Professional Honors

• In June of 1999, Professor Jillian Banfield was one of two UW scientists named a MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Each year, 32 people from around the world are awarded one of these prestigious "genius" grants. Each fellowship provides money over a five-year period for unrestricted use. Currently there are only four faculty at UW-Madison who have ever received a MacArthur Fellowship.

  She also received the D.A. Brown Medal from the Australian National University.

  Banfield has been teaching and doing research in geology and geophysics at UW-Madison since 1990. She is an internationally known mineralogist and is pioneering a new field of science known as geomicrobiology, the study of the role that microorganisms play at the boundary of the Earth and its biosphere.

• Professor Mary Anderson was elected a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union for "exceptionally skillful inclusion of geological information into mathematical models to advance the state-of-the-art of hydrogeology and for numerous contributions as an educator, pioneer, role model, mentor, and leader of the profession." The number of new AGU fellows each year is limited to 0.1% of the membership. She was also elected to serve a three year term on the Council of the Geological Society of America and was appointed to a "blue-ribbon" committee sponsored by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to explore opportunities in the Hydrological Sciences.

• Professor Jean Bahr has been appointed to the prestigious Committee on Restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem sponsored by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The 16-member committee will serve as an advisory panel to review and advise on scientific matters related to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. She was also appointed to a Water Cycle Study Group to advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program on development of a Global Water Cycle Program.

• Professor Chuck DeMets was selected as a Vilas Associate Award for 2000-2002. Chuck was awarded funds to initiate a study of earthquake hazard and plate motion in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Professor John Valley received a Vilas Associate Award for 1999-2001 and Professor Phil Brown received a Vilas Associate Award for 1998-2000. These prestigious awards are made on a competitive basis by the Graduate School and include summer salary and money for research support.

• Professor Basil Tikoff was awarded a prestigious David and Lucile Packard Fellowship. These five-year fellowships support basic research in the sciences, and only twenty-four are awarded nationally each year. Tikoff’s research is focussed on understanding the nature of diffuse deformation within the continental plates, and the role that various layers within the tectonic plates play in distributing the deformation. The grant will fund research on exhumed lower crustal and mantle rocks. Tikoff acknowledges and appreciates the support of the department, which nominated him for this award.

• Professor Alan Carroll was featured in a Madison Capital Times article in November relating his visit to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He is one of 120 candidates being interviewed by the space program for membership in the astronaut corps. He has applied for a position as mission specialist and would carry out experiments on board the shuttle and help assemble the international space station, if selected.

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• Klaus Westphal has won a 1999 Tapestry Award for Excellence in Science Education from the National Science Teachers Association and Toyota Motor Sales.