

THE BOARD OF VISITORS

Greetings from your Department of Geology and Geophysics Board of Visitors! I am very honored to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Board of Visitors and thank Jim Davis for his exceptional leadership this past year. This past year has been both a challenging and exciting year for the UW and the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Most importantly, construction of the **West Wing Addition** and remodeling of Weeks Hall were completed in 2005 thanks to the generous contributions of alumni and friends to the Department's **Building for the New Millennium Campaign**. The outstanding new facilities now house state-of-the-art laboratories for geomicrobiology and nanogeoscience research. The next campaign initiative within Building for the New Millennium is to raise additional funds for enhancement and expansion of the Geology Museum. The Museum is one of the UW's most popular outreach facilities and, with your support, will be a major community attraction for generations to come. Anne Lucke of the UW Foundation is assisting us with all of our Geology & Geophysics initiatives, and would be happy to provide you with any additional information you may desire. Anne can be reached at (608) 262-6242 or Anne.Lucke@uwfoundation.wisc.edu. To learn more about these and other related activities, please contact Ken Ciriacks, Chair of the Board's Development Committee at kwcir@msn.com.

The Alumni Reunion and West Wing Building Dedication on May 6-7 were a great success and enjoyed by



Tom Johnson speaks at the technical session.

all. For more on this, see pages 6 and 7.

To expand the Board of Visitors' **Student Mentoring** initiative, the Board hosted a Mentor Panel Discussion at the Department on September 30, 2005. This event gave the opportunity for more than 50 students to discuss career options with alumni and other professionals representing industry, government and consulting. The highly successful program was coordinated by Mentoring Committee Chair, Carol McCartney. The Department's individual **Student Mentor Program** also has continued to expand. Volunteer "Mentors" are available to serve as advisors to the department's graduate and undergraduate student population, and welcome contact from students seeking career advice. The portal to establish mentor contacts is located on the department's website at www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/mentor.html. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile program, please contact Carol at mccartneypg@charter.net.

With the new Department Chair, Jean Bahr, the Board of Visitors also is committed to expanding our **Diversity Initiative**. This is an especially important effort for both the UW and the Department. With the help of the BOV and generous support from industry, the Department is continuing its highly successful minority research assistance program in 2006. Jean Bahr also is pursuing exciting teaming opportunities with universities and community colleges throughout the US and with UW state-wide diversity programs. For more information about this exciting initiative, please visit the website at www.geology.wisc.edu/misc/diversity.html. Former Board Chair, Jay Nania (nanaijc@bp.com) leads the Board's Diversity Committee and would like to hear from any of you interested in learning more about this exceptional program.

The past year was a filled with many accomplishments by Board of Visitors and the Department. However, we were also saddened this year by the untimely deaths of Board member Robert Sneider and his wife Ramona, both of whom contributed greatly to the Department and the University.

The Board of Visitors of the Department of Geology and Geophysics is the oldest such Board in the College of Letters and Sciences and is recognized for its history of accomplishments, enthusiasm, organization and initiatives. This is due to the leadership and participation of all those who have contributed to the Board. Vice Chair, William Morgan, and I are both looking forward to exciting and

challenging times as the Department seeks to continue its excellence in facilities, faculty, staff and students. In order to facilitate those efforts, we are seeking alumni and other interested persons who are interested in serving on the Board or its committees to help in achieving this mission. If you are interested in serving on the Board or on any committee, please contact me. Please also contact me with any topics, issues or suggestions that you would like the Board to address at our meetings in May or October.

If you attended the Building Dedication and Alumni Reunion Event, you undoubtedly experienced the excitement of reconnecting with old friends, the Department and the UW. Many of you have also generously contributed to the West Wing Addition, volunteered for the Mentor Program, or participated in other Department activities. In doing so, all of you have played a critical role in supporting this outstanding institution. For those of you who have not yet reconnected with the Department, I encourage you to do so now. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.



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The Board of Visitors is recognized at the building dedication ceremony.