

## Jean M. Bahr



The award for Distinguished Service is presented to **Jean M. Bahr** in recognition of her exceptional service to the profession of hydrogeology. The award specifically acknowledges her propensity for unconditional commitment and zealous efforts on behalf of others, including students, professional geoscientists, and citizens.

Serving as Chair of the Division, Jean didn't finish her year satisfied with a well-attended annual meeting, a fine technical program, and a successful awards ceremony. Instead, she followed that effort by transforming the Student Reception into a not-to-be-missed extravaganza of professional networking accompanied by a wealth of door prizes that went beyond what any previous Chair had even imagined. This reception is now the envy of all other GSA Divisions. Having set "the bahr" for future Past Chairs of the Division, she then moved on to serve as Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer. She used a 14-month time-span to deliver 64 lectures, but in so doing enriched the Division in novel ways. First, she didn't drain the lectureship budget because she

drove to most of her venues in her hybrid car. Second, she followed her service by conceiving and executing a fund-raising effort that will carry the Distinguished Lectureship into the future. She followed her tour of duty as Lecturer by immediately signing on to GSA Council where she has been a friend of our Division while also invigorating the Society. Add in earlier service adjudicating the Meinzer Award and contributing to several Society-level committees and we recognize Jean's service to GSA as being significant and uninterrupted since 1994, just one year after earning tenure.

Do not believe for an instant that Jean was doing nothing but GSA service during this period. She was contributing to the National Research Council, initially as member and then as chair of "the Everglades" committee addressing complex and contentious issues at the intersection of society and water resources. She was evaluating worthy research for funding on multiple National Science Foundation panels thereby impacting the future direction of hydrogeology. She is also Full Professor and Chair of her home department – Geology and Geophysics at University of Wisconsin – where she directs student research, teaches classes, and chairs faculty meetings. Not content to influence just future generations of hydrogeologists, she invests energy in guiding women to pursue their interests in various fields of science and engineering through an innovative residential learning program.

Do not believe for an instant that Jean was doing nothing but professional work during this period. She has time to showcase the roof of her home as an electricity generator – nudging others toward environmental responsibility, to celebrate her love for her parents – reminding us of the importance of family, and to support her many many friends – enriching those of us lucky enough to know Jean Bahr.



For her lasting impact on the Division and its present and future members as well as the wider community of geoscientists and citizens, the Hydrogeology Division takes great pride in presenting Jean M. Bahr with the Distinguished Service Award for 2006.

Jean Bahr (left) was awarded the 2006 Distinguished Service Award at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her citationist was Janet Herman (right).