

ALUMNI NEWS 2005

30's

Ray E. Wilcox, PhB 1933, PhM 1937, PhD 1941

Mary Marks Wilcox, BA 1942

Send their greetings. They are retired and living in Wheat Ridge, CO.

40's

Albert J. Hanners, BS 1940, MS 1941

My wife and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in September. I'm in good health for my age, but my wife is not.

Raymond C. Robeck, PhB 1941

www.climatechangesolved.com

Mr. Robeck writes that, "Beck Geology Corp. introduced the 5th Glacial Period as including all the climate changes into the 5th period. This means that all other causes of change can be discarded for now. As in the 4th period, the 5th period will be increasing more violent weather. What we have experienced since 1983 is flash floods with hail, tornados and other areas dry. So this is the way it will go—but more violent—hotter, colder, wetter, drier, windier or calm—but always changing."

Robert D. Singel, BA 1942

I am fully retired (living in Great Falls, VA).

Howard G. Schoenike, PhB 1945, MS 1955

I am mostly retired as a consulting economic/mining geologist due to most of my clients being either retired or deceased. As a result, I have a lot of free time to travel, fly gliders, scuba dive, and play tennis and golf. Not a bad situation for an 85-year-old geologist who spent most of his life roaming the mining world. I enjoyed my visit to Madison for the reunion and dedication of the new wing of the geology building. However, I missed seeing my old classmates and professors. I did, however, meet many new and interesting geologists of a more recent vintage. The field trip to the glaciated areas (where I grew up) was well-run and fascinating. I have three children and five grandchildren who keep me involved in family affairs, and are a great joy—what more could you ask for? I'll be back to Madison as soon as possible.

Ned Gilbert, BA 1947

ned01@telus.net

Mr. Gilbert writes that in the past years he has received a number of awards such as Honorary Member of the AAPG, the Sproule Award of CIM and others.

George Starke, BS 1947, MS 1949

wineroads@yahoo.com

Greetings to all my 1947 and 1949 classmates! Here is a thumbnail sketch of my phantasmagoric ride since I left Madison with a freshly minted MS in hand for a career with Standard Oil Company of California (now Chevron). I geologized in Washington and Oregon, but mostly California (Northern California, the Central Valley and the offshore). The last 10 years of my SOC career were spent at Chevron's research laboratory in

La Habra, California, where I was involved in a series of interesting research projects. In my field mapping days I had worked in the wine country in the Santa Cruz Mountains which turned out to be a career changing experience. There I learned that making fine wines can be just as much fun as knocking on rocks, so after 31 years with Chevron, I took early retirement and moved to Napa Valley, and with five investors, purchased a winery. We made beautiful wines, one of which was served at a state dinner in the White House. We sold the winery in 1983. But that was not the end of my wine career. I had taught wine appreciation at University of California at Irvine and continued at Napa Valley College, gave wine lectures on cruise ships to Europe, South America, Alaska and the far east. For the past 15 years I have written a weekly wine column for The St. Helena Star here in Napa Valley. Bette and I (we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary next year) also have a Bed and Breakfast (Zinfandel House) and we enjoy having guests from all over the country and occasionally foreign countries. Our home overlooks Mt. St. Helena which is a huge pile of successive flows of Pleistocene volcanics. The volcanics break down to produce soils that are very hospitable to grape vines. Bette and I extend an invitation to all "geobadgers" who might be visiting Napa Valley to call us 707/942/0733 and join us on our deck to view the Mt. St. Helena volcanics through a glass of Chardonnay.

50's

Elroy P. Lehmann, BS 1950, MS 1951, PhD 1955

dslepl@swbell.net

I continue to be active in the AAPG, GSA, AAAS and the local Dallas Geological Society. Since retiring from Mobil in '85, I've been active in the oil/gas industry in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. I take a working interest in various exploratory or development drilling projects, but have steadfastly refused to become an operator (I don't want the hassle of having employees!!) The current prices have made the business much more enjoyable, naturally, who doesn't want to make more money? Surprisingly though, the half dozen operators I do business with have not significantly increased their drilling activity with the price increases of the last couple years. I suspect its a combination of lack of quality opportunities in the face of rapidly escalating costs to drill, coupled with the shortage of technical manpower and rigs. My wife, Dolores, continues as an active metalsmith/art jeweler and continues to exhibit at weekend art shows around the country. You can see her creations on her website: www.ImagesWorldwideDSL.com.

Ron Tank, BS 1951, MS 1955

ronald.w.tank.@lawrence.edu

I am retired (living in Appleton, WI).

Lynn A. Yehle, BS 1952, MS 1954

Still continuing to do USGS emeritus work on surficial geology of South Central Alaska.



Lew Cline in the field, taken at Cline's research area in Oklahoma. Ervin S. Becker, MS 1954, PhD 1956, sent the photo. He adds that Cline's class was "the best Strat-Paleo section in the U.S."

William A. Sybers, M.D., BS 1955

willisybe@aol.com

Sends his greetings from Hilton Head, S.C.

John Behrendt, MS 1956, PhD 1961

My second book, *The Ninth Circle; A Memoir of Life and Death in Antarctica 1960-62*, was published in 2005. This book centers on my experiences in Antarctica as a UW graduate student and post-doc.

Jack Goffman, BS 1956

jgoffman@cox.net

I am retired, living in Dana Point, CA.

Mike Woldenberg, BA 1956, MS 1957

My 50th anniversary of graduation will be in 2006, May. My daughter Nina will graduate with a bachelor's degree with majors in biology and history. I am still teaching, including courses in physical geography and geomorphology, as well as others.

Henry C. Fuller, BS 1957

I am a retired patent attorney living in Rosholt, WI.

George J. Stathis, BS 1957

I've been retired for many years now after 30 years of mineral exploration in the Great Basin Province, mostly Nevada. I worked for Bear Creek-Kennecott Copper Co. and ASARCO, Inc. I'm married with two daughters and I became a grandfather in August

2005 (granddaughter Jordan Rae). I'm still selling out-of print geology and mining history books at the annual two-week-long Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

Pete Stark, MS 1958, PhD 1963

Is co-author of a major keynote talk to be given at the annual convention of AAPG in Houston in April, 2006. The talk, titled "The Challenging Role for Giant Fields: Can We Expect Giant Fields to Meet Increasing Oil Demand Trends?" It will be part of a forum on "Winning the Oil End Game: The Future of Hydrocarbon Resources in Our Global Economy." Stark is vice president of HIS Energy. The paper was previewed in the AAPG Explorer for January 2006.

Lawrence T. Larson, MS 1959, PhD 1962

I retired in 1997. My new business is LTL Petrographics, consulting petrography for mining/exploration companies world-wide.

M. Ray Thomasson, PhD 1959

tpaexpl@aol.com

Thomasson Partner Associates, Inc. is very active, with projects in 17 states in the Rockies, Midcontinent and eastern U.S. We now have over 30 technical staff with several Wisconsin alums. In addition to TPA, I remain active with AAPG, AGI and giving Visiting Geologist lectures at universities here and abroad. Personal news: We try to spend as much time as possible at Smoky Ridge, our compound of log cabins in western North Carolina. International trips this year will include circumnavigation of the Black Sea, and New Zealand and Australia.

60's

Garrett Briggs, PhD 1962

Is retired and living in West Jefferson, NC.

Kenneth Childs, BS 1962

Retired. I am interested in the Spanish language. I have been traveling to Peru annually, six trips. I'm also interested in outdoor activities, forestry and gardening.

George W. Kindschi, BA 1962

I retired from the practice of medicine in June 2004 and have been enjoying life since: lots of travel including the Hawaii volcanoes and Sedona red rock area. My interest in earth science has never waned! I have been happily married for 37 years and have four children and five grand children.

Mike Widmier, PhD 1962

jmwidmier@worldnet.att.net

Mike writes that he has not much news to report, and that his family is doing well.

Elwood R. Brooks, PhD 1964

woody@cwo.com

Never thought I'd teach another course after retiring from CSU, Hayward, but here I am, in Sun City Vistoso (Oro Valley, AZ), teaching "Geology, from the Ground Up" to fellow retirees during January. Della and I are settling into our retirement home in Oro Valley, near Tucson, but still retreat to our beloved 1885

house in the northern Sierra Nevada, CA during the summer and fall. January 2005 was devoted to field work in central Baja California, near Bahia de Los Angeles, where I was ably assisted by fellow Badger Ralph Thorpe, retired from the Geological Survey of Canada. Other 1960's-vintage Badgers, Gordon and Judy (Smith) Lister hosted us in their Arroyo Seco, NM, home, near Taos, in October 2004.

Nancy Neal Yeend, BS 1965

nancy@jppgroup.com

Still mediating disputes, training judges at the National Judicial College how to set up court-connected mediation programs, and working with forensic CPAs! This is not really far from my original field of geology—a problem solver who helps others to take the facts and solve the puzzle.

Richard A. “Skip” Davis, Post-doc 1964-65

I am totally retired as of May '05 after 40 years of teaching (eight at Western Michigan and 32 at the University of Southern Florida). For the past several years we have spent the summers (May-Sept.) at our house in the Baraboo Hills (about two miles from Parfrey's Glen) on the crest of the south limb. I've been looking at the Baraboo and have a paper coming out in Marine Geology on tidal signatures in this unit. Mary Ann and I travel a lot. We just came back from the Amazon jungle and the Galapagos. We hope to spend some weeks in the U.K. this summer visiting the historical geologic sites.

Dennis M. Howe, BS 1964, MS 1966

I am conducting major oil and natural gas exploration projects in Wyoming and Montana—drilling activity scheduled in 2006. I'm not even thinking about retiring. Dr. Gates will be missed. I will never forget what he said to me before I left Wisconsin in 1966 to pursue my PhD at UCLA, “Howe, you do good work. You just don't do enough of it.” I have been trying to make up for that ever since.

Bill Wayne, visiting faculty 1966-67

wwayne3@unl.edu

I completed revision of a guide to building stone in downtown Lincoln, NE and the Utah City Campus. The Nebraska Geological Survey plans to publish it soon. I had heart bypass surgery in August and am scheduled for hip replacement surgery in January 2006. I'm still playing flute with the Lincoln Community Concert Band and singing with the Senior Chorus here.

Robert Groth, BS 1967

robertgroth@earthlink.net

I'm Chief Geologist with G&H Production Co. New discovery—oil, in the upper Jurassic Morrison Formation in the Powder River Basin of Northeast Wyoming.

Kenneth R. Neuhauser, BS 1969

kneuhaus@fhsu.edu

After 26 years of teaching Fort Hays State University's Geology Field Camp, I will be turning over the duties to Dr. Ron Schott (UW PhD, 2000). I wish to thank Dr. Craddock and Dr. Dott for

instilling a passion for the field and structural geology during my undergraduate days (1964-1969) at UW. My Applied Geophysics class and I successfully completed a search for parts of a WWII B-29 that crashed in 1945 near Russell, Kansas. We presented our results at the 2005 GSA meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am using DigitalGlobe high-resolution panchromatic imaging from the Quickbird satellite to search for a steam-powered paddle wheel boat that sunk in Big Creek near Hays, Kansas in 1878. The following news is probably a bit late—I was awarded the President's Distinguished Scholar Award (1999) and The Pilot Award (1993), the two top awards given by Fort Hays State University.

Dave G. Nichols, BS 1969

dnichols@kestrehorizons.com

I have spent 35 years in the environmental business and eight years with my own company: Kestrel Horizons.

Lee Trotta, BA 1969

I've moved from editor position at the Wisconsin Ground Water Association to the treasurer on the Board of Directors. Besides managing finances for the organization, I will also assist in planning conferences and field trips. As vice president of the Brookfield Players, I'm now managing all publicity matters for the group and invite you to the 21st Annual One Act Festival to be held March 17-19 and 24-26 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield, WI, 262-781-9520.

70's

Steve Born, PhD 1970

Retired in June from the UW Department of Urban and Regional Planning after an unusually varied career from petroleum geologist, to hydrogeologist, to governor's energy coordinator, and finally to planning. He has always felt that his geological background was of great value in his final choice. Steve is now free to fish all of the world's trout streams, having already made a remarkable start. Right after his retirement, he left for Argentina to re-sample some of its superb fishing and scenery.

Nancy Singel Hardin Greif, MS 1972

After completing my MS I went on to finish my MA in public policy and administration in 1973 at UW-Madison. From 1973-88 I worked as a research geologist/geophysicist and scientific administrator at the US Geological Survey. In 1989 I received my PhD in geology and geophysics from Texas A&M University and in 1991 I married Vernon Greif, a globe-hopping petroleum engineer. In 1993 I received my JD (law) from the University of New Mexico with an environmental law certificate and, after 3.5 months traveling in Australia (including Tasmania) and New Zealand, we moved to Durango, Colorado and settled down for good. For the next dozen years I practiced transactional law (everything except litigation), arbitration and mediation until my retirement in March of 2005. My final “career” will be that of a Farmers' Market farmer. It's been a great life so far and I have used everything I've ever learned. I would love to hear from old friends and classmates; we're in the phone book. P.S. I'm proud that my dad is Robert D. Singel, class of '42.

Jimmy Myles, MS 1972

jimmymyles@hotmail.com

Rejoined the oil patch last August exploring in Michigan.

James D. Robertson, MS 1972, PhD 1975

jdrannocho@sbcglobal.net

I was awarded honorary membership in the Society of Exploration Geophysicists at SEG's annual meeting in November 2005. I'm still doing petroleum exploration consulting through my private company, Rannocho Petroleum, LLC, based in Fort Worth. Our twin sons Doug and Paul are now at Miami University (Ohio) and the University of Vermont, respectively. Spouse Stella is still working at Alcon Laboratories in Fort Worth as Vice-President, Pharmaceutical Products R&D.

John A. Larson, MS 1973, PhD 1977

John.Larson@mms.gov

I work in minerals management and resource evaluation in Anchorage.

Darrell Henry, BS 1973, MS 1976, PhD 1981

Is the recipient of the 2005 Tiger Athletic Foundation Presidents Award presented by Louisiana State University. The award recognizes faculty members who have made extraordinary impacts on students and contribute to the profession of teaching. He has also been an organizer for several NSF/NAGT national teaching workshops.

W. Karl Tritchler, BS 1975

wktritch@mitre.org

I lead a project supporting the development of command, control, and communications programs at the Marine Corps Systems Command at the Marine Base at Quantico, VA. My wife and I have lived here in Virginia for the last 15 years. Our daughter has just completed her first semester at Rice University, Houston, TX where she is pursuing a degree in engineering.

Bob Cluff, MS 1976; Sue Gavlin Cluff, MS 1976

Bob and Sue run the Discovery Group, a consulting company in Denver specializing in formation evaluation and reservoir characterization. We have been active in many local professional societies and Bob is 2006 president of RMAG (Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists) this year. He is also receiving AAPG's Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award for best journal article, "Factors controlling prolific gas production from low-permeability sandstone reservoirs." We now have an empty nest. Tim is a senior in computer science at UW-Madison (he loves it there) and Steffi is a freshman at Colorado State University.

Steve Walter, BA 1976

swalter@usgs.gov

The Earthquake Hazards team of the USGS is now being led by two UW alumni. Rufus Catchings (MS 1983) became Team Chief Scientist in November. I've been Associate Team Chief Scientist for the past four years. During 2005 I helped organize and write Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country, a

preparedness handbook for residents of the San Francisco Bay area. With contribution from other federal, state and local earthquake authorities, the handbook explains the science behind the earthquake hazard, what the expected effects of the next big event will be, and how residents can prepare now to protect their homes and family. To date 800,000 copies have been distributed with another printing of one million plus expected in time for the 1906 earthquake centennial in April.

Bill Morgan, MS 1977

Board of Visitors' member Bill Morgan is President of SEPM, following in the footsteps of alumnus Rick Sarg, who is the immediate past-president of the society. In addition, Bill is a nominee for AAPG treasurer. He was also recently elected treasurer of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents.

Robert Freymuller, BS 1978

I'm now working in the oil and gas industry, geologically steering horizontal wells in the Barnett Shale Gas Play west of Fort Worth, Texas. I just celebrated 13 wonderful years married with my lovely wife, Francoise.

Douglas Neese, MS 1979

Is now the general manager for Kerr-McGee Offshore Petroleum in the Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Tobago.

80's**Jonathan Skuba, BS 1980**

My mechanical design business is in its eighth year and rolling along (<http://www.dynamicdesigndevelopment.com>). I've started taking classes towards an MS in Mechanical Engineering at University of Colorado—Denver. My kids, wife and I are all getting older but nothing substantial has changed.



Daughter Matia was born in October 2005 to Marwan Wartes, MS 1999, and Erin Parcher-wartes.

George Clokey, BS 1981

I ran a field course, "Geology, Ecology and Natural History of Yellowstone National Park," each summer in the Yellowstone area. I also am facing the same financial pressures for funding field experiences. How sad to deny students.

Doug Groh, BS 1981

Currently I'm a senior investment analyst at Tocqueville Asset Management where we invest in international precious and non-ferrous metal mining companies.

Richard Manser, MS 1983

rmanser@sbcglobal.net

We are continuing to enjoy a nice mix of family fun and rewarding work in the Bay Area. Old friends and colleagues, please give a call if your travels bring you through San Francisco.

Barbara Bickford (formerly Derlinger), MS 1983

In 2004-2005 I participated in the Wisconsin DNR's Leadership Academy. I'm still DNR's medical waste coordinator in the Waste Management Program. My son Matt died in November 2003 in a car accident. Several other deaths of family and friends, and a divorce, like a series of aftershocks, rattled my foundations through 2004. I'm recovering very well and continue to drag home rocks to put in my garden.

Keith Winfree, MS 1983

Had a thoughtful letter in the AAPG Explorer responding to a President's column in the September 2005 issue. Keith underscored President Rose's lament that the making and updating of subsurface maps seems to have become passé. Keith testified to the importance of training in making such maps in his career and, more importantly, emphasized the importance of the kind of mentoring that he had received. (See also the Bob Sneider memorial, page 27, for another testimonial about the value of good mentoring).

Jay Nania, BS 1984, MS 1987

I am now in my 20th year at BP, and serving as the Subsurface Resource Manager for BP's Deepwater Central Gulf of Mexico Pompano Hub. When I accepted this position last year, I knew the role would be fun and challenging, but I never suspected the curve balls Mother Nature was going to throw at us. The Pompano Platform located in 1300' of water, took at least a 100' wave during Hurricane Katrina. The platform had been evacuated well before the strike, and the structure was resilient, withstanding the storm, but requiring significant repair. Even after repairs to the platform were completed, the infrastructure between the platform and shore, and the terminals on land, required significantly more extensive reconstruction. It was four months before we had a safe export route for our Pompano oil and gas production. Of course, all of the asset damage doesn't compare to the effect on people's lives. Immediately following the landfall of Katrina, I was asked to serve as Resource Chief for BP's Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT). We had 1064 employees in the affected area. The HAT was charged with first of all finding the employees and their families, and then providing everything from fuel and generators, to medicine, money, and temporary housing. It was a monumental task, and one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my career. In other activities, I continue to serve as BP's Lead Geoscience Recruiter at the UW, and a Senior Advisor to the Board of Visitors, truly enjoy my return visits to campus. My wife Silvia and I continue to spend most of our "free time" enjoying our three kids. Christina, age 10, continues to excel in school and advance her formidable fencing skills. Jason, age 8, attended his first Badger game at Camp Randall this year, and continues to rack up recognition on the baseball field and basketball court. Julia, age 6, is pretty much running her elementary school from her kindergarten throne, and was the leading goal scorer on her 2005 soccer team. And yes, all three love rocks...

Michael Cheng, PhD 1994

I left ExxonMobil to work for Amerada Hess in Houston in December. Even though it was a tough decision for me to make, I have been offered a great opportunity with Hess—greater responsibility and greater geographic "coverage" and of course with a better commute and benefits. I had eight years with Mobil/ExxonMobil and have benefited immensely. I will continue to focus on predicting petroleum systems elements (trap charge adequacy, trap seal, pressure prediction, and reservoir quality prediction) for worldwide exploration.



Edith Konopka and Margie Chan at Spruce Lake Bog, May 7. They were on the alumni field trip (coordinators: David Mickelson and Toni Simo) to Horicon Marsh, Kettle Moraine, and the Niagaran Escarpment. The photo was sent by Barb Bickford.

Rudi de Zoeten, BS 1985

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After working for the past four years in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico with Unocal, I'm back working international basins. I have moved from Unocal/Chevron to start working west Africa with Kosmos Energy in Dallas. Looking forward to great things. Personal News: Mary and the boys are doing well.

Jean Morrison, PhD 1988

A professor of earth science at the University of Southern California since 1988, Jean was named Associate Vice Provost (Dean) for Graduate Programs. She is currently a National Science Foundation panelist for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program and a member of our Board of Visitors. She will have responsibility for USC's graduate school as well as the Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program.

Gail Steinhart, BS 1989

I earned an MS in ecology and evolutionary biology (Cornell, 1996), and an MS in library and information science (Syracuse University, 2005). I'm working as a GIS and spatial data librarian at Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University.

90's**Terrance Huettl, BS 1992**

I am director of development at Whitesell Corporation in Delran, New Jersey. I married a geologist from New Jersey. We do not have time to geologize like we did when we met, but we are very happy with our two kids.

Tierney Lalor (formerly Dickrell), MS 1992

After working in the environmental field for eleven-plus years, I switched careers. I am currently a land services professional providing right-of-way acquisition and commercial real estate appraisal services. I have been married to Daniel for two years.

Brian Landau, BS Geology and GLE 1992

Brian.Landau@METROK.GOV

I received an MS in geoscience at UC-Santa Barbara in 1995 with an emphasis in extensional tectonics, normal faulting, and fault zone movement. Spent two consecutive summers in the Santa Ynez Range of Southern Cal surveying streams, at which time I decided to change focus for post-master's years. Moved to Seattle in 1996, I did some odd jobs until finding gainful employment in a consulting work, working my interests into the natural resources and habitat restoration fields. In 2000, I accepted new job with King County as an engineering geologist working on small and large stream and riverine restoration and drainage projects. Been enjoying the Pacific NW. Completed five marathons in past five years, playing guitar, and even started playing ice hockey (better late than never).

Jean Moran, BS 1994

I am Senior Hydrologist with Stetson Engineers. I'll be leaving the San Francisco Bay area in Sept. '06 to sail the Pacific for two years.



Bride and groom, Maddy Schreiber and Blaine Keesee.

Madeline Schreiber, MS 1995, PhD 1999

Things are going well here in Blacksburg, Virginia. I am enjoying being at Virginia Tech and was recently awarded tenure. In May 2005 I married Blaine Keesee, a landscape architect. After a wonderful honeymoon in Paris, we are settling into our new life together, along with our dog Abbott.

Ann M.K. Fritz, MS 1996

I have been employed with the State of North Dakota for nine years; five of them at the Department of Health–Environmental Health Section. My job centers around developing GIS layers to help create solutions for issues in the Environmental Health section, in particular, water quality issues. Family News: We're the typically busy Midwestern family. My husband, Greg and I have three kids, Adam (7 years old), Nora (5 years old) and Claire, who turned one on Thanksgiving this year. Just a plug for the 52nd Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene (FOP) Field trip: The FOP field trip and conference will be in Bismarck and New Town, North Dakota June 3rd and 4th, 2006. The trip will focus on the geological observations of Lewis and Clark along the Missouri River. I hope to see some Badger Geoscientists here!

Tracy (Lemmermann) Ipavec, BS 1998

jti@tds.net

I've been a senior environmental specialist at Environmental Sampling Corp., Muskego, WI, since 1998.

Anne (Ebenreiter) Hubatch, BS 1999

ebs@easystreet.com

Currently assistant winemaker for Wine by Joe/Dobbes Family Estate, Oregon, Anne won Best of Show for her 2002 Pinot Noir at the 2005 Newport Oregon Seafood & Wine Festival. Anne married Robert Hubatch of Antigo, WI in 2003. They live in Portland, Oregon.

00's

Maitri Venkat-Ramani, MS Geology 2000, Computational Sciences 2002

August 29th, 2005 is a date best forgotten, but it will live in the memory of the Gulf coast for generations to come. From the safety of a friend's home in Houston, I watched and waited as Katrina's 135 mph winds hit just east of New Orleans. Many perished, homes and businesses were irrevocably damaged, lawlessness temporarily thrived and the city was almost lost.

I could write pages about the emotional and psychological toll the hurricane's aftermath has taken on every New Orleanian I know, even ones who, like me, were lucky enough not to lose a family member or a shred of property. Instead, I speak as a scientist, specifically an earth scientist. Never before has the importance of our discipline, and teaching it, been greater. As geoscientists, we understand topographic maps, the concept of sea level, the folly of building on flood plains and marshlands and the risks associated with living in a hurricane zone. While the laissez-faire few know the danger and continue to live there, many Gulf Coast residents cook their red beans and rice in homes on reclaimed low-lying swampland simply because they don't know any better.

How many more lives, homes and livelihoods have to vanish before the simple messages of science make it through to the public? The need for the inclusion of earth-science principles in sound policymaking and school curricula is at an all-time high. This is the time to make our collective voice heard at every level of government and educational administration, not merely as scientists but as concerned citizens of a supposedly developed nation. Our work is socially relevant. We will have done our jobs, if all we achieve is the prevention and, at worst, the mitigation of disasters such as the flooding of a great American city, the birthplace of jazz, soul food and a most enchanting way of life.

The human ability to bounce back from tragedy and soldier on amazes me. New Orleans, with humor and irreverence in its blood, will grow back like the wildflower that it is, in fits and starts and not without pitfalls. It ought not to ramble, however, unchecked by the guidance of history and known problems. The real catastrophe would be for such a thing to happen again. This is why I urge each and every one of you to be a New Orleanian wherever you are – educate yourself about the city via the *Times Picayune* nola.com> and other publications, discuss its offerings and drawbacks with your friends and New Orleanians, write your congresspeople and newspapers with your opinions and advice, and do visit some time.

As someone who lost her childhood home never to see it again, I feel only sadness for those that Katrina forcefully evicted, from their homes and their greater home of New Orleans. Yet, I am content in the knowledge that I will soon return to the city with my company, to friends, a dwelling and a Mardi Gras krewe that await me. To echo the sentiments of many around me, I am happy that 2005 is past and that a new year and new challenges are upon us. Onwards!

Maitri Venkat-Ramani, is a field development geophysicist with Shell Exploration & Production Company, temporarily housed in Houston, TX. She is also a member of the department's Board of Visitors and president (in exile) of the New Orleans chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association. In addition, Maitri is an avid photojournalist who maintains a blog, which currently focuses on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Read the Katrina Diary at VatulBlog <vatul.net/blog>



Maitri's photos, taken in October, borrowed from her website: Top, ruined and discarded refrigerators; second, Lakeview Marina, northwest New Orleans; third and fourth, a friend's home in Lakeview flooded to the roof, and flood marks on Tulane Ave. (Editor's arrows).

Michael Parsen, BS Geology/GLE 2003

I completed a master's degree in hydrogeology and water resources management at the University of Neuchatelois Center of Hydrogeology, Switzerland. I began working with URS-France based out of Lyon in Aug. 2005, employed as an environmental engineer with a specialization hydrogeology.

Kyle Roberts, MS 2003

kyle.a.roberts@us.army.mil

Kyle is currently on active duty in the US Army with the 101st Airborne, 3 BCT in Baiji, Iraq. He enlisted in the Army as a Specialist in March 2004, and went through Basic Training at Ft. Benning, GA, then completed advanced infantry training. He was stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY until his unit deployed to Baiji, Iraq on Oct 6, 2005.

Kuwanna Dyer, MS 2005

kuwanna.dyer@bp.com

I graduated from the department with my MS in (sedimentary) geology in August 2005. Alan Carroll was my advisor. I stuck around for a couple of months to interview with recruiters, complete a side project, and work on a manuscript. In October I moved to Houston,

and after a couple of site visits accepted a job with BP. I am currently in my first rotation on a production assignment, looking at coals and CBM (coalbed methane) potential in the San Juan Basin South (New Mexico portion). My job is to look at OSO (outside-operated, yes we're acronym junkies here) wells and decide which can be recompleted based on their potential to yield more methane from specific formations. I love my job and I really like my team and the work that I'll be doing. I have some background in coal geology from my internship with Encana in 2004, but a production assignment is what I had requested so that I could begin to build my post-graduate knowledge base. In my second rotation I'd like to move on to DW (deepwater) exploration or production, and my third will be DW production or exploration. In April, I'll be riding in the BP MS 150, a 180-mile bike ride from Houston to Austin. I started training just before the holidays and I am now on the go 7 days a week, either running or biking, as well as lifting weights and taking yoga so I don't stiffen up too much. It's a lot of fun, and all for a great cause. Finally, after two years apart, Jeff (Pietras, MS 1998, PhD 2003) and I are finally together in the same town and under the same roof, and we are planning to buy a house later this year.



Arrivederci Milan's. A favorite lunch spot for Weeks Hall residents for the past thirty-four years was demolished in December to make room for a six-story 25-unit apartment building (occupancy set for mid-August 2006). Weeks Hall folks currently, and temporarily, have a clear view of the new chemistry building on West Johnson Street (top photo).

Milan's Sub Shop was originally a small neighborhood grocery store. As the "Badger Superette," it can be seen in the background of Lou Maher's 1977 photo (bottom) of the installation of the fountain rocks during the landscaping of our courtyard.



Many of Lou Maher's campus photos taken from the air between 1969 and 2005 can be seen on the web at <http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~maher/deptpix/UWpix>.