The Round Up — Welcome to our new format! As we've redesigned our newsletter, we've had to learn new software and to try to be a little more succinct in what we say. Although it's taken us a little longer this year, our goal is still the same, and it's summarized by the picture to the left of our field-camp students in Colorado: to better support our students' learning experiences in geology and to let you know what's happening in the department. If the new format helps, we're all for it. Please let us know what you think. —

Frank R. Ettensohn

http://www.uky.edu/AS/Geology

Inside

- Alumni news
- Student news
- Department news
National honors

by William Thomas

William A. Thomas has been with the Department since 1991 and served as Chair until 1997. He received his B.S. in 1956 from the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. in 1960 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

William A. Thomas, the James S. Hudnall Professor of Geology, has been elected Vice President of The Geological Society of America. Bill’s one-year term as Vice President began at the end of the GSA Annual Meeting in Seattle in November, 2003, and will continue to the Annual Meeting in Denver in November, 2004. In addition to his faculty affiliation with the University of Kentucky, Bill is an alumnus of UK with a B.S. degree in geology in 1956 and an M.S. degree in geology in 1957.

The Geological Society of America currently has approximately 17,000 members, mostly in North America, but scattered around the world. GSA serves the science and profession of geology (broadly defined to include all geosciences) through publications and meetings. New publication programs, currently in development, include an electronic journal and GeoScience World, an on-line aggregate of the journals of several geoscience organizations (GSA, AAPG, SEPM, SEG, MSA, GSL, and others). GSA provides research grants for graduate students, and GSA sponsors programs in education, outreach, and public policy.

The Vice President is a member of the Executive Committee of GSA, represents the President when necessary, and serves on several committees, including budget, finance, programmatic overview, and geology and public policy. Other assignments include a meeting with representatives of associated and allied societies and a joint meeting with representatives of AGU and AGI to select Congressional Science Fellows, geoscientists who are placed as staff members in congressional offices. Members of the Executive Committee participate in the Annual Meeting and two meetings of the GSA Council, and represent GSA at the six sectional meetings. Nominees for Vice President must have previously served on the Council, and the Vice President is in line to become President of GSA in the following year.

In memoriam

The department loses two friends:

William R. Brown,
April 21, 2003
and
Harry Moore Bowen Whitman,
Jan. 16, 2003

William Randall Brown, retired Professor of Geology at the University of Kentucky, husband of Blessing Whitmore Brown, passed away April 21, 2003. He was born in Staunton, Virginia, October 31, 1913, the son of Thornton Lee Brown and Ellen Gertrude Greer Brown. In 1938, he graduated with Final Honors in Geology and a year later received the MA degree. For three years he attended Cornell University and, in 1942, he received a PhD degree in geology.

That year he married Elizabeth Blessing Whitmore and was employed by the Virginia Geological Survey where, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, he was engaged in strategic mineral investigations until 1945.

The fall of that year, he left the Survey to join the faculty of the University of Kentucky where, by 1952, he had risen from Assistant Professor to Professor. In 1984 he retired from the University, having taught there for 39 years and served as Director of Graduate Studies in Geology for 8 years.

Memorials can be sent to the Brown-MacFarlane Fund (for students in Geology), Department of Geological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506. Bill was probably best known for his research and teaching in field geology. In fact, it was Bill who recommended our current summer field camp near crested Butte, Colorado.
Faculty happenings: what’s going on?

Donald Chesnut  
Adjunct Professor

I received the Gordon H. Wood, Jr., Memorial Award (Eastern Section Energy Minerals Division of AAPG) for coal geology this year (September). I also attended the XVth International Congress on Carboniferous and Permian Stratigraphy in Utrecht, Netherlands, during the heat wave in Europe this past August.

James Dinger  
Adjunct Professor

I’ve recently been part of the team-taught Coal Geology course, where I lecture about groundwater flow in coal fields, mining effects on the groundwater, and statutes and regulations governing mining. I’m sure all of you in environmental and mineral-extraction consulting realize that you may be scientifically correct but, if you don’t understand the statutes and regulations, your client may still lose! I also present the geology-hydrogeology portion of the Environmental Systems Certificate Program where I try to explain geologic processes and their importance to our modern society. It is interesting to see the reaction-of-realization on the faces of students in public health, public administration, MBA, law, and even engineers, when they understand that our society is built upon minerals and fuels, and that geologic hazards are a real threat. Their gained insight will hopefully lead to the realization that geologic expertise is needed in planning and zoning commissions at all levels of government and, therefore, increased employment opportunities for geologists!

James Drahovzal  
Adjunct Professor

As an adjunct associate professor in the department, I participated on the committees of six M.S. and four Ph.D. candidates this year, chairing the committees for three of the M.S. candidates. Their research topics include goniatite biostratigraphy, geologic mapping, structural geology, seismic interpretation, geochemistry, and stratigraphy. During the year, two of the Department’s undergraduate students and one of its graduate students have held student appointments with the Energy and Minerals Section at KGS. I continue to work on the Coosa Deformed Belt project in the Alabama Appalachians with Dr. Thomas.

Frank R. Ettenson  
Chair and Professor

This year marks the second year of taking freshman students to the Bahamas as part of a Freshman Discovery Course, the Kentucky-Bahama Connection. The course not only exposes the students to uniformitarian processes in geology, but also to a cultural experience in a third-world country.

One student, Matt Dahlem, completed his thesis on edrioasteroids this year, and I continue to work with Mike Caudill, a senior undergraduate, on an early Cretaceous dinosaur trackway in eastern Texas.

Running the Department continues to consume most of my time, especially with major budget cuts. Because of contributed funds, however, the Department continues to do well. Please consider contributing.
Jon B. Armstrong
Emily and I moved to Chicago in September 2002. I am still with BP’s Group Environmental Management Company, but I have joined the commercial team and work on procurement and supplier management projects.

Michael T. Currie, M.S. 1981
I recently left BP Exploration after 14 years to move on to new and presumably greener pastures at Newfield Exploration in Houston, Texas. I’ll be one of the small group of geoscientists heading Newfield’s entry into the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Areas of expertise are 3-D seismic interpretation, 4-D seismic, lithology, and fluid prediction from seismic data, and 3-D visualization.

Ralph N. Freeman, M.S. 1950
Gratefully retired to live on a Carolina farm that lays astride the Gold Hill fault zone midway between Reed Mine (a state park at an abandoned gold mine) and the famous Gold Hill mining area. Surely Divine Providence is preparing a University of Kentucky geology graduate with the next best thing preparatory to his future.

Jeff Ginn, B.S. 1993
Still with United Parcel Service. I relocated a little over two years ago to New Jersey. I still work in engineering function, and I now manage UPS’s New Jersey Data Center.

Alex Harper, B.S. 2003
As of now I am working for the State of Tennessee as an Environmental Specialist. I started back in June, so I’ve been here for a couple of months now. I really like it so far; it’s fairly laid back and I get to spend some time in the field, going to different sites that I am managing to observe soil or groundwater sampling, well installations, remedial activities, and things like that.

Ravi Kanda, M.S. 2002
We had a great 6-month vacation and have finally settled down in Pasadena, California. It’s been cool at nights, but daytime temperatures here have been in the 90’s, and its very dry compared to the Midwest. I started my Ph.D. in Geophysics at Caltech. I am finding the research environment here very exciting. It is a very small school - 2000 students in all, with 1100 of them in the graduate program! Our department is pretty big, with about 45 faculty, 30 undergrads, and 75 grads, 25 post-docs, and some visiting faculty. I am planning on working to publish papers from my MS at the University of Kentucky.

Jill Krukoski Gregory, B.S. 1999
Matthew Gregory, B.S. 1998
We are both working for ExxonMobil. We are now living in Houston, Texas. We have been doing training. New hires’ first two years focus on learning the business and have three eight-month rotations in different aspects of the company. We are living about a mile from downtown. Houston is a huge place, and we have no problem staying busy. It is nice to have some free time as the end of the thesis process was extremely time consuming. Texas is a big change from Utah. There is no more snowshoeing or mountain biking. But, the culture here is much better for us, plus better food.

Ronald T. Mackey
I still work in the “oil patch.” I am a co-owner of Venture Resources, Inc., which is a Kansas corporation. We are active in Kansas as an oil operator including drilling and production. I am also an owner in two service companies. Linda and I have a winter home in Sarasota, Florida, and spend most of the winter down there enjoying water sports.

Casey R. Mobley, B.S. 2001
I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in coastal geology at the University of New Orleans. Mark Kulp, who obtained his Masters and Ph.D. through the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Kentucky, assists with my research and serves as my primary thesis committee instructor. We are working to develop a depositional history in an off-shore area associated with the Mississippi Canyon incised valley using seismic and core data.

Eric K. Nicholas, B.S. 1993
I am currently living in Nicholasville, Kentucky, where I live with my wife of six years, Amy. I am an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky, College of Pharmacy. She both teaches and works in the University of Kentucky REACH Program. For the past three years, I have been working as a specialty sales representative for Boehringer-Ingelheim in the Lexington area, calling on neurologists and urologists. We both attend Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville and enjoy traveling. Over the past year, work has taken us to Alaska, Hawaii, and Cancun, Mexico, where my love of geology has a chance to be used ... collecting rock samples, etc.

Bernard J. Pierson, M.S. 1976
I was a graduate student from Belgium at the University of Kentucky from 1974 to 1976, working on a Masters thesis on cathodoluminescence in dolomite with John Thorkild. I then went on to Miami for a Ph.D. and later joined Shell.

Robert E. Schuster, B.S. 1960
I retired as Senior Associate, melting, from Corning Inc. in August, 1990. Have spent time since then traveling (six cruises), enjoying life with my wife, Nancy, and our eight children and 18 grandchildren, and working tirelessly on my never-ending "Honey-Do" list.

James W. Thornton, B.S. 1963
I retired in 2000.
Department of Geological Sciences
2004 Alumni News

Name ________________________________

Degree(s): class year(s) __________________

Current address: _______________________

_____________________________________

_____________________________________

e-mail address _______________________

Stay connected . . .

Please provide a brief statement of what you are doing and/or any recent changes. We hope the Fall 2004 Round Up will have an even more expanded Alumni News section, so let your classmates know what you are doing.

We are concerned with maintaining the accuracy of our Alumni Directory, which also is the mailing list for the Round Up. We are aware that some addresses are out of date. If you have any directory information, please send it to us. We will greatly appreciate your help.

Copies received by August 15, 2004, will be included in the Fall 2004 Round Up

Mail to: Frank R. Ettensohn
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Kentucky
101 Slone Building
Lexington, Ky. 40506-0053
Department of

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Mail to: Frank R. Ettenson, Chair
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University of Kentucky
101 Slone Building
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Thank you for your support!
Restructuring the Alumni Board

by Elizabeth Haynes

UK’s Department of Geological Sciences has been through some major changes recently. A much needed influx of money has brought some wonderfully talented new scientists on board and recent collaboration among departments within the University has created new avenues of funding. Even old Slone building has gotten a bit of a face lift. The retirement of some faculty and hiring of others has changed the dynamics of the department in new and, I think, exciting ways. One of the outcomes of this departmental evolution is the desire to foster a more lasting relationship with students who have graduated from the department and to bring back to the department some of the knowledge and experience of these former students.

Because of my active relationship with the Department, they have asked me to become involved in an effort to increase dialog between the faculty and alumni. Both the Department and I feel that one way to accomplish this is to restructure the alumni board. Many of the current students (and some alums!) may not even have known that an alumni board exists as part of the Geology Department. This board was created several years ago with similar hopes of fostering a mentoring role between alumni, current students, and faculty. Although begun with the best of intentions, this initial attempt provided no structure for the formation of the board, its election of officers, or term limits. In addition, lack of a strong purpose and sporadic communication between the board and the Department prevented the board members from accomplishing their goals.

The new alumni board will be made up of both existing and new alumni. The job of these enthusiastic alumni will initially be to create a mission statement for the group. This cannot, however, be done without the input of alumni, student, faculty, and staff. This is because the main goal of an alumni board is to provide a service to all members of the Department. What services should we provide? It seems that most alumni boards are created to help increase outside funding, be it in the form of alumni donations or corporate grants. This is an important function of the alumni board. Outside financial support allows the Department to buy needed supplies and to upgrade existing teaching equipment, to provide funds for field trips, and many other necessities within the Department. It is also important for members of the board to provide guidance to the faculty in terms of the education that is important to a geologist in a corporate or public position.

The connection to the students and non-member alumni is also critical to the board’s mission. We were all students at one time, and we can remember both good and bad things about our experience at UK. Maybe there were things we would have liked to have been done to improve the Department, courses we felt should be included, or not included! Now that we are alumni we have a better idea of the things we learned in school that prepared us the best for our careers. The alumni board is a forum for all of us to voice our thoughts and to convey those thoughts to the faculty. It is to all our benefit that the Department improves the quality of its education, which in turn increases its reputation within the geologic community.

In the next few months, the alumni board will be getting together to discuss important matters such as these. It is our intention that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni play an important role in determining the direction the board takes. Please consider how you can participate in helping to put the UK Department of Geological Sciences at the forefront of geologic education and research.

Catching up ...

By Scarlett J. Stapleton

It has been a few years since I have spoken with all of you, so I thought it was time to say hello and give you an update. I moved to Chicago after graduation and worked at a Children’s Museum until I found a job with a temp agency working for MWH Constructors as an Environmental Scientist. My contract ended, and I moved to Louisville where I eventually found a job with the same temp agency working for URS Corporation. They liked me so much that I was hired permanently a few months ago. I have been working as an Environmental Scientist for URS since last June. We are contracted with DuPont to do their environmental remediation. I love my job and never get bored with any element of it.

Anyway, my education has proven a very valuable asset to my position, and I have thanked the Man above several times for giving me these opportunities. Since I had each of you in class more than once, even if you don’t remember me, I would like to thank you. Mary, you were tough but writing that report in Senior Problems (even in Ecology) really prepared me! Alan and Kevin, you don’t know how much I use hydro and geochemistry (I work with TCE quite a bit). Dave, Paul, and Frank, thank you for your vision and insight. And, Tom, thank you for your insight and guiding me in the consulting direction! Surprisingly, even if some of my grades didn’t reflect it, I learned and took a great deal with me.

My position really uses quite a bit of geology, and I’m really glad I took that direction with my major. All of your insights have been more valuable than the debt I owe the federal government! By the way, my temp agency was Ombite Environmental; there is an office in Cincinnati. I’ve met quite a few people in consulting that got their start with a temp., if you would like to pass that to any of your students. Thanks again!
On October 16, 2003, Dr. William C. MacQuown, who taught in the Department for 26 years, was awarded the 2003 Outstanding Educator Award by the Eastern Section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists in recognition of his lifetime as an exceptional educator, creative scientist, enthusiastic discoverer, inspiring mentor, and caring colleague and friend. The award was presented by Thomas D. Spalding (M.S., 1982), one of Bill’s former students.

Dr. Bill MacQuown was an influential and inspiring educator at the University of Kentucky where he mentored numerous young geoscientists for 26 years. He also spent 14 years in the petroleum industry where he was committed to recruiting and educating geoscientists.

This unique combination of industry and academic experience helped many geologists successfully transition from university degrees to successful geoscience careers.

Among other activities, Bill and his good friend, the late Wally Hagan, former State Geologist of Kentucky, headed a 10-year lobbying effort in support of a state professional registration bill for the geologists of Kentucky. The bill was passed by the state legislature in 1992. The Kentucky Section of AIPG recognized their efforts with the Hagan-MacQuown Award in 1983, and Bill received the Bronze Certificate of Appreciation in 1992.

In 1997, Bill received their Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also been an honorary member of the Geological Society of Kentucky (now the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists).

Bill has always been an enthusiastic promoter of geology. While teaching at the university, he received high evaluations from students and gave many talks before grade- and high-school students and various civic groups. After retirement in 1983, he gave a number of talks to laymen aboard the Dixie Belle river boat on the geology of the Palisades of the Kentucky River, for which he received a commission as a Kentucky Colonel by the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet.

Throughout his career and into retirement, Bill was always a natural teacher no matter where he traveled. From his early years as an assistant professor, to training young geoscientists at a major oil company, to furthering graduate studies as a full professor, to leading geology-related field trips in China and along the Kentucky River, he was always able to combine a tremendous breadth and depth of geologic experience with an easy and caring manner that never failed to create excitement about the science of geology. Many of Bill’s former students went on to successful geoscience careers and have carried on his love of learning and professionalism.
Thanks to the recommendation of an advisor, I was recruited early into geology, rekindling a deep fascination I have had since early childhood, and is the reason I am where I am today, albeit to the chagrin of my mother, who has never understood why I would want to travel to England, Louisiana’s Mississippi Delta, Ontario, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, California and Texas doing geology. I have also had the opportunity to work for the Kentucky Geological Survey mapping sinkholes with Jim Currens and Randy Paylor, on coal mine mapping projects for what was formerly the Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals, and am currently working for the Survey on coal-quality research and the coal-resource database under Jerry Weisenfluh.

Now, with my undergraduate career finally coming to an end, I find myself near to completing my first real geologic project. A flyer in the Department caught my attention offering to pay for a senior undergraduate to do field work in Texas. A dinosaur trackway had been discovered not far from Austin. I thought this was something I could really sink my teeth into, and I, indeed, have. A Department alumnus named Mitch Rutledge of Lakeway, Texas, had provided the opportunity. The project was to work up the geology of the track-site, located adjacent to a museum, and write up a brochure for the Museum’s patrons. I agreed to take on the project that Mr. Rutledge had generously funded. After two weeks of hot field work in Texas, 70 hours driving, and 4500 miles over the road in two years with Dr. Frank Ettensohn as a partner and advisor, it is nearly complete. The results of our field research have not only culminated in a nice brochure for the patrons of the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country, but have also produced a poster session in the capitol building in Frankfort, Kentucky and an oral presentation at the Southeastern GSA section meeting in Washington, DC, this March as well. Looking back to the beginning of this journey, there are without doubt some things I may have done different or perhaps not at all. Nonetheless, I think I can say confidently that I have chosen the correct path for my life and career and have been given all the possible encouragement, opportunities, and tools anyone could expect and for which I am grateful. I plan to teach. Hopefully I will be able to reach those minds wanting and willing to learn about the Earth Sciences and influence them in the same way that my advisors and teachers have influenced me.
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With major budget cuts this year and more to come next year, these funds are more important than ever. They enable us to support students in ways we could not otherwise afford.

Brown-McFarland
Supports student research and travel to present papers and the annual McFarland Lecture.

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