



*The San Andreas Fault runs through Crystal Springs Lakes on the Peninsula, marking the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate.*

Photo by Bob Wallace

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Menlo Park will be strengthened by a joint project with Stanford to construct and operate a high resolution ion microprobe facility. "This will be the only facility of its kind in North America and will place our Menlo Park Center in the forefront of isotopic research," he said.

Dr. Zoback, who is now the only member of the Academy of Sciences in an organization that used to have eight or 10 members, shares the concern about the future of fundamental research. She also recognizes, "We do have to change the way we do things. We're trying."

What the Survey does is relevant, Dr. Zoback emphasizes. "Everything we study directly impacts peoples' lives, whether it's hazards — earthquakes, volcanoes or landslides — or resources — minerals or energy," she said "Those are things that are important to people."

George Thompson, professor of geophysics at Stanford, noted that no other institution can do long-term research; even universities are mostly limited to the few years a graduate student stays. "Clearly the kind of work the USGS does in the long range is absolutely needed," he said.

Dr. Thompson takes a more optimistic view of the future of USGS. "The USGS will probably emerge to do things quite well with a strengthened staff," he predicted. "I hope they will keep some of the best younger people. The old ones will keep on working no matter what."