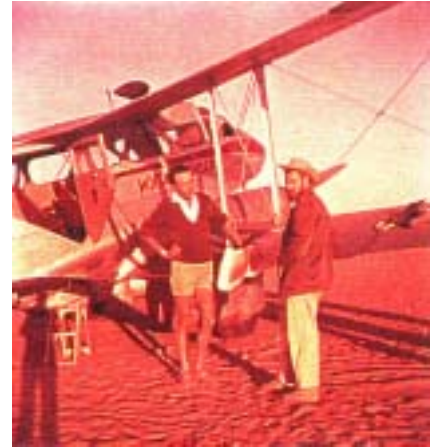


**R**obert Van Nostrand (BS '42, MS '49), a 1942 graduate of what was then the Missouri School of Mines, sent the department a wonderful illustrated "microbiography" of his career as a geophysicist, for which he traveled all over the world in the fifties looking for oil. As Van Nostrand describes in his narrative, his work took him to many different places, including Fort McMurray, in Alberta Province, Canada, which in 1953 "looked like one of those sparsely settled frontier towns in cowboy movies," and LaFrette, France, a picturesque town where he lived about twenty miles outside of Paris. From France, Van Nostrand made geological expeditions deep into Saharan Africa, traveling with the French



Army to Djanet, "the last oasis in the southeast corner of Algeria," and onward through the hot uncharted desert into the Niger Republic, where he had many exciting experiences with the local people. He writes, enticingly, "To recite everything would take a book - and more time than we have." The picture at right shows Van Nostrand next to the plane they had acquired for emergencies and reconnaissance, at left a scene from their desert camp.

Van Nostrand currently lives with his wife in Boston, Virginia, which, he writes, "is not much of a settlement, consisting largely of country store and post office." The quiet pace and rolling hills of rural Virginia must be a nice, but quiet, contrast to the excitement of those hot early days in the Sahara. Many thanks, Robert, for sharing your experiences.



### From Alumnus Heider Ereifej (Ph.D. '00)

**M**y name is Heider N. Ereifej, and I received my Ph.D. from the UMR Physics Department in winter 2000 in Atomic and Laser Physics. In the course of my graduate study, I carried out many research and teaching activities that were helpful in building my scientific and engineering background. By graduation I had a stack of scientific publications and conference presentations from the research and investigative studies I carried out as a graduate student, which have been very important in helping me to secure my present position. After completing my degree, I had the privilege of getting three promising job offers. I decided to accept a postdoctoral position with the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Maryland's Laboratory for Physical Science. My job involved carrying out high-level research in the field of optical fiber communication. Even though the position was not directly related to physics, it was fairly simple and straightforward to adapt to this new activity. The training I received as a graduate student had a significant impact on my ability to carry out the type of work I needed to do. After a year and a half in this position I was then offered a Senior Optical Engineering position in a fiber optic company called Optium Corporation. I have been working for Optium for about five months now, during which I have been doing research and am focused on transforming new ideas into reliable industrial engineering products. The training I received in the Physics Department at the University of Missouri-Rolla is, and always will be, the core of any career I choose. Dr. Heider N. Ereifej, Senior Optical Engineer, Optium Corp., Orlando, FL 32826.

## Congratulations to UMR's 2001 Physics Dean's List Recipients

### Winter Semester 2001

Bernard Fendler, Cameron Johnson, Banning Bozarth, John Zirbel, Timothy Ivancic, Curtis Stratman, Orion Grimmer, Christopher Lloyd, Jason Burnes, Sarah Eyermann, Charlie Glaus, Brett Maune, Joseph Eimer, John Quebbeman, Ryan Mallery, Travis Yates, Sean McKinney, Joao Sosa, Dominic Biava, John Weirich, Joshua Zirbel, Deepak Vaid, Ryan Rule.

### Fall Semester 2001

Charles Williams, Joao Sosa, Rebecca Merrill, Ryan Mallery, Christopher Lloyd, Timothy Ivancic, Charlie Glaus, Bernard Fendler, Elizabeth Farrand, Joseph Eimer, Dominic Biava, Jason Burns, Samuel Woods, Travis Yates, John Zirbel.