# KEVIN RAFFERTY MOVES ON

Kevin Rafferty, the Associate Director of the Geo-Heat Center, resigned to try his hand at private consulting. Kevin started with the Center in 1979 while a student in the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program at Oregon Institute of Technology. Starting as a Research Assistant, he was responsible for conducting feasibility studies on geothermal projects throughout the western United States, and also assisted with research projects.

He graduate with a BSMET from OIT in 1981, and in 1983 was promoted to Research Associate. During the next 11 years, he was the senior mechanical engineer (PE) responsible for providing technical assistance to geothermal projects throughout the U.S., and training American and foreign technicians in current geothermal practices. He had extensive involvement in feasibility analysis, design, economic analysis, and operational review of existing low- and moderate-temperature geothermal systems, large tonnage heat pumps and small-scale geothermal power generators. He continued to conduct research.

In 1994, with the retirement of Gene Culver, he became the Associate Director with responsibility for oversight and management of the Center's Technical Assistance Program. The program offered technical design assistance to geothermal direct-use project developers throughout the U.S. He also became the resident expert on ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps, writing the "Geothermal Heat Pump Owners Information Survival Kit" as a key introductory document for homeowners, and with Dr. Stephen Kavanaugh of the University of Alabama, compiling an important design guide on "Ground-Source Heat Pumps" for commercial and institutional buildings, published by ASHRAE.

He was active with various ASHRAE Technical Committees, the Geothermal Resources Council, and with the National Groundwater Association. He participated in writing key chapters for various ASHRAE publications. He has presented over 50 papers at technical meetings such as GRC and ASHRAE, and provided training for engineers in the design of groundwater heat pump systems. Kevin produced key publications for the Center on aquaculture pond and greenhouse heating system designs, contributed many chapters to our 454-page "Geothermal Direct-Use Engineering and Design Guidebook," and articles to the Quarterly Bulletin. His most recent applied research project was on the testing and solutions to expansion problems with line-shaft well pumps.

He has received the GRC's "Best Paper" award on two occasions, and recently received the USDOE "Ring of Fire" award that acknowledged him "For outstanding and meritorious contribution to the expansion of geothermal direct-use applications and assistance to the geothermal community through the Geo-Heat Center." He was also noted for his love of finned-tailed Cadillacs (1957-64).