moved into an Assistant Scientist position, and **Mike Brudzinski** completed his term as a Weeks Postdoctoral Fellow but happily stayed on as a post-doc to continue his seismic and GPS subduction zone studies.

Basil Tikoff

I have been waiting for 2004 for a long time: The elusive dream has finally come true —SABBATICAL!! Of course, every time I see **Herb Wang** in the hall, he points out how little time I have left. I guess there have to be some disadvantages to having a geoscientist for a dean.

This has been a good year for employment. **Scott Giorgis** ('03) wound up getting his PhD, an academic job offer, and getting married in about six months. He is currently an assistant professor at SUNY-Geneseo and seems quite happy. **Cheryl Waters** ('04) not only graduated this year, but managed to get a job in her home state of North Carolina (assistant professor at Western Carolina University). I'm not sure if finishing her degree was harder on her or me, but suffice it to say that I'm very pleased with the result (and she is still talking to me). **Selena Mederos** ('03) started working in

Dave Hart, Kurt Zeiler, and Basil Tikoff at GSA.