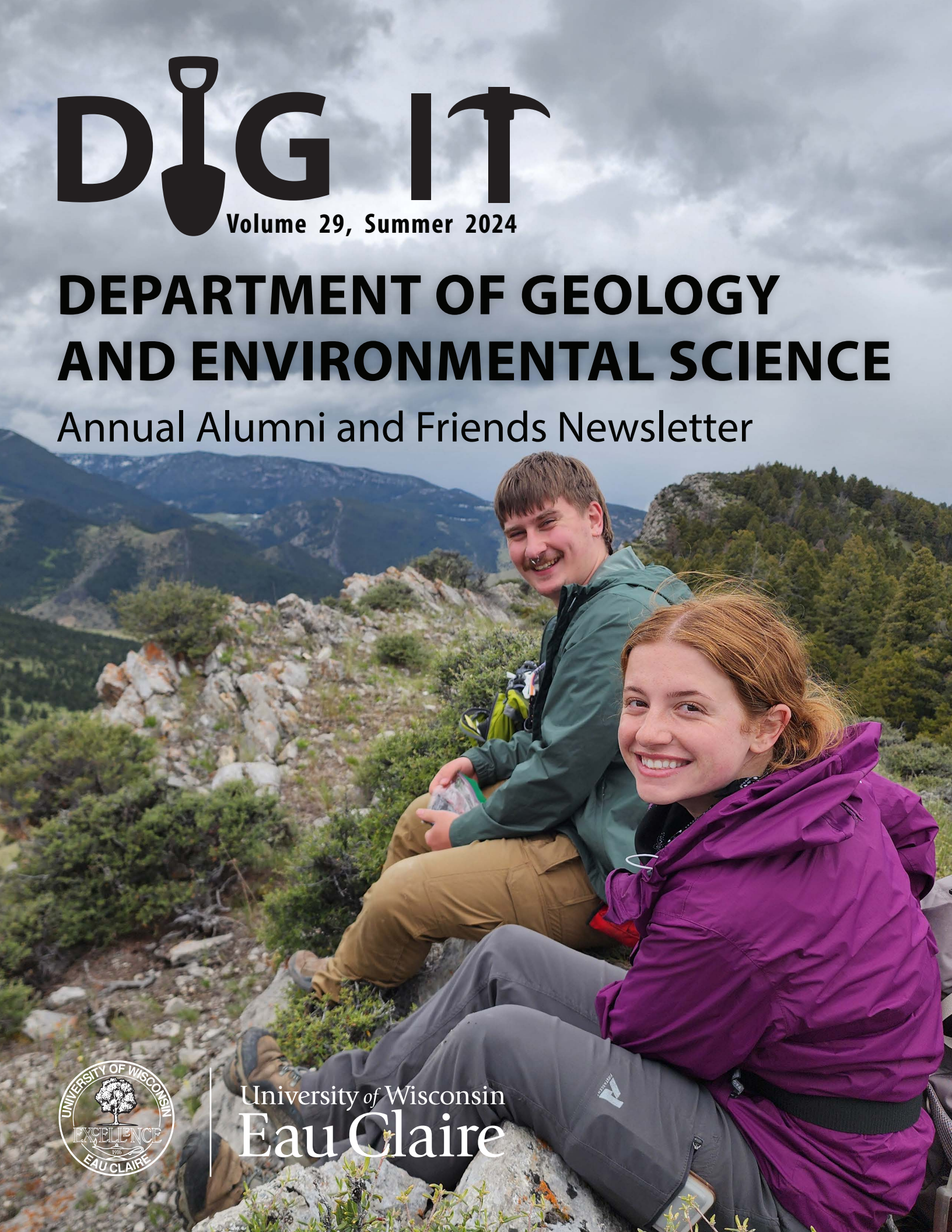


DIG IT

Volume 29, Summer 2024

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Annual Alumni and Friends Newsletter



University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

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Editors: Lorilie Steinke and Kent M. Syverson
 Phone: 715.836.3732 | Fax: 715.836.5627

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Cover image: Field Camp II students in Montana, May 2024.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR 2024



Greetings Everyone!

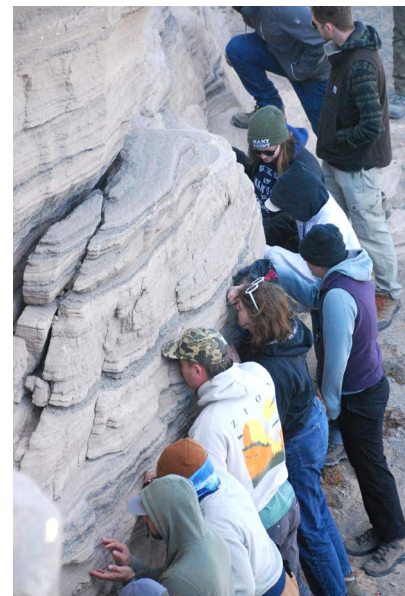
I hope your year has been filled with personal joy and professional success. Reflecting on this past year, it is easy to see that we have amazing students, remarkable alumni, and a dedicated team in the department. For starters, twenty-five of our students were hired for internships this summer! During the 2013-14 academic year, our department was awarded a two-year, \$451,000 UW System Economic Development Incentive Grant for a Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI). Since 2014, our students have worked in 193 paid internships and earned ~\$1.5 million (see separate article)! It has been a wonderful thing for our students.

Reflecting on research and scholarships, this year's student-faculty research projects led to presentations at the on-campus Celebration of Excellence in Research and Creative Activities event, the Provost's Honors Symposium, and at the ILSG (Institute on Lake Superior Geology) meeting in Houghton, MI. Two of our students received highly competitive College of Arts and Sciences STEM scholarships and another student won a coveted College of Education and Human Sciences scholarship (see separate article). We also announced \$34,000 in scholarships and Adopt a Field Camper grants at the spring banquet (see separate articles). Our departmental scholarships and grants are only possible through the generous donations of alumni,

friends of the department, and emeriti faculty. This year, we received donations from 100 unique donors, and most of these donors are alumni. Since the first Geology degree was awarded to Sandra Chamberlain in 1968, 723 students have earned Geology degrees from UWEC. This means ~14% of our alumni contributed to the program in just this past year, alone. When I recently discussed these numbers with UWEC Foundation staff, their eyes opened wide. They, like we, are amazed at the strong support the department receives from our alumni. We cannot thank you enough as we continue to work to build on our program's past achievements and remain a leader in preparing students for the workforce and graduate school.

In May, our Advisory Board met for the 9th consecutive year. We appreciate the valuable insights and feedback received from our board members. Their contributions have informed our long-term staffing plans, guided the substantial changes we made to our Environmental Science emphasis a few years back, encouraged adding 'Environmental Science' to the department's name, and informed our fund-raising initiatives.

The strength of our department can be seen as we have the largest number of undergraduate geology majors of any university in the State of Wisconsin. While we have been doing well, the character of our department is changing. Bob Hooper retired at the end of the spring semester after 41 years. He started here the same year as the final season of the television show *M*A*S*H*, and the year the Mario Brothers video game was released! Bob was the department chair for seventeen years, led countless field trips, taught most MinPet students, was an instructor at Field Camp I for 14 years, conducted student collaborative research projects during his entire 41 years, and he did MUCH service (see separate article). We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. With Bob's retirement coming after Lori's retirement in 2022 and Brian's last spring, we have lost 95 years – almost a century – of institutional knowledge over a three-year



Is this a public urination event?!
 (See Hooper's MinPet/SedStrat story.)

span. However, we conducted a successful tenure-track search for a new Sedimentology/Tectonics Assistant Professor last fall. We hired Dr. Tadesse Alemu from a strong pool of candidates, and we look forward to his arrival over the summer! Wisconsin universities are facing strong financial headwinds, and many faculty slots are not being filled after retirements. Our request to conduct a search for an Environmental Geochemist in fall 2024 was one of only seven approved out of twenty-six requests in the College of Arts and Sciences. This new hire will be an important part of the environmental side of our program, and we appreciate university administrators investing in our department.

Lastly, groundbreaking for the new science and health sciences building occurred on June 13th – yes, it is finally happening! The plan is to start holding classes in the building during the 2026-27 academic year. In the meantime, please stop by to visit us whenever you are back in Eau Claire.

Scott Clark
 Professor and Chair



Rob Lodge (2nd from right) breaking ground for the new UWEC science building (expected completion date fall 2026 or fall 2027).

GEOL 312/320 FIELD TRIPS

By Robert Hooper

We continue to offer students excellent field experience in upper-division courses. Bob Hooper taught both MinPet I and Sed/Strat during the 2023/24 academic year and took long field trips in both classes. The MinPet I crew (33 students, two undergraduate TAs, and Bob) went to the Mid-Continent Rift (MCR) the first weekend in October and two weeks later spent five days in the Black Hills. Students studied the complete stratigraphy of the MCR in northern WI and the UP Michigan. Water levels this year were extremely low after the hot, dry summer, so students had a great day in the Potato River Falls gorge where the complete section of vertically dipping rock units are exposed lithology-controlled waterfalls. MinPet field trips have always flirted with the first fall weather of the season and fall 2023 was no exception. The UP trip started with warm weather and students swimming at the Beaver Lake Campground (Chequamegon National Forest). We hit peak color in the northwoods and then the weather cooled and changed to mid-autumn--good training for the Black Hills field trip two weeks later...

The Black Hills field trip was originally scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday, but the weather forecast in the Black Hills for Tuesday through Thursday of that week was a Winter Storm Warning with up to three feet of snow and 60 mph winds! The prediction for the low country on the northern part of the Hills was primarily for rain. We postponed leaving for the Black Hills until early Thursday morning and stayed in the northern Black Hills at Bear Butte State Park (near Sturgis). Bear Butte is a primitive campground but also has a nice pavilion for cooking/eating out of the weather. Arriving at Bear Butte about 5pm, the crew set up tents in 34F temperatures after the rain ended. We ate at Domino's Pizza that night where it was warm and dry. The southern Black Hills high country was hammered by snow, but the northern Black Hills mostly received rain. Friday was mostly clear with a temperature around freezing, but after a warm breakfast, we packed up camp and departed for the field. We studied rocks in the low country -- Bear Lodge mountains around Warren Peak, Devils Tower, and metamorphic rocks between Hill City and Custer. By 2pm Friday, the weather was ~50F and sunny. We camped Friday and Saturday nights at Hannah Campground in Spearfish Canyon. This is one of the prettiest, and coldest, campgrounds in the Black Hills because frigid air drains into the bottom of the canyon on clear,



MinPet I students at Lake of the Clouds, UP Michigan, 10/1/23.

calm nights. The evenings were brilliantly clear and cold -- stars were amazing at night, but a few students were not prepared for the cold mornings in the low 20's. Considering the snowstorm, the field trip was a great success; students saw lots of different rocks and learned more about surviving in the field.

The same 33 students progressed into Sed/Strat for Spring 2024, and we had an amazing field season. Students started field work on March 1 with a Friday field trip to Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls to explore the Great Unconformity. March and early April were great for field work, so Bob scheduled a long field trip to South Dakota in late April. No snow was on the ground in western South Dakota until the weekend of the scheduled field trip -- and then it snowed! The plan was changed quickly for a field trip along the Mississippi River between Hudson and La Crosse. We camped at Perrot State Park just north of La Crosse and students saw the complete stratigraphy of SW Wisconsin and SE Minnesota.

Near River Falls, WI, an excellent exposure of the St. Peter Fm. (quartz arenite) and Glenwood Fm. (shale) is cut by a fault. The outcrop is several hundred meters long and cut back a good distance from the highway. The vehicles were all parked ~10m from the road, so we were not impeding highway traffic. Thirty people looking at the outcrop must have been a spectacle for passing motorists. After spending 45 minutes at the outcrop, a River Falls city police car drove up and the police officer approached. Bob introduced himself to the officer and asked if there was a problem. The officer said he had been asked to check out "a large group of people who were urinating on the side of the road." Apparently, a passing motorist saw thirty people spread out along, and facing, the large outcrop and

assumed it was a public urination event! Bob assured the officer they were really looking at rocks and no nefarious activity was happening. Somewhere in the officer's log is a police report stating the thirty people reported for public urination turned out to be a UWEC geology group just looking at rocks along the highway!

Students learned a great deal about WI/MN stratigraphy on the field trip. They found an outcrop in a quarry with Cambrian jellyfish imprints and numerous examples of 3D stromatolites. The weather was good, and students enjoyed the campsite with an endless supply of dry firewood for campfires (always a high point of field trips). Because of the short travel times, they probably saw a greater diversity of rocks in three days than if they had travelled to South Dakota. This student cohort seems well prepared for field camp next January, and they know geology field work requires flexibility, the ability to read and react to changing weather conditions, and using time well in the field.

Overnight geology field trips are a strength of our program and a much-loved part of the UWEC undergraduate experience. Overnight field trips help build cohorts with great camaraderie. These field trips also generate some of the fondest memories of the undergraduate experience. Let's hope the department can continue to offer these types of field experiences for a long time.

"Police were called to a presumed public urination event in River Falls"

FIELD CAMP I UPDATE – NEW MEXICO

By Scott Clark

This year's Field Geology I instructional team consisted of Bob Hooper, myself, and our able teaching aides, Justin Wuske and Michaela Schnell. Our fourteen students experienced some of New Mexico's cooler and windy conditions, including an especially strong, dusty wind at the start of the second day of the Rattlesnake Canyon mapping exercise. They were rewarded in the end with perfect weather throughout the last mapping project at Trujillo Canyon. The students also experienced some important non-geological aspects of field camp. We enjoyed an amazing bluegrass & county music house concert at the lodge by Wil Maring and Robert Bowlin. Robert is an accomplished musician who has played with Bill Monroe, Kathy Mattea, Tom T. Hall, and Ray Price, just to name a few.

As has been the case since 2017, the students appreciated Bob's dinners including alfredo chicken and shrimp to Hatch green chili cheeseburgers and Yucatan citrus pulled pork tacos. No one went hungry.

One of my favorite parts of leading field camp is seeing students grow in their geologic skills project by project, and this year's group did just that.



The Field Camp I students in New Mexico, January 2024.

FIELD CAMP II UPDATE-MONTANA

By Robert Lodge

Field Camp II in beautiful southwestern Montana continues to throw weather curveballs at us. This year we had 7" of snow fall on us before warming up to 70 degrees within 12 hours. We had a small group of students this year (only eight), so I was the only instructor. However, my teaching assistant, Haley Johannesen, was excellent and helped maintain a cheerful and engaged learning environment. Students toughed out some chilly, hot, then chilly weather to complete their capstone experience. We once again visited Yellowstone National Park where students saw spectacular volcanic deposits, geothermal features, and hydrothermally altered rocks. During our regular mapping exercises, students did an excellent job recognizing the complex structural geology of our field areas. We also took another

amazing tour of the Continental Cu-Mo mine in Butte.

Scott and Jody continue to renovate and improve the Iron Wheel to the point where it feels like we are staying in a luxury B&B. Big addition this year: a new kitchen. It is a privilege to call the Iron Wheel Guest Ranch our base for field camp. Students have a clean, comfortable, and welcoming space to work on their assignments. Resident therapy dog, Jax, was sure to announce his arrival with a wagging tale. Jody continues to prepare our final meal consisting of smoked ribeye roast that is becoming legendary amongst students. Students are passing down stories between cohorts about this meal! Overall, a great time was had by all, and I look forward to bringing a new group to Montana next year.



Field Camp II students mapping in Montana, June 2024.



"Our final meal consisting of smoked ribeye roast is becoming legendary."

Field Camp II students in Montana, June 2024.

RESPONSIBLE MINING INITIATIVE UPDATE

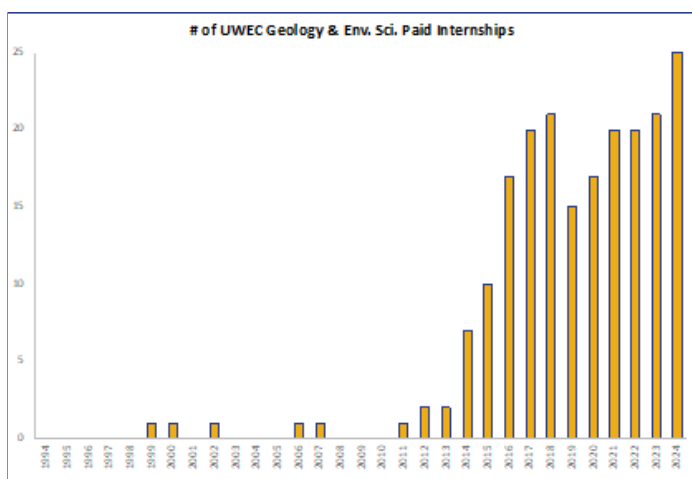
By Scott Clark

I'd like to provide a brief history on the department's efforts at bringing our students together with companies and agencies who hire summer interns. During the 2013-14 academic year, our department was awarded a two-year, \$451,000 UW System Economic Development Incentive Grant for a Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI). This RMI grant provided funds for setting up an economic geology lab, scholarships, leading workshops for high school science teachers, and connecting with industry partners to provide internship opportunities for our students.

We accomplished our goals, and as far as the internship program has fared (see chart), the

impact of the RMI grant cannot be overstated. Between 1968 and 2013, our students had been hired for ~10 internships, in total. Since 2014, our students have worked in 193 paid internships! Kent Syverson has tracked the approximate salaries our students have earned in these internships, and it is an amazing figure. With an approximate average summer salary of just under \$8,000, our students have earned over \$1.5 million in those 193 internships (and 25 internships in 2024—a new record)! We also award \$34,000 in scholarships and grants to students each year (up from \$2500 in 2013). Without a doubt, the state's initial investment in our program has benefited our students well beyond expectations thanks to our Advisory Board (see separate article) and all other partners with the Responsible Mining Initiative!

The Responsible Mining Initiative is providing amazing opportunities for our students and preparing highly qualified graduates for work in the mining industry, the environmental consulting industry, and in regulatory agencies such as the DNR. Scholarships and grants reduce student debt. Internships provide a valuable window to the working world. When internships and scholarships/grants are added to field experiences and our strong collaborative research program, the department is offering an undergraduate education unavailable at other universities. This is preparing our STEM graduates for the work force and graduate school. If your company might want to partner with the RMI through an internship, donation, or speaker, please contact Kent Syverson.



UWEC Geology & Environmental Science internships 1994-present.



Sara Scott, 2024 environmental intern with U.S. Silica in Ottawa, IL. Photo courtesy of U.S. Silica.

TWO STUDENTS ATTEND FRAC SAND CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO, TX

By Kent Syverson

Kent Syverson and two UWEC Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI) students attended the 12th Annual Frac Sand Supply & Logistics Conference in San Antonio, TX, Nov. 14-16, 2023. Students Claire Schoenemann (Lodi) and Alaina Steinmetz (Chippewa Falls), both 2023 interns at AMI Silica in Hixton, helped the meeting organizer, Mr. Nick Cook, with meeting setup and logistics in return for free meeting registration. The students' air transportation and lodging at the conference venue, the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, was funded by generous donors to the Internship Advancement-Geology fund (#2780), including several recent alumni who attended this conference with me in the past. Thanks to Nick Cook, Pete Cook, the Petroleum Connection, and Blugold alumni for sponsoring the RMI students!



Alaina Steinmetz (L) and Claire Schoenemann (R)

9TH ANNUAL GEOLOGY/RMI ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD

By Kent Syverson

The 9th Annual UWEC Geology and Environmental Science/Responsible Mining Initiative Advisory Board meeting was held on May 14, 2024. We met face-to-face and four members Zoomed into the 4.5-hr meeting. Eleven outside stakeholders (including eight alumni) joined us from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Colorado, and Idaho. The major discussion revolved around long-range planning for staffing and discussing attributes of the successful candidate to fill Bob Hooper's position. As always, the Advisory Board provided extremely valuable input.

We thank the professionals who attended the Advisory Board meeting. Participating in the meeting required valuable time from our stakeholders, so we are grateful for their investment in our program. Participants included Audrey Boerner (Eau Claire City-County Health, '11), Mark Ciardelli (Foth, '04), Bryan Hardel (Big Rock Exploration, '09), Breck Johnson (Oxy, '04),

Dale Kerner (Perpetua Resources, '96), Todd Lindblad (US Silica, '13), Maureen Moore (Maptek), Tina Pint (Barr Engineering, '99), Bob Servais (Milestone Materials, '04), Sue Swanson (State Geologist, WGNHS), and Roberta Walls (WDNR).



BOB HOOPER RETIRES AFTER 41 YEARS

By Kent Syverson

Dr. Robert Hooper retired in May 2024 after 41 years at UWEC! Wow! Bob Hooper has had a long and storied career in our department.

Bob is a native of Michigan. He graduated from Michigan State University with an undergraduate degree in geology, and then received his master's degree and Ph.D. in analytical and environmental geochemistry from Washington State Univ. He immediately accepted a job at UWEC and arrived on campus in the fall of 1983.

Bob has always made students' educational experiences his highest priority. Bob has taught many courses in our department, but he has taught Physical Geology, MinPet I, MinPet II, Geochemistry, Rocky Mountain Field Studies, and Field Camp I most frequently. He has had a passion to bring students into the field to see real rocks in introductory laboratory classes and upper-division, majors-only classes. His UP Michigan and Black Hills field trips in MinPet I are legendary, and many students enjoyed the Rocky Mountain Field Studies trips to the Badlands, Black Hills, Yellowstone, and Tetons. His efforts have improved the field camp experience for students in New Mexico.

Collaborative research has also been Bob's passion. Bob has conducted research with students on rocks near Eau Claire and in western British Columbia, metal pollution in Idaho, clay mineralogy of glacial tills in Wisconsin, and other projects too numerous



Bob Hooper in his element – with MinPet I students in the field, 2023.

to mention. His research students benefited greatly from Bob's mentoring, and many of his students have gone on to success in the geology profession.

Bob Hooper has been committed to leadership and service at UWEC. He was chair of the Geology Dept. from 1990 to 2010 [editor's note – how crazy is that?!] During that time, he hired many tenure-track faculty members, obtained new analytical instruments with NSF funding, and built the department into a leader in undergraduate collaborative research. He also served on University Senate for many years, chaired a chancellor search and screen committee

in 2005, and worked with accreditation committees on campus. Some people just join committees, but Bob Hooper worked on committees to strengthen this university. He also mined university data to track the number of administrators on campus and brought this to administrators' attention – frequently! We need more people like this in the university. Bob received the 2006 UW-Eau Claire Excellence in Service Award in recognition of his contributions.

We will miss Bob in the department, but he promises to remain engaged with the department and university. We all wish him the best in retirement! Happy Sailing!

ALUMNI AND CONTINUING STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

Alumni and current students continue to be recognized for their achievements. This is evidence of the quality of our students, alumni, and program. We are aware of the following awards/achievements—congratulations to all!

- Dr. Tim Masterlark '91 was named Distinguished Professor at South Dakota School of Mines.
- Dr. Jean Morrison '00 was awarded the 2023 Meritorious Service Award from the Geology and Health Division of the Geological Society of America. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the mission of the Geology and Health Scientific Division. Jean is a Research Geologist with the US Geological Survey in Denver, CO.

- Lyndsie Vickers x'26 won the Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award at the Institute of Lake Superior Geology Annual Meeting in May 2024 (supervisor Robert Lodge).
- Alex Lawrence '24 (Stewartville, MN) received runner-up Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award at the Institute of Lake Superior Geology Annual Meeting in May 2024 (supervisor Robert Lodge).
- Geology major Lyndsie Vickers (Alva, OK) x'26 was awarded two prestigious university-wide scholarships from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2024-25. She received the Michael F. Fredrich Scholarship (\$3000) and the Leoba Hogan Scholarship for Scientific Research (\$1,350).

- Geology major Jake Cipar (Medford) x'25 was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences' Michael F. Fredrich Scholarship (\$3000) for 2024-25.
- Earth and Space Science teaching major Sam Yost (Buffalo, MN) received the Cora and Louis Slock Scholarship (\$2000) in the College of Education and Human Sciences.
- Recent alumna Abby Norstad '24 (Pine Island, MN) has received a NOAA Ocean Mapping Internship. She will board the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer in Hilo, Hawaii, on the 14th of September and her research cruise EX2406 will end October 10th in Honolulu, HA. Abby and two other paid interns (selected from 930 applicants!) will use ArcGIS to process/evaluate SONAR and ROV data.



Lyndsie Vickers



Sam Yost



Jake Cipar

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The "Excellence in Geology" Award recognizes the academic achievements of the outstanding graduating geology major, both in coursework and in faculty/student collaborative research. The winners of the Geology Excellence Award for 2023-2024 are Jayson Oratch and Michaela Schnell, and we wish them the best of luck in the future!

Jayson is a native of Iron Mountain, MI, and graduated Summa Cum Laude in Science Teaching with an emphasis in Earth and Space Science, as well as a Geology minor. After serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician in the Army and as a police officer in Chippewa Falls, he changed careers to become a high school science teacher to inspire the next generation of scientists and enjoy more time with his wife and two sons. He was a recipient of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship. He will be teaching science at Glenwood City (WI) High School and plans to pursue a master's degree in Conservation Biology.

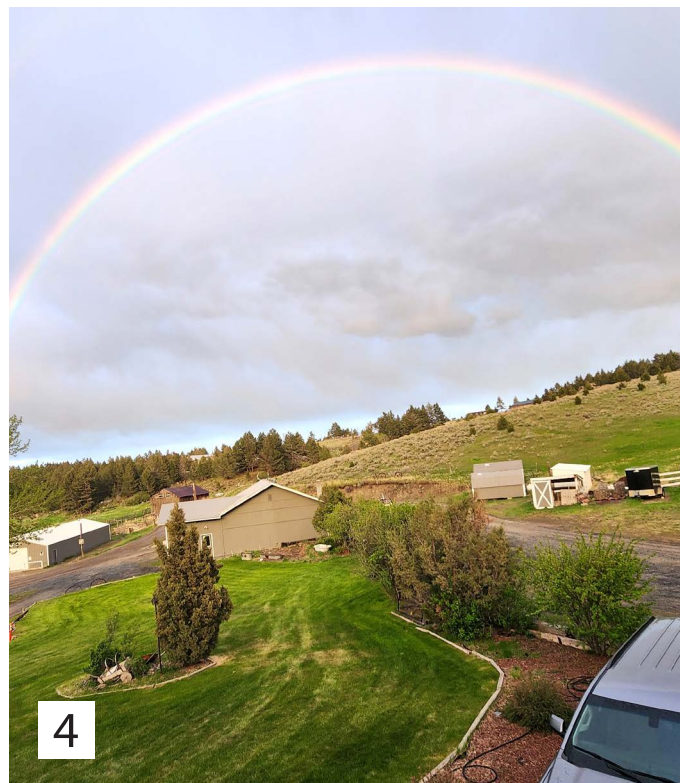
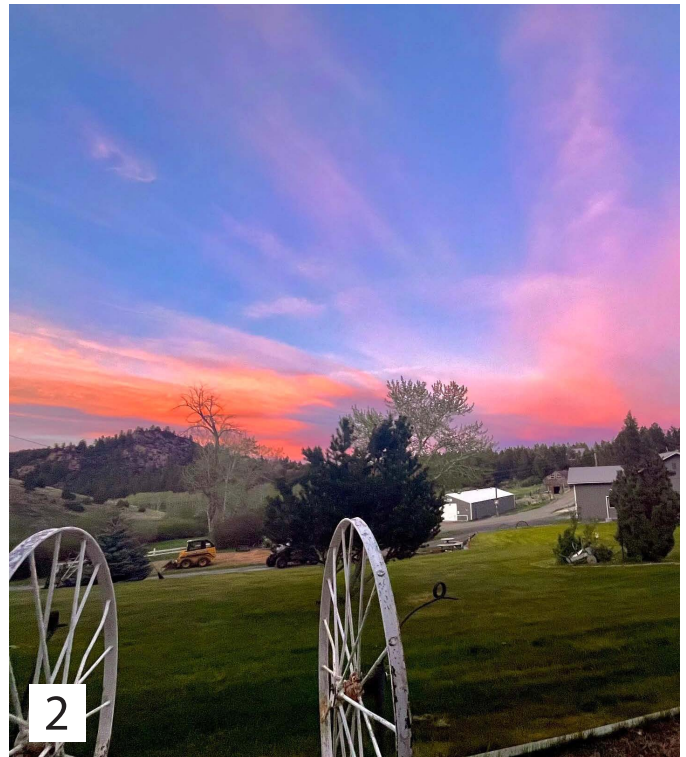
Michaela came to UWEC from Shawano, WI, already interested in majoring in geology. She took an introductory geology course during her first semester and was involved in collaborative research by the end of her freshman year. She co-wrote four research grants and presented five CERCA research projects while at UWEC, including studies on the origin of granite and on the evolution of layered mafic intrusions (LMIs). Michaela also received a minor in

mathematics and studied security algorithms with Dr. Allison Beemer. She presented her work on LMIs and security algorithms at the 2023 NCUR annual conference. She was invited to present her research at the 2024 Provost's Honors Symposium. Michaela graduated Magna Cum Laude with University Honors. She will start geology graduate school at the Univ. of Arizona in August, working under Professor Mark Barton.



Excellence in Geology Award winners, Jayson Oratch and Michaela Schnell

SPANNING THE GLOBE!



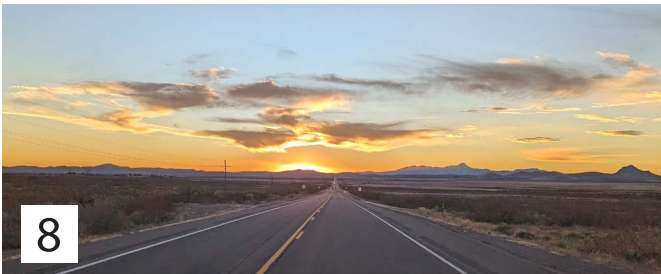
1. Field Camp II tour of the Continental Cu-Mo Mine, Butte, MT.
2. Beautiful sunrise at the Iron Wheel Lodge, Field Camp II, Montana, 6/4/24.
3. MinPet I students at Devil's Tower, WY, Oct. 2023.
4. Rainbow at the Iron Wheel Lodge, Field Camp II, Montana, 6/1/24.
5. Field Camp II students at Yellowstone National Park, May 2024.



6



7



8



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11

6. Daniel Shakked and Rachel Foldy doing field work in Alaska (2023) during their internships with Alaska Earth Sciences.

7. MinPet I boots drying by the fire. What does that mean?

8. Field Camp I sunset, Jan. 2024.

9. Daniel Shakked doing field work in Alaska (2023) during his internship with Alaska Earth Sciences.

10. Mapping the wide-open spaces, Field Camp I, New Mexico, Jan. 2024.

11. Snow at the Iron Wheel Lodge, Field Camp II, Montana, 5/23/24.

SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

2024 FRESHMAN GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Thanks to alumni and friends for funding merit-based, annual scholarships for high-potential incoming freshman who are majoring in Geology. This year six recipients were selected, and each will receive at least \$1000. Kate Krueger (Neenah) received the four-year, renewable \$2000 Your Opportunity Scholarship funded by Curt and Laura Peck. Alicia Merklein (Elkhart Lake) received the Freshman Geology Promise scholarship funded by Curt and Laura Peck. Ella Bartkowiak (Marshfield), Lucas Bunten (Pewaukee), Brady Johnson (Baraboo), and Hannah Orcutt (Union Grove) received the Blugold Freshman Geology Scholarship funded by enthusiastic UWEC Geology and Environmental Science alumni. This is a big class of incoming scholarship recipients, and we look forward to their arrival on campus this fall!

PEARSON WINS BECKSTROM GEOLOGY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP

This year's recipient of the Beckstrom Geology Major Scholarship is Ciara Pearson (Big Lake, MN). This \$1000 scholarship, established in fall 2005 by alumnus Greg Beckstrom ('84), is awarded annually to a comprehensive geology major who has completed MinPet I. The awardee must have an excellent academic record and a demonstrated financial need. Thanks to Greg for his continued support of this scholarship.



Ciara Pearson

TWO JRC APPLIED GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The recipients of \$1000 JRC Applied Geology Scholarships are Daniel Shakked (Eden Prairie, MN, intern with Alaska Earth Sciences) and Sara Scott (Grand Rapids, MN, intern with U.S. Silica in Ottawa, IL). Recipients must demonstrate an interest in applied geology careers.

Josh Carlisle (UWEC Geol '02) established the JRC Applied Geology Scholarship. Josh and several other generous alumni donated this year to allow us to fund two scholarships. Thanks to all donors to this scholarship fund!



Daniel Shakked



Sara Scott

NORSTAD RECEIVES FIRST NORSTAD RECEIVES FIRST GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP II SCHOLARSHIP

This is the first offering of a \$1,000 scholarship generously funded by Nancy Haefer (GEOL minor, '69). The scholarship is awarded to a geology major who will be participating in Field Camp II. Preference is given to a student who is considering grad school and might benefit most from Field Camp II given a student's interests. Abby Norstad (Pine Island, MN) is the first recipient Geology Field Camp II Scholarship. She participated in the National Student Exchange in spring 2024 at the Univ. of New Mexico and will graduate after Field Camp II.



Abby Norstad

TWO SOPHOMORE GEOLOGY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Curt (UWEC Geol '77) and Laura (UWEC '78) Peck donated money to establish the Sophomore Geology Promise Scholarship in spring 2021. Recipients must be geology majors enrolled in MinPet I in the fall and have an outstanding academic record. The recipients of \$1000 Sophomore Geology Promise Scholarships are Avery McKeown-Robbie (Naperville, IL) and Madi Shepard (Alsip, IL). We appreciate Curt and Laura's commitment to our Geology majors!



Avery McKeown-Robbie with donors Curt '77 and Laura '78 Peck



Madi Shepard

BLUGOLD GEOLOGY ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Thanks to the alumni who have funded a merit-based, annual scholarship for Geology majors in our program. This year a \$500 Blugold Geology Alumni Scholarship (senior level) was awarded to sophomore Claire Schoenemann (Lodi). Lucy Christman (Green Bay) received a \$1000 Blugold Geology Alumni Scholarship (sophomore level). These scholarships are funded by generous donations to the Geology and Environmental Science Advancement Fund (#279).



Claire Schoenemann



Lucy Christman

TWO DAVID L. RISCH GEOLOGY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

David Risch '78 of Katy, Texas, endowed a scholarship fund to reward student researchers in the department. Scholarship recipients must be comprehensive geology majors with outstanding academic records, have an established Geology/Env. Science research track record, and plan to continue their engagement in research at UWEC the coming academic year. Recipients of \$1100 Risch Scholarships are Samara Gries (Grafton) and Samantha Mitchell (Woodbury, MN).

David received a BS in Geology and Physics at UWEC and an MS in Oceanography at Texas A&M. He began his 31-year career in the energy industry as an exploration geophysicist initially with Phillips Petroleum Co., then Schlumberger, and retired from BHP Petroleum in 2013. Thanks to David for his generosity in endowing these scholarships!



Samara Gries



Samantha Mitchell

TWO H2O WELL DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Nolan (UWEC Geol '18) and Miranda (UWEC Nursing '19) Rodriguez donated money to establish the H2O Well Drilling & Pump Service Geology Scholarship. Recipients must be non-freshman comprehensive geology majors with outstanding academic records. The recipients of \$500 H2O Scholarships are Kevin Olds Jr. (Eau Claire) and Meg Walker (Lancaster, WI).

Nolan received a BS in Geology's Environmental Science emphasis. He participated in an entrepreneurial capstone experience where he developed a business plan for a well drilling business. He now operates H2O Well Drilling & Pump Service. We thank Nolan and Miranda for their generosity!



Kevin Olds Jr. (center L) and Meg Walker (center R) with donors Nolan and Miranda Rodriguez

MYERS/WILLIS FIELD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Field camp experiences have become increasingly expensive for students. This scholarship, established by the department in 2006, is intended to lessen the financial burden of field camp for excellent students. The scholarship also honors the contributions of Dr. Paul Myers and Dr. Ronald Willis, geology professors at UWEC who worked hard to establish a strong field component in our young geology program.

Aidan Kwiatkowski (Forest Lake, MN) and Alex Lawrence (Stewartville, MN) are recipients of this year's Myers/Willis Geology Field Camp scholarships. Recipients were selected based on performance excellence at Field Camp I in New Mexico. Each student received \$500 to defray expenses for Field Camp II in Montana. They connected with Curt and Laura Peck, who are part of a group of alumni and Paul Myers who fund the scholarship, at the spring banquet.

We encourage all alumni who have benefited from our field experiences over the years to contribute to this fund (#1633). In addition, this is a terrific way to honor Paul and Ron for their dedication to our field program! See page 27 for information about contributing to this important scholarship fund.



Alex Lawrence



Aidan Kwiatkowski

SAGEDAL RECEIVES GEOLOGY OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Geology Opportunity Scholarship, funded by an anonymous friend of the department, is currently one of two four-year renewable scholarships in the program. Ty Sagedal (Burlington) has established a strong academic record, and the \$1000 scholarship is being renewed for a third year. Ty plays varsity baseball for the Blugolds and will be participating in a research project in Argentina this summer.



Ty Sagedal

DR. JOHN R. BERGSTROM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Dr. John Bergstrom was one of the earliest faculty members to help establish the Dept. of Geology independent of the Geography Dept. He was an inspiration to many of our first students, and one of those former students, Sandy Chamberlain '68, has established the Dr. John R. Bergstrom Scholarship in his honor. This year's recipient of the \$500 Bergstrom Scholarship is Lyndsie Vickers (Alva, OK). The scholarship recipient must be a Geology and Environmental Science major with financial need, junior or senior standing, and the guidelines express a preference for female student.

We thank Sandy Chamberlain for donating the funds to establish this scholarship! **We are actively seeking to raise the balance in the account so we can increase the amount of the scholarship.** If you wish to give a donation to honor Dr. Bergstrom or to support the scholarship's mission, a gift can be made to the Dr. John R. Bergstrom Scholarship fund (#2475).



Lyndsie Vickers

2024 GEOLOGY BANQUET

The spring Geology banquet is a fun time to eat a fine meal, present awards, recognize graduating seniors, say goodbye to classmates after another year, and reminisce about field trips gone by! This year 75 students, faculty, and family members assembled on May 11th.



Some people got a little wild!



STUDENT RESEARCH DAY - SPRING 2024

The Thirty-First Annual UW-Eau Claire Student Research Day (now part of CERCA) was held in mid-April 2024. This event showcases faculty/student collaborative research occurring on campus. The Geology Department has been very well represented throughout the years, and this year was no exception. All students noted below presented posters this year. We are proud of our students!

Note: Students who presented posters at professional conferences are also indicated. Student travel to conferences was supported with money from the Geology Advancement Fund and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Delaney Wormet with Sarah Vitale, "Evaluation of deicing salt impacts on water quality in Putnam Park."

Adam Vanderkin with Rob Lodge, "Hydrothermal alteration and mineralization at the Butler Zn-Cu occurrence, Clark County, Wisconsin."

Alex Lawrence with Rob Lodge, "Petrology and geochemistry of the volcanic strata hosting the Butler Zn-Cu Occurrence, Clark County, Wisconsin."

Will Speech, Jake Cipar, Michaela Schnell, Avery McKeown-Robbie with Phil Ihinger, "Geochemical

characterization of the felsic component of the Mineral Lake Intrusive Complex, Part I: Magmatic evolution."

Daniel Shakked with Rob Lodge, "Origin of the Precambrian gneissic banding at Big Falls County Park, Eau Claire, Wisconsin."

Lucas Robarge with Rob Lodge, "Genesis of the Precambrian migmatites at Little Falls, Eau Claire County, WI."

Lyndsie Vickers with Rob Lodge, "Petrology and geochemistry of the Precambrian Eau Claire Volcanic Complex, North Fork Eau Claire State Natural Area, WI."

Will Speech and Mike Bronsdon with Phil Ihinger, "Geochemical characterization of the felsic component of the Mineral Lake Intrusive Complex, Part II: Post-magmatic hydrothermal alteration."

Rachel Klinkner and Claire Schoenemann with Mary Worley and Sarah Vitale, "Groundwater public information crisis."

Kevin Olds with Sarah Vitale, "Analyzing the distribution of seismic velocity structures at an established contaminant plume using compressional and shear wave

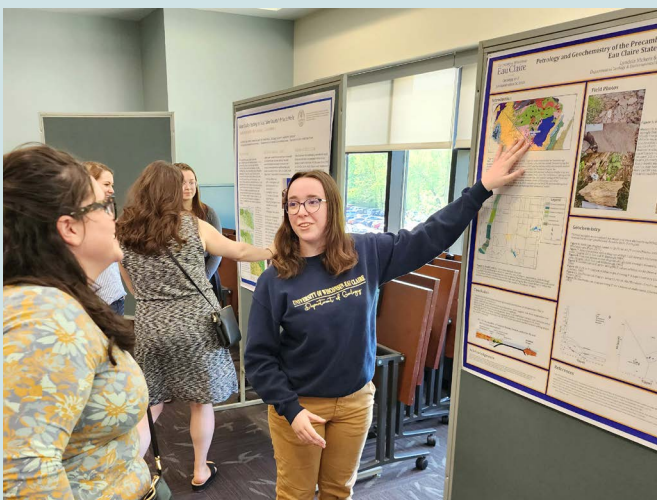
velocity."

Alexis Boehm and Bri Hilton with Laura Suppes and Sarah Vitale, "Water quality testing in Eau Claire County's private wells: an assessment of waterborne contaminants."

Alex Lawrence, Adam Vanderkin and Robert Lodge, "Volcanic and hydrothermal reconstruction of the Paleoproterozoic Butler Zn-Cu occurrence, Clark County Wisconsin." Presented at the 70th Annual Institute on Lake Superior Geology [ILSG] conference, May 15-18, 2024. Alex and Adam won the Runner-up Best Student Poster award.

Lyndsie Vickers and Robert Lodge, "Petrology and geochemistry of felsic magmatism in the Paleoproterozoic Eau Claire Volcanic Complex, north-central Wisconsin." Presented at the 70th Annual ILSG conference, May 15-18, 2024. Lyndsie won the Best Student Poster award.

Dan Shakked, Lucas Robarge and Robert Lodge, "Analysis of deformation-related structures in the Eau Claire Volcanic Complex, Wisconsin." Presented at the 70th Annual ILSG conference, May 15-18, 2024.



Lyndsie Vickers presenting her ILSG-award-winning poster to Advisory Board member Maureen Moore (Maptek), May 2024.



Robert Lodge's research crew and recent Blugold Geology alumni at the ILSG meeting at Houghton, MI, May 2024.

INTERNSHIP CORNER

One goal of the Responsible Mining Initiative is to provide practical work experience for our undergraduate students through paid internships. Our efforts to enhance internship opportunities have been a resounding success. Two students continued their summer 2023 internships part time into the academic year. During the past academic year and this summer, 25 students have had/will have paid internships with metallic and non-metallic mining companies, environmental consulting firms, and governmental agencies and earn ~\$216,800 in wages. This large number of paid internships is highly unusual for an undergraduate geology program.



JACOBS ENGINEERING
Milwaukee, WI
Logan Sances |
Environmental intern



INTERTEK PSI
Chippewa Falls, WI
Samara Gries |
Geotechnical intern



INTERTEK PSI
Chippewa Falls, WI
Bryce Yeo |
Geotechnical intern



INTERTEK PSI
Chippewa Falls, WI
Dayne VanderMause |
Geotechnical intern



INTERTEK PSI
Chippewa Falls, WI
Bri Hilton |
Geology intern



INTERTEK PSI
Chippewa Falls, WI
Parker Moorehead |
Geotechnical intern



GILES ENGINEERING
Waukesha, WI
Cate Blair |
Environmental intern



AMERICAN EXCELSIOR CO
Rice Lake, WI
Hayley Johannesen |
Environmental intern



BIG ROCK EXPLORATION
Western USA
Lucas Robarge |
Mineral Exploration intern





ALASKA EARTH SCIENCES

Alaska

Daniel Shakked |
Mineral Exploration intern



ALASKA EARTH SCIENCES

Alaska

Rachel Foldy |
Mineral Exploration intern



American Engineering Testing (AET)

Chippewa Falls, WI

Matthew Beatrez |
Environmental intern



U.S. SILICA

Ottawa, IL

Sara Scott |
Environmental Mining intern



FOTH ENVIRONMENTAL

De Pere, WI

Claire Schoenemann |
Environmental intern



UW-OSHKOSH

Door County

Katrina Gosse |
Environmental intern



UW-OSHKOSH

Lake Michigan

Ciara Pearson |
Environmental intern



UW-OSHKOSH

Lake Michigan

Samantha Mitchell |
Environmental intern



TALON METALS

Tamarack, MN

Lyndsie Vickers |
Environmental Mining intern



HDR

Omaha, NE

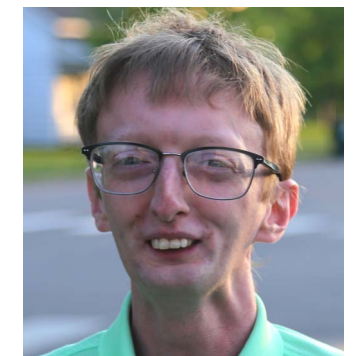
Natalie Engh |
Environmental intern



UW-STOUT

Red Cedar Basin Monitoring Group

Lydia Kistner |
Environmental intern



UW-STOUT

Red Cedar Basin Monitoring Group

Ben Stuckey |
Environmental intern



INTERNSHIP CORNER (continued)

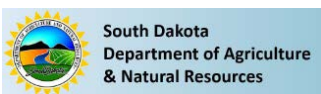


SOUTH DAKOTA GEOL. SURVEY

Vermillion, SD

Renee Jutter |

Hydrogeology intern



SCOUT DISCOVERIES CORP

Idaho

Adam Vanderkin |

Mineral Exploration intern



WISCONSIN DOT

Eau Claire, WI

Jane Risgaard |

Surveying intern



MINNESOTA DNR

Sibley State Park

Brooke Whalen |

Naturalist



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

SCOTT CLARK, Professor

clarksco@uwec.edu

This update marks my fifteenth year here in Eau Claire. As I am typing this update, I have the livestream of the construction site for the new Science and Health Sciences building on my screen. The city and campus have changed so much since I arrived in the summer of 2010, and more changes are on the horizon. After we move into the new building, Phillips will come down, and with the impressive new Sonnentag Sports Complex complete, Zorn will be taken down in 2025. My tasks and responsibilities this year were similar to the previous one as chair: not much time for research and mostly the same teaching load. My regular classes, including field camp in New Mexico, went well. One change was that I taught Introduction to Geochemistry in the spring. As it was the first time I taught it, there were a few rough patches, but I am already making changes to the course in preparation for next spring's

offering. In research, I am excited to begin a new project with the City of Eau Claire. Students and I will be auditing the non-degradable waste in the sludge that reaches the wastewater treatment plant, and we will use our findings as the basis of an educational outreach effort. I can't wait to dive into this project! Be well, everyone!

PHILLIP IHINGER, Professor

ihinger@uwec.edu

I can't believe this year is already over. So many exciting changes are happening in our department; I feel lucky to be a part of all of it! Our dear ole' friend, Phillips Hall, needs to hang together for two more years, and betting odds right now are 50% that she'll make it. I'm looking forward to welcoming Tadesse Alemu onto our team, and we are so fortunate to begin a search for another new colleague in low-temperature geochemistry this fall. Geology and Environmental Science is thriving at UW-Eau Claire.

Meanwhile, I've been quite active on the research front. My undergraduate research team, consisting of Michaela Schnell '24 (see Excellence in Geology award article), Will Speech '24, Mike Bronsdon '23, Jake Cipar, and Avery McKeown-Robbie, made great strides in furthering our understanding of the Mineral Lake Intrusive Suite. We not only discovered a new igneous rock type (with super-high Fe and K, and super-low Ca and Na), but we figured out its relationship to the surrounding intrusive complex. Turns out the magma originated as a volatile-rich emanation from the underlying crystal mush of the convective boundary layer of the mafic magma chamber, and then subsequently intruded into the overlying coeval granite cap. Our research group performed wonderfully as a team, and we will miss the cheer, dedication, and great work of graduates Michaela, Will, and Mike. I've also been following up on my sabbatical project investigating chemical bonding and the importance of ideal crystals for understanding the universe.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS (continued)

UWEC undergraduate students Samantha Mitchell and Talon Zager have contributed to this project with digital visualizations, and I look forward to more progress this fall.

Tricia and I are enjoying our empty nest, although all three girls appear regularly at the house. I guess that adage, 'home is where the heart is' still holds true. Tricia is now graduate director in the Dept. of History and hopes to grow that program. We look forward to a productive and rewarding new year.

ROBERT LODGE, Associate Professor

lodgerw@uwec.edu

I got my 10-year service pin this year, and things around here are changing! The department is going through a period of renewal, and it is hard to imagine myself as one of the more senior faculty in a few years. This year, we are losing Bob Hooper to retirement. Imagine the void left when someone with 41 years of experience leaves your workplace! While it is hard to see our established and experienced faculty leave for retirement, it is also refreshing to be forging a new path forward. It is an intriguing and scary time, but our department will come out of this in a great place and continue to provide students with great experiences. Thanks to Bob for his years of dedicated service to our students, department, and university. Happy retirement!

My research program has shifted to local endeavors this year after running and ILSG field trip through the Eau Claire River region exposed how little we knew about our own area. With a new crop of students, I went full bore on understanding the Precambrian Geology of Eau Claire County. Students Lucas Robarge '24 and Daniel Shakked (x'24) studied the intense deformation and metamorphism of the Big Falls and Little Falls region. Adam Vanderkin '24 and Alex Lawrence '24 studied the geology of a little-known VMS prospect just over the Eau Claire

County border in Clark County. Lyndsie Vickers (x'26) is working on the geology of the North Fork State Natural Area in eastern Eau Claire County. All projects are contributing to our knowledge of the tectonics and metallogeny of the Penokean orogen. We all presented our work at the 70th Annual ILSG meeting, and Lyndsie and Alex won best and runner-up student poster presentation awards. Congrats to Alex, Lucas, and Adam who all graduated this year.

Teaching in my upper- and lower-division courses continues to be a rewarding experience. I taught Earth History this year – my second time around was much more refined and rewarding. We had a great overnight field trip to the Gunflint Trail and examined Archean cratons, iron formations, Mid-Continent Rift intrusions, and tsunami deposits associated with the Sudbury impact. My Structural Geology class (probably my last one for a while since our new hire will teach it) did field trips to both Baraboo and the Lake Vermilion region in northern Minnesota. My second offering of the National Parks class was also more refined and rewarding. My Physical Geology classes were full of great students, and they loved going outside on our local field trips.

On a personal note, the Lodge family has grown again! Baby Keith arrived in March and now we have six kids! Lots of energy and love in our home! All of the kids are growing up so quickly. There are countless memories and events – too many to share here! Cassie and I are feeling pretty good about life.

Publications

Tamosauskas, M, Ma, C, Haugaard, R, Lodge, RWD, Sherlock, R, Hamilton, M, Marsh, JH, 2024, Formation of a late-orogenic conglomeratic sequence in the Neoproterozoic western Wabigoon terrane, Superior craton: *Precambrian Research*, v. 406, 107394.

Lodge, RWD, Zens, ZA, Jacobson, RE, Leybourne, M., 2024, Geology and

litho-geochemistry of the Paleoproterozoic Flambeau Cu-Zn-Au volcanogenic massive sulfide deposit, Wisconsin, USA: *Economic Geology*, v. 119, p. 23-44. *Zach Zens '16 and Regan Jacobson '19 worked on this project as Blugold undergraduate researchers.*

LORLIE STEINKE, Academic Department Associate

steinklm@uwec.edu

Greetings. This year I was given my 35th year service award from UWEC. It doesn't seem possible that so many years have passed since I started my career here. I really enjoy keeping in touch with our alumni through our Facebook page and interacting with our current students. My family expanded this year with the arrival of my third granddaughter Clara Jean in January. I am truly blessed.

KENT SYVERSON, Professor

syverskm@uwec.edu

I hope you are doing well. Bob Hooper has now retired, and with his retirement, I am now the most senior member of the department (yikes!) I taught Geomorphology, Oceanography, and the Responsible Mining Seminar during the academic year and enjoyed my interactions with students.

The year was a good one. Oceanography students flocked to my office hours for quizzing about course content, and I saw many students improve their critical-thinking skills. Several Geology alumni presented in the Responsible Mining Seminar, and it is always fun to reconnect with "my" students! I continue to work part time as a development officer with the UWEC Foundation -- thanks to all alumni who are such generous donors to the Dept. of Geology and Environmental Science. In addition, two students and I attended the Petroleum Connection frac sand conference in San Antonio, TX, in Nov. 2023.

On the research front, the 1:500,000-scale

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS (continued)

surficial geology map for the State of Wisconsin is in press and should be published this summer. Deliverables for the Blue Hills Ice Age Trail project were presented to the Ice Age Trail Alliance at their annual conference in Baraboo in April. At that conference, I gave two oral presentations summarizing the research of Jackson White ('23) and Kenzie Sedlacek. In addition, I have given my Adventures in Glacier Bay talk several times on my "intense" book tour – always a fun time!

Life at home is going well. Lila and I continue to read books out loud to each other, and each evening we ride our bikes for five miles. I ride my recumbent e-bike a lot to get outside. In addition, it appears grandparenthood is on the horizon for my wife and me.

Please visit us on campus!

SARAH VITALE, Associate Professor

vitalesa@uwec.edu

I continue to teach our Hydrogeology course sequence, introductory Environment Geology courses, and our Majors Seminar course.

Ongoing water-related grant-funded projects include the Eau Claire County water quality testing study (a collaboration with Public Health and Environmental Studies and the Eau Claire City-County Health Department), as well as myriad Freshwater Collaborative projects to run freshwater science field programs for high school and university students, provide groundwater workshops for K12 educators, host an Environmental Science Fair at UWEC, and fund undergraduate research opportunities in collaboration with other UW campuses. We're also preparing for our last offering of the NSF-funded high school geology camp this summer. We had record interest for our high school programs this year and expect both programs to fill to capacity.

Next year I will be on a sabbatical with plans to continue work on my grant projects, as well as travel a little and give my garden some much-needed attention!

EMERITI FACULTY NEWS

ROBERT HOOPER, Professor Emeritus

hooperrl@uwec.edu

This has been a busy year in the department. After teaching MinPet I in the fall, I helped with the January field camp in New Mexico. I have now participated in the January NM field camp for the 8th straight year as either the instructor or as the "second". The impact Field Camp I has on the development of the students continues to amaze me. In the spring, I volunteered to teach Sed/Strat for the first time. I enjoyed the challenge of teaching a "new-for-me" course and took an approach to make it a project-based learning experience. Keeping up with developing and grading all the project components kept me super busy. I was also absolutely set on reinstating an extended weekend field trip for Sed/Strat and all the challenges associated with providing a meaningful field experience. While I had planned on examining the stratigraphy of western South Dakota, due to weather, we ended up field tripping to SW Wisconsin and SE Minnesota. It ended up being a great Sed/Strat field trip without all the driving. I was happy with the student response to the project-based teaching, and it was gratifying to watch the students continue to develop. I am sure that most of these Sed/Strat students will be well prepared for their NM field course in January 2025.

When spring break came around, I had been teaching without a break since September so Ginger and I took full advantage of the Spring break to spend some quality time together with a trip to the Pacific Coast of Baja. We stayed in a vacation rental right on the Pacific beach at Todos Santos, BCS, and could sit on the balcony and watch humpback whales. It was relaxing and restorative.

Scott Clark asked me to Chair the search and screen for the Sed/Strat teaching position during fall semester, and it was a pleasure to take the lead in moving the department forward into the next chapter. In Spring semester, I decided,

after considerable hesitation, to take the plunge and retire after teaching at UWEC for 41 years! I still have mixed feelings about retiring but look forward to the next chapter of life. I am leaving the department in capable hands and with the energetic young faculty have every confidence that the department will continue its excellence in preparing the next generation of geologists. Now it is time to work on the sailboat and start catching up on all the home renovation projects that have languished over the past few years.

KAREN HAVHOLM, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research, Emerita

It has been a quiet year for us, mostly spent at home or at our cabin on the Chippewa River near Ladysmith.

Geologically, the most fun event was going to Gubbio, Italy, on a pilgrimage to the site most significant to the development of the K-Paleogene extinction by impact theory. I traveled with a group of non-geologists, so it was fun to explain the significance of the site to them. Afterwards we had lunch at the Osteria del Bottaccione, and I was able to read through "The Green Book" (actually several books) signed by geologists who have visited the site over the years. I recognized both some famous names and names of teachers and colleagues. Coincidentally, a student group from Amherst College was there on a field trip, along with Alessandro Montenari, who was a significant player in the development of the impact extinction scenario. It was a good day for a Geology Geek.

Publication of Feeling Relieved: Creating a Positive Bathroom Field Culture in the Geosciences (Snyder and Reynolds, GSA Today, March-April 2024, pp. 28-30) by daughter Merilie and a colleague, also brought me in touch with some Geo friends and colleagues. Folks were happy to see a serious discussion of these issues. Unfortunately, the publication word limit caused the authors to leave out the anecdotes of field bathroom incidents that made their oral presentation of this topic at GAC-MAC such a hit.

EMERITI STAFF NEWS (continued)

I visited with former student Beth Fisher and her husband and attended her class at Minnesota State University-Mankato this spring. I continue to enjoy the Earth Science Seminar Series most weeks, especially the alumni speakers. The annual banquet at the Legion is also a good opportunity to catch up with folks. Hope to see more of you alumni this next year.

PAUL E. MYERS, Professor Emeritus

paul.myers600@gmail.com

Thanks for the field camp news. It must have been tough to do geologic mapping in snow-covered mtns. Welthy and I keep busy here in Panama and "settle in" a little more each year.

Rainy season has begun here in Boquete, Panama, so the skies are cloudy with evening rainstorms. I will lead the last field trip of the season on Friday - 24 people in six cars to visit a river site in Gualaca where a complex pyroclastic flow went

down a riverbed into the Pacific Ocean. Lots of fossils and river sediments were incorporated into the base of the flow. It has been a busy season here in Boquete, with lots of enthusiastic ex-pat "students" asking me when/where the "next" field trip is going. So, I desperately need more time and assistance scouting new destinations.

Because of convergent subduction of oceanic crust under the thin, young andesitic isthmus, subduction-generated magmas tend to solidify before reaching the surface. It's a unique type of volcanism without lava flows. Explosive! Although it will be a welcome relief to return to Vermont this summer, I'm planning a vigorous Panama field season beginning in October and welcome any UWEC faculty and/or student to come and assist me with explorations and sample collection in Panama.

Welthy and I hope to see you all at next year's UWEC Geology-alumni convocation. Best wishes for the coming year. Paul and

Welthy Myers.

JOHN TINKER, Professor Emeritus

tinkerjr@trivest.net

Hello to all present and former geology students. I miss teaching and interacting with you. Enjoy the coming year, work hard, stay healthy, enjoy the geology of your area, and keep smiling! I send you my best regards. If you are a hard rock geologist, you are a gneiss person. If you are a glacial geologist, you are a little erratic. If you are a hydrogeologist, you go with the slow water flow. If you think I am losing it, oh _____. You fill in the blank with a metamorphic rock.

EARTH SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

The Earth Science Seminar Series continues to bring excellent speakers to campus. It allows faculty and students to interact with other scientists working on a broad range of research topics, and it also permits us to "show off" our department and research equipment to the visitors....! Below are the talks presented during this academic year. Seminars schedules are posted on the Geology website. In addition, if you live in the area and would like to receive e-mail announcements about upcoming seminars, please contact Dr. Scott Clark at clarksco@uwec.edu. If your company wishes to sponsor the seminar series or contribute money to defray speaker costs, please contact us!

"Tambora and Our World." Presented by Dr. Kent Kirkby, Teaching Professor, Dept. of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Minnesota. 9/15/23.

"The Secrets of the Great Synagogue of Vilna." A documentary by Loic Salfati. 9/29/23.

"Are you considering going to graduate school?" Dept. of Geology and Environmental Science and Dept. of Geography and Anthropology faculty.

10/27/23.

"Intermediate Timescales in Fluvial Geomorphology." Presented by Dr. Andy Wickert, Associate Professor, Dept. of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Minnesota. 11/10/23.

"Constraints on erosion and tectonics in the Midcontinent: Insights from fieldwork and thermochronology." Presented by Dr. Tadesse Alemu, Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geology, Colby College. 11/30/23.

"Stacked Miocene Detachment Faults with Cretaceous-Paleogene Ductile Shear Zones: Implications for Structural Inheritance in Large-Magnitude Extension." Presented by Dr. Megan Flansburg, Visiting Assistant Professor, Geoscience Dept., Oberlin College. 12/5/23.

"Sedimentary Systems from Earth to Mars." Presented by Dr. Libby Ives, NASA JPL Postdoctoral Fellow, Pasadena, CA. 12/7/23.

"Native Science and Earth Systems: bringing back indigenous knowledge to geoscience teaching." Presented by Dr. Shannon Dulin, Bartell Field Camp Director, Assistant Professor, Geosciences, Univ. of Oklahoma. 2/9/24.

"The Art of Telling the Story: Effective Science Communication," presented by Kirk Wolfinger, Executive Producer and President, Lone Wolf Media. 3/1/24.

"What Makes a Good Aquitard? Characterizing Aquitard Integrity in a Contaminated Sedimentary Rock Aquifer System." Presented by Dr. Jessica Meyer, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Univ. of Iowa. 3/29/24

"Age, Bedding and Morphology of Paired Dunes in the Nebraska Sand Hills." Presented by Paul Hanson, Professor and Director of Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Unit, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln. 4/12/24.

"Life of an Exploration Geologist-- What Your Professors Didn't Tell You..." Presented by Bryan Hardel '09, Vice President of Operations, Big Rock Exploration, LLC. 4/19/24.

"Smokey the Beaver: How beavers build landscape-scale climate resilience." Presented by Dr. Emily Fairfax, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Society, Univ. of Minnesota. 5/3/24

CONGRATS, GRADS!



Spring 2024 Geology and Environmental Science Dept. graduates, 5/18/24.

RECENT GEOLOGY GRADUATES

*Fall 2023, Spring & Summer 2024 (unofficial list) * denotes Geology minor*

MICHAEL BRONSDON

JACOB MOE*

WILLIAM SPEECH

NICOLE COCHEMS

ABBY MURPHY

ALAINA STEINMETZ

ABBIGALE COFFIN*

ABIGAIL NORSTAD

YUSEN TAN

NICOLE EHRIKE

JAYSON ORATCH

ADAM VANDERKIN

HEIDI GUNDERSON

MARGARET PHILIPPI

JACKSON WHITE

TUCKER HOLLOWAY

CASSIDY REITZ

JUSTIN WUSKE

ANNABELLE KLEVANN

LUCAS ROBARGE

BENJAMIN YOUNG

ALEXANDER LAWRENCE

MICHAELA SCHNELL

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023-24!

Please stay in touch! Make sure we have your email address.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ethan Ahlbrecht '23. Ethan is a Field Geologist with Terracon in North Dakota.

Jackie Anderson '18. Jackie is a Field Geologist at Arcadis in Minneapolis, MN. She spends much time on large-scale drilling programs, from Alaska to Texas, barely keeping her succulents alive between travel.

Kimberly (Ball) Kaiser '96. Kimberly is a Hydrologist with the MN Dept. of Agriculture in St. Paul.

Kaelyn Blotz '18. Kaelyn is a geologist at Arcadis in Milwaukee, WI. She has spent the last five years in the field traveling to sites throughout Wisconsin and the western U.S., primarily drilling and sampling for PFAS. She has recently begun transitioning into an office-based role to gain more technical and project management experience and spend more time at home with her dogs.

Elizabeth Brunner '17. Elizabeth is an Environmental Professional with TTL, Inc. in Valdosta, Georgia.

Taylor (Crist) Pierce '10. Taylor writes, "I am loving Colorado and working in the Solid Waste Program at the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment. I am currently developing a new program to provide state grant funds to local governments to help with the remediation/maintenance costs for closed landfills that operated before robust solid waste regulations were in place.

Dan Dahlman '99. Dan is a Senior Project and International Regulator Affairs Manager at Designs for Health in Lake Elmo, MN.

Christopher Elvrum '92. Christopher is the Assistant Director of the Office of Medical Cannabis with the Minnesota Dept. of Health.

Logan Farb '16. Logan started a new position as a DOT/LUST Hydrogeologist at the WDNR in Eau Claire.

Christopher Fell '04. Christopher is a Group Manager – Geosciences at R&M Consultants, Inc. in Anchorage, AK.

Mark Fiore '22. Mark is a Senior Research Scientist with American Excelsior Company's Erosion Lab in Rice Lake, WI.

Corrie Floyd '11. Corrie is the Operations Supervisor at the MN Dept. of Health in the Well Management Section.

Brian Folta '14. Brian writes, "I'm joining Delve Underground as a Senior Project Geotechnical Engineer in their Milwaukee office! Delve Underground is a leader in heavy civil engineering, serving the transportation, water, wastewater, and energy industries. The company specializes in complex tunnel design."

Michelle Forgette '08. Michelle is a Senior Resource Consultant with RSC in Beaconsfield, Western Australia.

Eli Fredrickson '17. Eli is a Geological Technician in Kinross, AK.

Maria Delgado Gomez '18. Maria writes, "I completed my MS degree at Slippery Rock Univ. of Pennsylvania -- onward and upward! I've started a new position as an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the National Park Service at the Denver Service Center! Sometimes, dreams do come true!"

Sarah Gordee '03. Sarah is a Research Scientist 1 at the MN DNR in Hibbing.

Carolyn Gurske '23. Carolyn started a new position as an Environmental Scientist at the North Dakota Dept. of Environmental Quality in Bismarck.

Melissa (Hackenmueller) Lindenfelser '18. Melissa is a Hydrogeologist with SEH Inc. in Monticello, MN.

Leslie (Haralson) Draper '04. Leslie writes, "I enjoy traveling. We did a family trip to Yellowstone and the Black Hills, and I remembered my geology trips fondly!"

Steven Hoaglund '07. Steve writes, "I accepted an offer to become the new Geology Manager at Northern Oil and Gas (NOG) just outside of Minneapolis. They're a non-op oil and gas company that, until recently, only focused on the Bakken of North Dakota. They have expanded in the last few years and are now in multiple basins with eyes on further growth. They determined they needed in-house expertise to guide their investment decisions (and that's where I come in). I may have just snagged the only oil and gas geology job in the entire state! We're over the moon about moving home and getting permanently settled. We'll be moving to Inver Grove Heights just a few miles from our families. Looking forward to being back in the area!"

Andie Holm '14. Andie writes, "I am a federal regulation writer for the USDA National Organic Program, where I've been working for over three years from the comfort of my home in Eau Claire. I occasionally travel to the office in Washington DC and around the US for industry events."

Retta Isaacson '21. Retta writes, "I am in my third year with Pierce County's Land Conservation Department with the new title of Water Quality Planner. We just launched our groundwater advisory committee, so I have many opportunities to explain aquifers and local geology to the public! With the availability of new LiDAR, most of my summer will be dedicated to creating a field-verified karst feature map so sinkholes can be properly buffered from nutrient applications."

ALUMNI NEWS (continued)

Adam Jacobson '03. Adam is the Global Environmental and Sustainability Programs Manager at Trane Technologies. He reports, "I forge and develop strategic plans to drive continuous adherence to environmental compliance requirements, identify and track performance for year-over-year sustainability improvement projects, and participate in company ESG reporting."

Regan Jacobson '19. Regan completed her MS degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland and started a new position as Project Geologist with Champion Iron. She will be a part of the 2024 summer drilling program at Powderhorn Lake in central Newfoundland.

Craig Koch '82. Craig writes, "I retired from teaching in 2020. We went to Greece in September 2023 and added grandchild number 5 to our family last May. My wife, Marie, retired in December, and we have applied to the National Park Service as volunteer lighthouse hosts/campsite attendants on Sand Island in the Apostles this summer."

Ric Kopp '75. Ric writes, "I retired and returned to Wisconsin after 46 years in the Oil and Gas business as an Exploration Geologist. I could not have asked for a better life. Jacqueline and I are getting reacquainted with Wisconsin, visiting places we haven't seen in a long time. I am revisiting outcrops I saw while at UWEC and new roadcuts and outcrops as well. I'm also relearning the glacial geology of Wisconsin, fishing, and following grandkids' athletics."

Lisa Kraft '99. Lisa writes, "I moved back to Madison, WI, a few years ago. I closed my small business during COVID but stayed in healthcare. I work at Meriter Hospital and am pursuing a master's degree in grief counseling at Edgewood College."

Braedon Laundrie '22. Braedon writes, "Since September 2023, I've been employed as a GIS Technician at Kapur and Associates, an engineering firm in Madison, WI. My primary responsibility involves mapping utility easements for the internal GIS system of Madison Gas and Electric. I've been working with ArcMAP/ArcFM, tapping into the skills learned while making digital maps for Field Camp 1."

Alex Lawrence '24. Alex started a new position as a Geologist for Rangefront Mining Services in Nevada.

Tyler Mace '00. Tyler is a software engineer with Verkada in San Mateo, CA.

Ben Michael '11. Ben completed his MBA at UWEC and started a new position as Vice President of Revenue Operations at Jamf in Eau Claire.

Audrey (Mohr) Boerner '11. Audrey writes, "I am nearing ten years at the Eau Claire City-County Health Dept. as a Public Health Specialist (how is that possible?). I enjoy working on increasing the use of GIS in our water quality and other environmental projects, as well as working with new community data and exploring new ways to share that data publicly. My favorite project is raising our two little boys to appreciate nature and keep asking questions!"

Tim Molitor '13. Tim is a professional geologist at Arcadis in Minneapolis. Tim writes, "I recently moved to rural Wisconsin with my wife and two kids, just outside of Eau Claire! I do geology by day and dairy farming by night."

Claudia Moore '17. Claudia writes, "I have been working in environmental compliance for the past six years. Since 2021, I have been working in the environmental division of a pulp and paper mill in central Wisconsin. I married my college sweetheart in 2023! I enjoy receiving updates from the Geology Dept. The annual Dig It newsletter and the Facebook page make me miss my time in the geology program!"

Becca (Moore) Ryser '13. Becca writes, "Things are going well here. I continue to work for the MN PCA as a hydrogeologist/project manager in the Brownfield Program. The work is fast paced and interesting--every site is different! Outside of work, my husband and I enjoy exploring new places with our two-year old daughter."

Chelsea Moran '21. Chelsea writes, "After submitting my master's thesis and completing my GIS internship at Trailblazers, I started a new position as a Staff Geologist at GTS, Inc. (a/k/a Geotechnical and Testing Services, Inc.), in Fayetteville, AR."

Sean Morrison '15. Sean is a Geographic Information Systems Analyst at the MN PCA.

Brian Nehring '16. Brian is a First Managing Engineer with Pare Corporation Geotechnical Division in Foxborough, MA. He writes, "All is going well here in New England, currently managing the geotechnical division for Pare Corporation. Grateful for all my geology background as many projects tackle tough site conditions. We recently completed a large CSO tunnel in Pawtucket, New England. Very interesting geology and project. My wife and I now have two kids, Bennett (2.5 years old) and Dalton (10 months)."

Crystal (Nickel) Reuss '10. Crystal writes, "Time has flown by! My husband and I (Andy Reuss '11) welcomed a little girl to our family in 2022. I currently work at Jacobs Engineering Inc. in Milwaukee, WI, as a project manager and geologist. These days I primarily support environmental remediation projects with per- and polyfluorinated substances or unexploded ordnance contamination. The highlight of my year is leading a remedial design for a former disposal area and seeing how the work I am doing is changing the world. Andy is a senior inside sales associate for H.O. Bostrom in Waukesha WI. The company manufactures custom seating

for marine and fire & rescue vehicles."

Will Ostrenga '12. Will is a Senior Geologist with Minera San Cristobal S.A. in Potosi, Bolivia.

Maddie Palubicki '22. Maddie writes, "I was promoted to Tech III at Tetra Tech in Green Bay and am currently on track to become a field manager in 2024, meaning fewer long-term, out-of-state projects for me (yippee!). 2023 was a year of travel once again. In February I ventured to Winnipeg, Canada, in my new Subaru to visit Tara. I also visited Shelby at her home in Walker, MN, for the Fourth of July - the third year of this tradition. We paddle boarded and even went to a rodeo while I was there. Matt and I also had many adventures together. We canoed and camped in the Boundary Waters with friends, hiked Glacier National Park, and kicked back in Punta Cana. While in Montana, we got engaged! Definitely the highlight of 2023!"

Shane Peterson '09. Shane writes, "I have been doing great. I am still running my oil and gas contracting business (Keystone Holdings Group LLC), which takes a lot of my time. I also lecture at SDSU part time. I know, who would have seen that coming?"

Steven Peterson '97. Steve writes, "Another busy year. In September 2023, I returned to WI to serve as the Director of the USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center. It is always hard to move, and we had deep roots in Nebraska, but I am enjoying this new challenge in a great organization with a diverse portfolio of water data and interpretive science across MN, WI, and MI. I work out of the St. Paul office and am looking forward to stopping by UWEC to say hello now that it is nearby!"

Julia Potter '10. Julia completed her MS degree in Engineering (Geological/Geophysical Engineering) at the Univ. of Arizona and is now Director of the Geotechnical Center

of Excellence at the Univ. of Arizona.

Peter Raymond '11. Pete is a Hydrogeologist with the WDNR in Eau Claire.

Angela Remer '05. Angela (CSPO, GISP, PMP) has joined Dakota Electric in Minnesota as the Development Operations Director. She is excited to start this new chapter of her career.

Kalie Ress '21. Kalie is a Project Engineering Technician II at Tetra Tech in the Eau Claire area.

Katie Richart '21. Katie started a new position as a Project Geologist with Teck Resources Limited at the Red Dog Mine in Alaska.

Henry Scamehorn '22. Henry writes, "I have continued in my graduate assistant role in the Office of Sustainability here at UWEC. I have had a great time expanding sustainability efforts over the past two years, including implementing a composting program on upper campus. I will graduate with my master's degree in Student Affairs Administration from UW-L in May and then start a new position as Residence Hall Director at UWEC."

Alaina Steinmetz '24. Alaina started a new Environmental Scientist 1 position with Foth Environmental in De Pere, WI. She overlapped with her Blugold Geology friend, Claire, who was completing a summer internship with Foth!

Sabrina Wagner '22. Sabrina is working in the Construction Material Testing Dept. with Giles Engineering in Waukesha, WI.

Betty Walter '19. Betty writes, "2023 was good for me. I passed the FG/PG for WY and will be a PG in the State of WY. I just need to get my stamp before I can legally say I am a PG. I'm still working and traveling for Arcadis (five years now!) doing environmental remediation/reclamation

in the railroad and mining sectors."

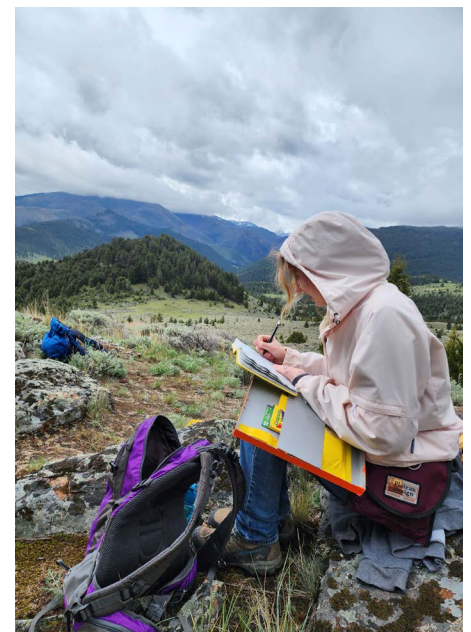
Kalvin Watt '22. Calvin is an Assistant Geologist with Terracon in Plymouth, MN.

Evan Weber '23. Evan is a Staff Geologist at Intertek PSI in Chippewa Falls, WI.

Jackson White '23. Jackson is an Environmental Scientist 2 with the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation's Dept. of Remediation.

Ryan Willgohs '19. Ryan is an Intermediate Hydrogeologist with Talon Metals Corp, in Cloquet, MN.

Ashley Zuge '21. Ashley is a First Soils Lab Assistant Manager at Tetra Tech in Green Bay, WI.



Field Camp II student working in Montana, May 2023.

RIC KOPP '75 "PAYS IT FORWARD" BY ADOPTING UWEC GEOLOGY FIELD CAMPERS

(modified from 6/7/24 UWEC IMC story)

The Dept. of Geology and Environmental Sciences is thankful for MANY generous donors to our program. Ric Kopp has been a matching donor to our Adopt a Field Camper campaign since its inception, and his motivation is grounded in a powerful story about his former employer.

Ric attended UWEC's geology field camp in Wyoming with Dr. Ronald Willis. Field camp gave him the confidence and hands-on experience necessary to have a 48-year career as a professional geologist in the oil and gas industry. "It really opened up my eyes to what geology is all about," Kopp says of his field camp. "We saw fossil collecting in the Badlands, volcanic geology in Yellowstone, oil and gas operations in the Big Horns, and some mining operations in the Wind Rivers." But the cost of the six-week field camp nearly derailed Kopp's college career. While he was at field camp, the Eau Claire Memorial graduate lost six weeks of wages from his \$2.50-an-hour part-time job at Huntsinger Farms, the world's largest horseradish grower located near his parents' home south of Eau Claire.

Kopp, who was paying his own way through college, did not have the money to pay tuition and other expenses for the next academic year. When Kopp informed his supervisor at Huntsinger Farms, farm manager Eugene Heintz, that he could work full-time in the fall instead of going to school, Kopp was told the company would help ensure he had the funds to fulfill his dream of becoming a geologist.

"He said, 'You're not going to work here the rest of your life. We're going to help make sure you get your degree,'" Kopp recalls Heintz telling him.

Huntsinger Farms more than doubled Kopp's wages to \$5.28 an hour and allowed him to work the hours he needed to cover tuition and other school expenses. Kopp worked long hours picking corn, driving truck or anything else "to keep the money flowing in so I could continue to pay for school."

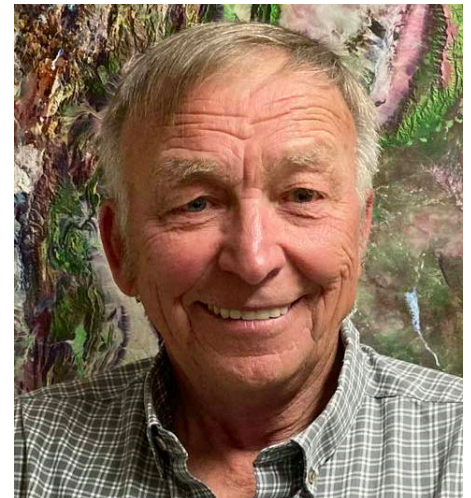
"They didn't give me that education; they made me work for it," says Kopp, who earned a bachelor's degree in geology in 1975. "They put the importance on setting a goal and working for it. I took that with me in everything I did the rest of my life." Nearly 50 years later, Kopp remembers what Huntsinger Farms did for him and is "paying it forward" by helping to defray field camp expenses so today's Blugold geology majors have the same experiences he had without having to worry about finances.

Kopp and his wife, Jacqueline, donate to two funds in the Adopt a Field Camper program to help minimize student debt for geology students. He helps fund the Paul Myers and Ronald Willis Geology Field Camp Scholarship to reduce the cost of students attending the three-week field camps in New Mexico (winter) and Montana (summer); students with the highest financial need have 100% of their tuition covered and all students receive some funding regardless of need. Myers and Willis were two of Kopp's geology instructors and mentors. Kopp also donates to the Field Camp Advancement Fund used to buy equipment to sustain high-quality field camp experiences.

Dr. Kent Syverson, professor of geology and environmental science, says Kopp "is a wonderful friend of our department. His story is the most amazing one I've heard for the motivation for giving. It always brings tears to my eyes whenever I hear it. Ric Kopp has never forgotten where he has come from, and he has made a major impact on our students."

"Field camp is the most important thing in geologic education," Kopp says. "You can learn anything you want from a book, but you have to get out in the field and get hands-on experience. My whole career in the oil and gas business was not just sitting in an office making maps; it was out in the field looking at outcrops, looking at rocks, and setting wells."

Kopp used his UWEC field camp knowledge throughout his career working for oil and gas companies in the Lower 48, Alaska, and in some international areas. Despite that professional success, Kopp remembers what life was like going to college while working long hours to pay his tuition. "Ric has a giving spirit, and he has never forgotten what it is like to be a poor college student," Syverson says. "Thanks to his success as a geologist, he is now investing in the next generation of geologists who will work in the oil and gas, environmental, regulatory, and mining industries."



Ric Kopp

"Field camp is the most important thing in geologic education."

ADOPT A FIELD CAMPER CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Kent Syverson

In 2017 we initiated an "Adopt a Field Camper" campaign to defray rising tuition costs for Field Camp I students. Dr. Paul Myers and Ric Kopp ('75) pledged matching money in memory of Professor Emeritus Ronald Willis. Many other alumni, friends, and companies have caught the vision of the Adopt a Field Camper program to support the highest quality field camp experience for the lowest possible cost to students.

The Adopt a Field Camper program has two parts. First, the **Paul Myers and Ronald Willis Geology Field Camp Scholarship fund (#1633)** supplies scholarships and need-based grants to reduce the cost of students attending the three-week field camps in New Mexico (winter) and Montana (summer). Secondly, the **Field Camp Advancement Fund-Geology & Environmental Science (#2924)** is used to buy equipment to sustain high-quality field camp experiences -- a dire need in this fiscal environment.

Last year, 71 unique donors contributed \$38,945 to the Myers/Willis fund and \$17,822 to the Field Camp Advancement fund, in both large and small gifts. The impacts? Funds were distributed based on financial need to fifteen unique G470 and G471 students. All tuition expenses (\$1160) were paid for six G470 students with "High" FAFSA financial need, 75% of tuition paid was students with "Medium" need, and 50% of tuition paid for students with "Low" need. Each field camper, regardless of need, received at least \$230 in "adoption" money. Field Camp Advancement money was used to replace some non-functional Brunton compasses and purchase new hand-held GPS devices. Thanks so much for your generosity!

If you have adopted a child, you know that adoption is a long-term commitment! More field camp students will be leaving for New Mexico and Montana next year, and we hope alumni and friends consider a donation of any size to Adopt a Field Camper to support Field Geology I and II students and their experiences. Donations can be made at <https://blugolds.uwec.edu/give/514270/#!/donation/checkout> (search under Geology, select either fund #1633 or #2924) or by sending a check to the UWEC Foundation with a subject line mentioning "Geology--Adopt a Field Camper."

CURT AND LAURA PECK SPONSOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND HALF OF FIELD CAMP I

Curt and Laura Peck continue to sponsor half of Field Camp I. Two thirds of their \$6000 annual donation supports need-based grants to field camp students and \$2000 of the money defrays field camp expenses for all field camp students regardless of financial need. This half sponsorship and other donations to the Adopt a Field Camper program are making a huge positive difference for our students, who Curt and Laura met at the spring '24 Geology banquet.

In addition, Curt and Laura are sponsoring three \$1000 Geology Promise Scholarships for four years using matching funds from Chevron Corp, as well as a four-year, \$2000 renewable Your Opportunity Scholarship. These scholarships will be awarded to incoming freshman geology majors and students taking MinPet I during their sophomore year.

Curt '77 attended graduate school at Iowa State Univ. and worked for 36 years for Chevron in Exploration Geology, Development Geology, and the Environmental Management Company. The last four years of his career he supported Chevron's largest asset in Atyrau, Kazakhstan (Tengiz field) as an Environmental Manager to TengizChevroil. Curt and Laura (UWEC SPED '78) have many stories to tell from this overseas adventure!

Thanks so much to Curt and Laura Peck for generously helping our Geology students!



Curt and Laura Peck with their adopted field campers, 5/11/24.

CHARLIE AND SUE CHRISTOPHER SPONSOR HALF OF FIELD CAMP II

Charlie and Sue Christopher sponsored half of Field Camp II once again in 2024. Their \$3500 annual donation is matched 1:1 by the Alliant Energy Foundation to provide \$7000 for need-based grants to field camp II students each year.

Charlie (UWEC Geol minor '74) participated in Dr. Ron Willis' field camp in Wyoming. After helping with a minerals-related surveying project in South Dakota, Charlie decided to attend MATC in Madison to become a surveyor. He was a registered land surveyor with Alliant Energy for 31 years.

Thanks so much to Charlie and Sue Christopher for supporting our field camp students!

STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST GRANTS FROM BRECK AND ERIN JOHNSON RESEARCH

Breck '04 and Erin (UWEC Communication/Journalism '00) Johnson established the Breck and Erin Johnson Geology Grant (#2901) to enhance research projects. Grants may be used to fund travel, geochemistry, thin section prep, research supplies, and travel to a meeting to present research. Alex Lawrence and Adam Vanderkin (supervisor Rob Lodge) and Michaela Schnell (supervisor Phil Ihinger) received the first grants to support their research. Breck and Erin live with their family in the Denver, CO area. Breck is the Rockies Net Zero Manager at Oxy, and he serves on the UWEC Geology and Environmental Science/RMI Advisory Board. Thanks to Breck and Erin for their generosity!



Adam Vanderkin Michaela Schnell Alex Lawrence



Your adopted Field Camp I students eating a "family meal", Jan. 2024.

DONATIONS

HOW TO DONATE

Geology and Environmental Science funds with UWEC Foundation are used to support many things in the department, including student travel to professional meetings, faculty/student field trips, student recruitment, student scholarships and grants, and field camp equipment replacement. Your gift will be greatly appreciated and used effectively within the Department. We also welcome your support by volunteering to speak to our majors/minors about job experiences and sending potential job opportunities to our students.

During the past year, **100** individuals/companies (a new record!) donated **\$86,735** to the Geology Foundation accounts. All gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated! Please consider giving something back to your undergraduate department.

Alumni gifts to the department's Foundation funds are becoming increasingly critical.

Professor Kent Syverson has been working with the UWEC Foundation to establish new scholarships or estate gifts. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or estate gift within the department, here are a few basic guidelines from the Foundation:

- All gifts to the UWEC Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. You may use cash, checks, credit cards, stocks, or other tangible assets to fund a scholarship.

- **Annual scholarships** are funded each year (a minimum commitment of \$2000/yr for five years is required to establish an annual named scholarship fund).

- **Endowed scholarships** only use interest on the invested principal to fund a scholarship each year. A minimum investment of \$30,000 is required to establish an endowed fund.

- The scholarship name and award criteria are determined by the donor(s). Preferences

rather than requirements are most often expressed. Preferences may involve academic major, financial need, academic promise, and first-year student or upper-division status.

- **Estate gifts** named in your will can be used to establish future scholarships or support our field camp program with guidance from Kent Syverson.

If you would like more information about establishing a scholarship or estate gift, please contact Kent Syverson at 715/836-3676. *If the UWEC Foundation calls you asking for a donation, please remember the Geology and Environmental Science funds! If you work for a corporation or a geology-related firm, please inquire if your company has a matching program for contributions to academic geology departments.*

THANK YOU DEPARTMENT DONORS!

The Department thanks the generous donors listed below who have contributed to Geology & Environmental Science Department accounts with UW-Eau Claire Foundation from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024.

BECKSTROM GEOLOGY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP (#1663)

Gregory Beckstrom

DR. JOHN R. BERGSTROM GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP (#2475)

Sandra Chamberlain

- In memory of John Bergstrom

BRECK AND ERIN JOHNSON GEOLOGY GRANT (#2901)

Breck and Erin Johnson
Oxy

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ADVANCEMENT FUND (#279)

Kristin and David Bowman
Mark and Molly Ciardelli
Nicole Ehrike

- In honor of Sarah Vitale

Kristie Franz
Kraemer Mining & Materials Inc.
Kevin Krenik
Carolann Laudon
Sarah and Kristian Moore
Steven and Pamela Olson
- In memory of Frank & Roberta Harriman
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David Risch
Lois Ristow
James Tannler
Chad and Alison Underwood

GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP II SCHOLARSHIP (#2959)

Nancy Haefer

James and Debra Johnson

- In memory of John Bergstrom

GEOLOGY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP (#2744)

Curt and Laura Peck
Chevron Corporation

GEOLOGY OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP (#2762)

Anonymous

H2O WELL DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP (#2612)

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INTERNSHIP ADVANCEMENT GEOLOGY (#2780)

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- In honor of Kent Syverson

EOG Resources
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Rachel Solheim
Betty Walter

JRC APPLIED GEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP (#2601)

Josh and Molly Carlisle
Mark and Savona Kiessling

FIELD CAMP ADVANCEMENT GEOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (part of the Adopt a Field Camper campaign) -- * indicates adopter of at least one field camper, #2924)

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Mitch and Barbara Piper*
- in memory of Robert Moore

Laura Strumness*
Lisa and Ronald Struss
Gene and Barbara Thornton*
Nancy Worden
Ashley Zuge

DAVID L. RISCH GEOLOGY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (#2552)

David Risch (endowment gift)
Chevron Corporation
Nicholas and Juli Freiburger

DECLARED ESTATE PLANS NAMING UWEC GEOLOGY & ENV. SCIENCE FUNDS

Gregory Beckstrom
Charles and Susan Christopher
Paul and Welthy Soni-Myers

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South Dakota Geological Survey
Talon Metals
Teck
Tetra Tech
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DONATION SLIP

Our Geology and Environmental Science Department Advancement Fund is the primary support fund for the department. It is used to support a wide range of activities in the Department including student travel to national meetings, special research and instructional equipment, faculty recruitment, and the seminar program. If you choose, your gift can also be applied in part or total to individual scholarship award funds. See information above for minimum commitments for establishing your own scholarship. Undesignated funds will be credited to the Geology and Environmental Science Department Advancement Fund.

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 P.O. Box 1208
 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1208
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Give Online:

connect.uwec.edu/geology
 and select a Geology fund option.



Field Camp II students in Montana, May 2024.



NAME

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PHONE **EMAIL**

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 - \$ _____ Beckstrom Geology Major Scholarship (#1663)
 - \$ _____ Blugold Freshman Geology Scholarship (#2621)
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 - \$ _____ Emeriti Faculty Scholarship Fund - Unnamed (#1632)
 - \$ _____ Field Camp Advancement - Geology & Environmental Science fund (#2924) **(Adopt a Field Camper)**
 - \$ _____ **Geology and Environmental Science Advancement Fund (#279) – For pressing departmental needs**
 - \$ _____ Geology Field Camp II Scholarship (#2959)
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 - \$ _____ Internship Advancement - Geology (#2780)
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-
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-

_____ My employer (or my spouse's) will match this gift.

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_____ I have made plans to benefit the Geology & Environmental Science Department through my estate. Please have someone contact me.

_____ Please send me information about how I might make provisions in my estate to benefit the Geology & Environmental Science Department.

Please indicate how you wish your contribution to be recorded:

- Record jointly with my spouse _____
 - Record in my name only
 - In memory of _____
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PAYMENT METHOD

- My check is enclosed (made payable to UW-Eau Claire Foundation)
- If you wish to pay using a **credit card**, please go to connect.uwec.edu/geology and select a Geology fund option.

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