

# UK Geology

The Early Years



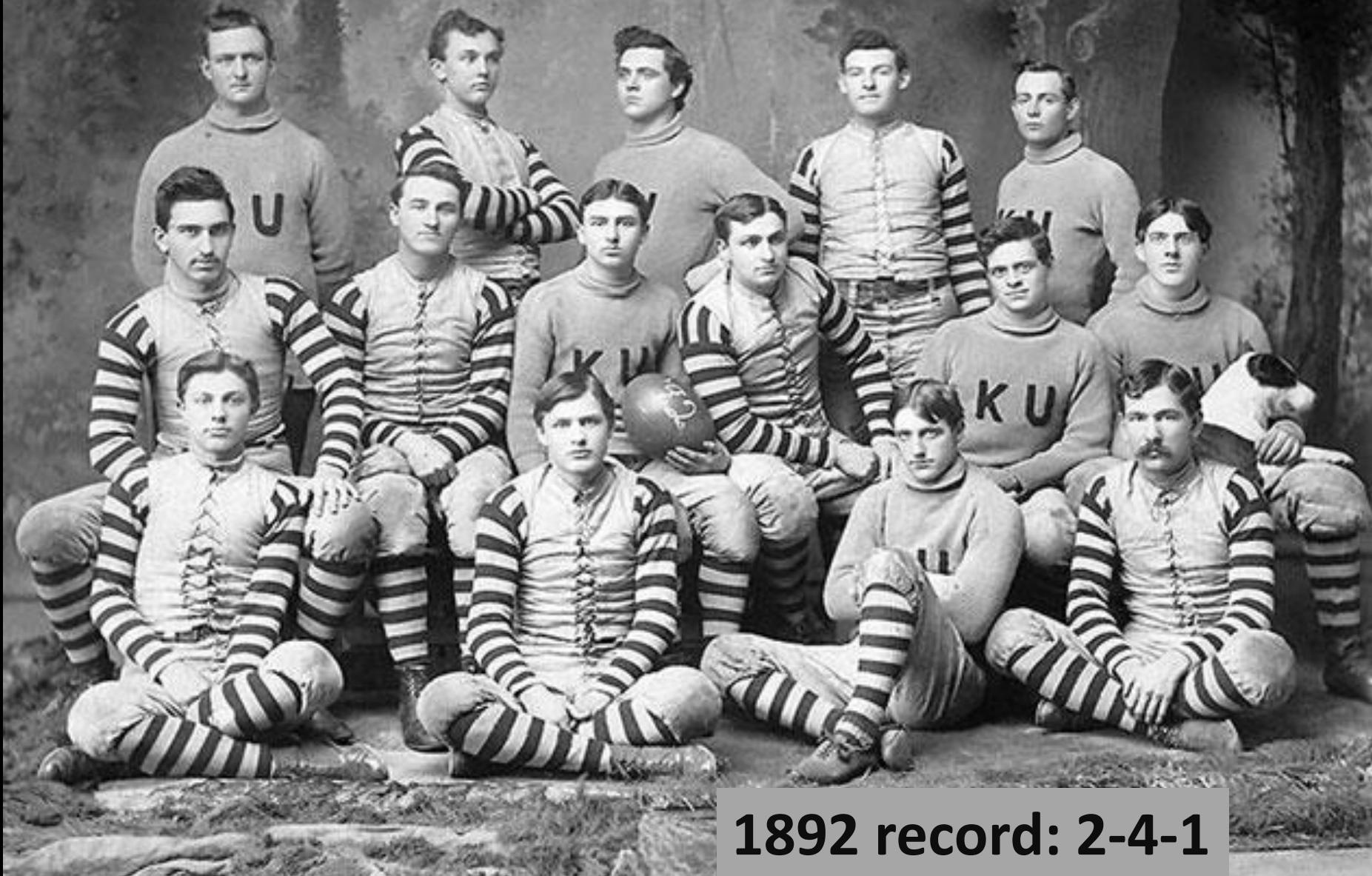


**Arthur M. Miller**  
**Professor & First Chair, Department**  
**of Geology**  
**1892-1917**



**Science Hall would become Miller Hall**

**Miller was also the first football coach at UK**



**1892 record: 2-4-1**

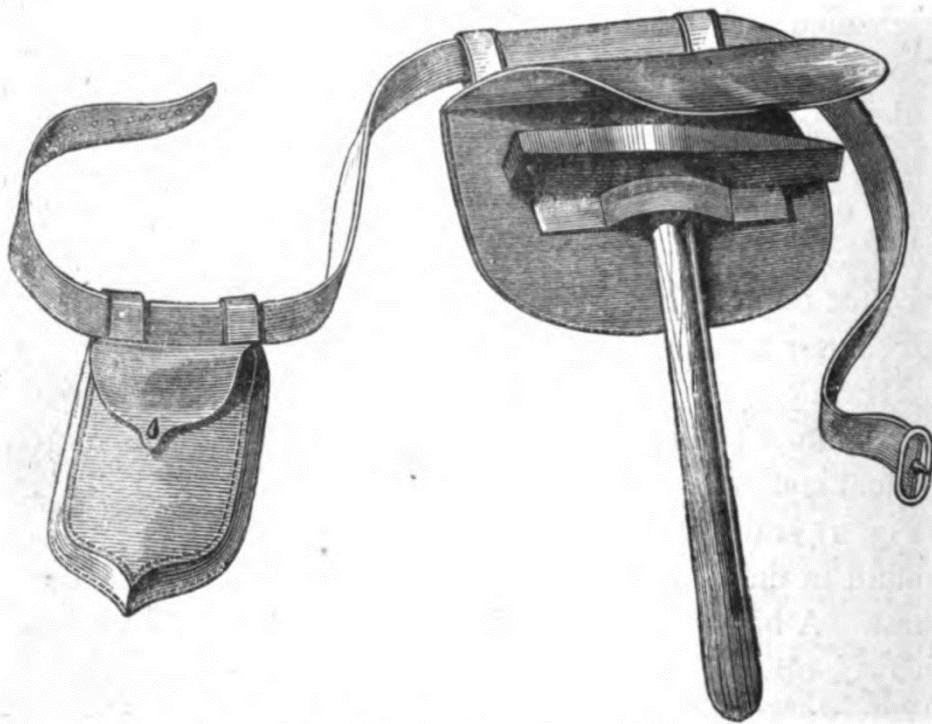


FIG. 1.—Geological hammer, compass-case, and belt.

Excerpt from  
Geikie's *Outlines  
of Field Geology*,  
a textbook used  
by upper level  
“Scientific  
Course” students  
in 1892

2. *The Hammer*.—This is the chief instrument of the field-geologist. He ought at first to use it constantly, and seldom trust himself to name a rock until he has broken a fragment from it, and compared the fresh with the weathered surface. Most rocks yield so much to the action of the weather as to acquire a decomposed, crumbling crust, by which the true colour, texture, and composition of the rock itself may be entirely concealed.





**1898 Geology Classroom**



**1900 Geology Classroom**





**Miller's 1900 Geology Class**



**Dr. Arthur Miller and students, 1901**



1901



Class in Geology — Prof. Miller.





Paleo specimens on display in Miller Hall

# 1903 Yearbook



PROFESSOR A. M. MILLER,  
Zoology and Geology.

“Field work is insisted upon whenever practicable. .... Classes are taken on one to several days excursions to study these veins and faults—to become familiar with the characteristics of the different formations, to collect fossils...”

## Geology and Zoology

---

The present arrangement of these two departments under one head dates from 1895-6. The facilities and equipments, added to from year to year, are in keeping with the reputation of the college as a school of science. Geology includes courses in mineralogy, paleontology, economic geology, and general geology. Zoology; Courses in embryology, osteology, physiological, psychology and general zoology.

The laboratory method is a prominent feature of instruction in all these branches. Field work is insisted upon wherever practicable. This is especially so in geology. The location of Lexington is found to be well suited as a place in which to begin the study of this subject. We are situated here near the base of the geological series of the State. The actual base can be reached in a few hours by rail or by wheel. Interesting structural geology features occur near the city—veins of barite and fluorite, two normal faults, which present interesting features. Almost a complete section of the State can be had by a railroad trip of 40 to 50 miles east or south.

Classes are taken on one to several days excursions to study these veins and faults—to become familiar with the characteristics of the different formations, to collect fossils, to inspect the clinton now in Bath country, the asphalt and fire clay deposits of Carter county or the coal of Lee and Breathitt.

In presenting the subject in the class room the two-sided character of the study is kept in view. The practical is made prominent in instruction to these students of technology who have it in their course; the features that have value as contributing to general culture are those which receive most attention in other classes.

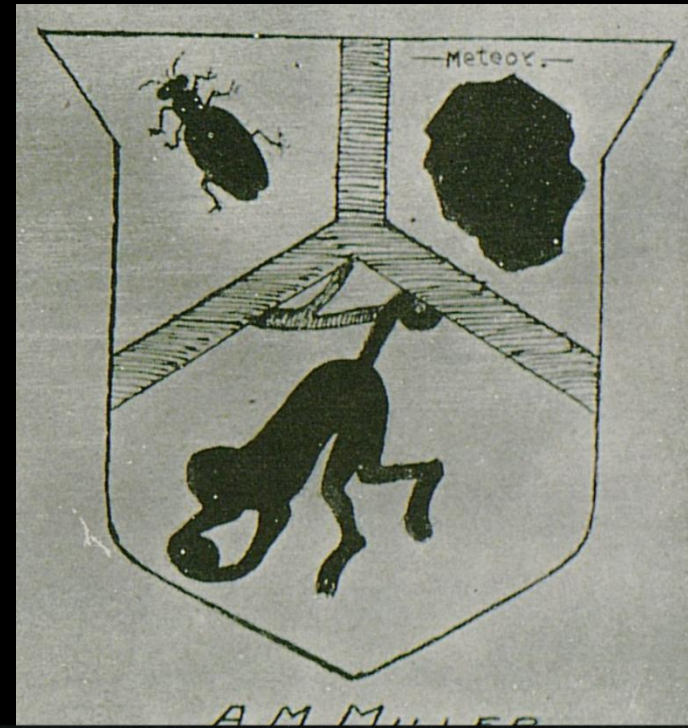
The department has been endeavoring to make its contribution toward encouraging material development of the State. It has been co-operating with the National Geological Survey in the excellent, though desultory, work of that organization in the State in recent years, and has been making efforts to enlist the people of Kentucky in the continuance of the old State survey. An extensive correspondence has grown up with persons in various parts of the Commonwealth who are interested in geological questions, mostly of a practical nature. This involves the examination of specimens submitted and the determination of the character and value of same.

In zoology also the practical and theoretical have a place. Problems growing out of the broad subject of revolution interest the general student of science; facts and methods of investigation have a special interest to persons who like the student of agriculture or medicine expect to turn their knowledge to practical account.

**1903 “Blue and White” Yearbook description of department**

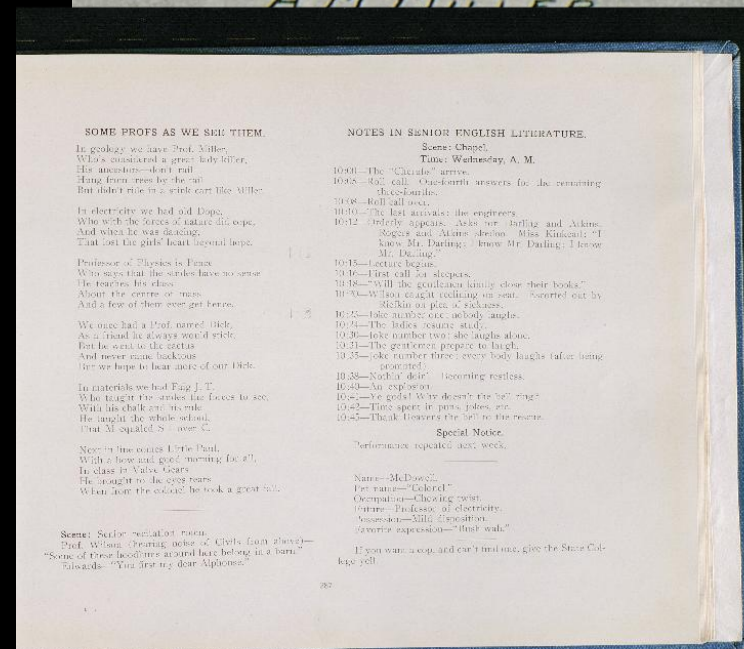


# 1903 Yearbook Prof. Miller “Coat of Arms” drawn by students; 1906 Yearbook poem about Prof. Miller



## Some Profs As We See Them

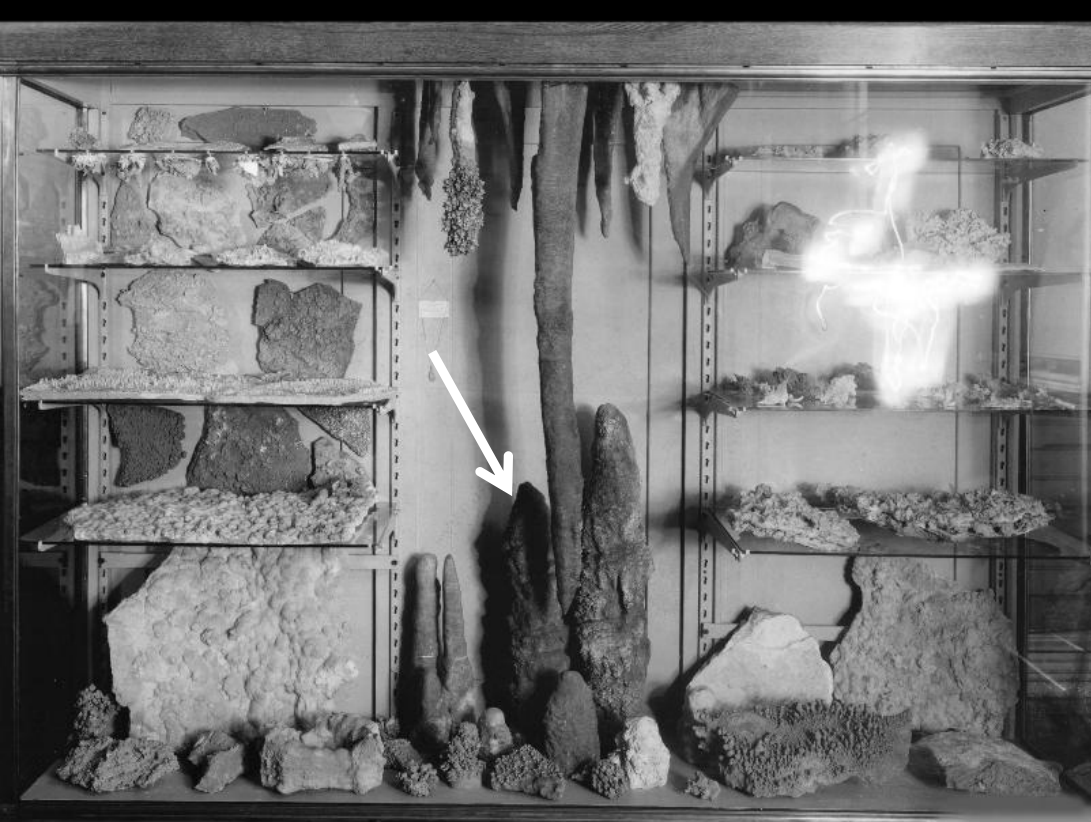
*In geology we have Prof. Miller  
Who's considered a great lady killer  
His ancestors—don't rail  
Hung from trees by the tail  
But didn't ride in a stink cart like Miller*



**Undated  
photo of  
field  
excursion**







**Early Geology display case; the  
same stalactite in the JSB  
today**



**Undated picture  
of A.M. Miller**





## 1909 Yearbook

### The Geological Excursion to the Kentucky River, Part One

"Riding through the fertile country composed of Lexington Limestone, we made our first stop at Manchester Spring. Here is an intersection of the Richmond Road and a change in the geological formation, while beyond it lay the shales of Eden and the furtherance of our fondest hopes. The shale which forms the transition from mud rock to limestone abounds in fossils such as *Strophometa maysvillensis*, the *Rafinesquina*, and various other brachiopods."

### THE GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION TO THE KENTUCKY RIVER



Under the guidance of Prof. Miller, we started upon our first geological trip in the latter part of September. It was a most entrancing morning, such a one, indeed, of which the poet wrote:

"Full many a glorious morning have I seen  
Flatter the mountain top with sovereign eye,  
Kissing with golden face the meadow green,  
Gilding pale streams with heavenly alchemy."

We journeyed past spots that mark the course of history, leaving the city beneath columns of vapor and fumes from engines

and factories ascending skyward, accompanied by confused and inarticulate murmurs like the whispers of protest and pain.

Riding through the fertile country composed of Lexington limestone, we made our first stop at Manchester Spring. Here is an intersection of the Richmond road and a change in the geological conformation, while beyond it lay the shales of Eden and the furtherance of our fondest hopes. The shale which forms the transition from mud rock to limestone abounds in fossils such as *Strophometa maysvillensis*, the *Rafinesquina*, and various other Brachiopods.



One now might see the buzzard homing herself in the sky, the snake sliding through creepers and hogs, the rabbit taking to the inner passes of the woods, or summer songsters flying far south to Florida. The smoke from the scattered chimneys of the natives arose straight to the zenith and dissolved in the stainless blue. In the deep distant valley, the river glimmered through a dim silver mist woven with shifting purple like the hues which gleam on the breast of a dove. Undulating along the horizon, the bluff arose like translucent crags of violet, softened here and there by the penciling of autumn.

On our descent, we discovered our first geological disturbance of any significance. It was a fault, one of the most profound in the confines of the Commonwealth. When we consider the tremendous upheaval which must necessarily have taken place, when we discover the Lexington limestone on the down-throw side 300 feet below its level, scene of each aquatic sport, the long rafts lift when

"The universal host upsent  
A shout that tore Hell's concave and beyond  
Frightened the reign of Chaos and old Night."

Launching our boats at noon, each in the care of a mortal Charon, we headed down stream, between lofty walls of bluish limestone, that gave sufficient cause for the voyager to tremble, lest he, too, be floating through the misty blue of Symplegades.

At last we disembarked. Here, indeed, the ladies were ministering angels, and, while we dined amid rustic exuberance and sylvan shades, there was leisure to remember each as a



"Perfect woman, nobly planned,  
To warn, to comfort, and command;  
But yet a spirit still and bright,  
With something of an angel light."

The afternoon waned, and with it the passing of each new adventure. Night came and drew her darkening veil over the scene of each aquatic sport, the long rafts of logs, the lofty caverns, and the well-remembered melon patch. Our river ride was finished; our journeys home began. Four Kentucky horses hurried us to our distant destination, soothing our wearied senses by the rhythmic clatter of their winged hoofs.

## 1909 Yearbook

### The Geological Excursion to the Kentucky River, Part Two

"On our descent, we discovered our first geological disturbance of any significance. It was a fault, one of the most profound in the confines of the Commonwealth."



**Undated image  
from UK  
Archive,  
probably taken  
near Pine  
Mountain**





# 1910 Yearbook; “frog hunts”!

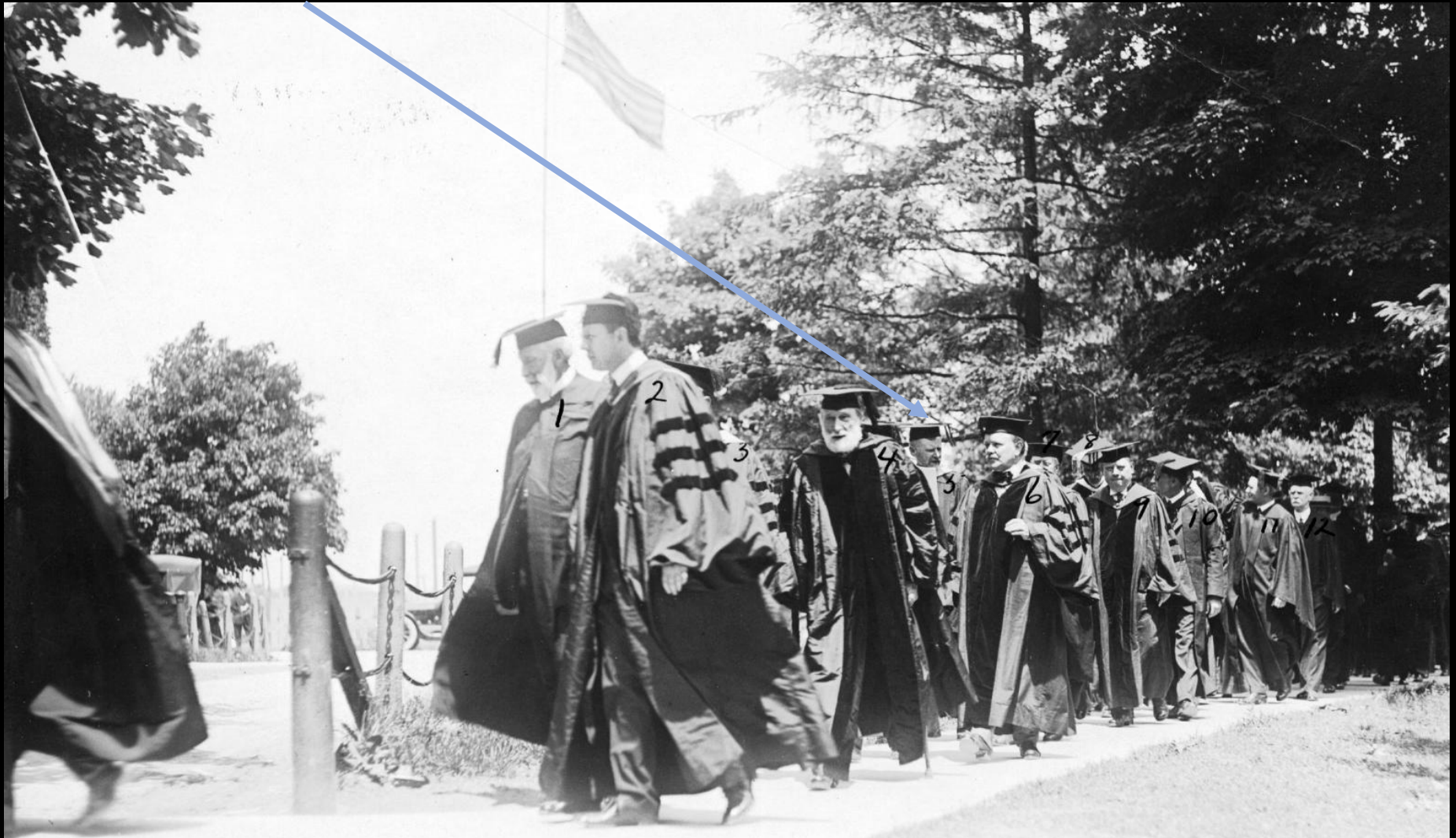


THIS department has ample class room and laboratory space on the first and second floors of Science Hall. The course is made up largely of recitation work, but it is no infrequent sight to see a wagonette leave town on a pretty day with a party of science students occupying the seats. Professor Miller always leads these parties and they enjoy many pleasant days on the banks of the Kentucky River studying geological formation.

The laboratory equipment is good and the collection of stones, snakes and bugs that Science Hall boasts would jar the nerves of a seminary girl. As a large number of the girls in school are matriculates in this department, it is of course popular with all students. The Entomology end of the scheme is conspicuous principally for the number of eggs hatched and unhatched in their incubators.

Frog hunts in which both girls and boys participate are of frequent occurrence in the spring. In fact if this is not stopped we fear there will be a frog famine in the Lexington neighborhood.

# Dean A. M. Miller, first Dean of Arts & Sciences



**Commencement, 1916**



**1920: The  
“Shaler  
Geologic  
Society” in  
the  
Kentuckian  
Yearbook**



# 1920 Yearbook Satiric "ad"

## "UN-CLASSIFIED ADS"

Undreamed of opportunities are offered to the University of Kentucky in the way of extending and increasing attendance through the course in psychological advertising recently opened. In the fear that there are those still in our midst who are less erudite we take the privilege of explaining what is meant by psychological advertising. The word psychological comes from the Hebrew word "psycho," meaning to kick or to punch, and logical purporting to be nothing more than it implies; hence we have advertising with a punch or kick.

Wonderful opportunities are offered in this day for the ambitious advertiser. Pep, kick, punch, the watchword of the age (as well as of the aged), must be incorporated into everything we do or attempt. Perhaps the following suggestion may be a little advanced for this common everyday world, but we trust that no harm will come from the merely dropping of the hint.

While the University Catalog has plenty of "kicks" in it, both subjectively and objectively, it might be improved if the proper person should step in and rejuvenate its pages. Why not put some life into it? we ask in all seriousness. With this simple introduction we submit the following advertisements in hope that the university authorities will see the light and be the first to advocate something that will be sooner or later followed by all the leading institutions of the country.

COME TO THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF KENTUCKY

ONCE A STUDENT  
ALWAYS A STUDENT  
WE SEE TO THAT

If We Can't Bungle Your Credits  
No One Can

Are You Interested  
In Old Fossils?

THEN SEE ME BEFORE  
MAKING OUT YOUR  
COURSE IN GEOLOGY

A. M. MILLER

Are You Interested  
In Old Fossils?

THEN SEE ME BEFORE  
MAKING OUT YOUR  
COURSE IN GEOLOGY

A. M. MILLER





**Professor Miller and students,  
1922 excursion to Hinds Cave, KY**

**Undated, unlabeled photo from UK Archives**





**Professor Miller field party, no date given**



# George W. Pirtle, first graduate student



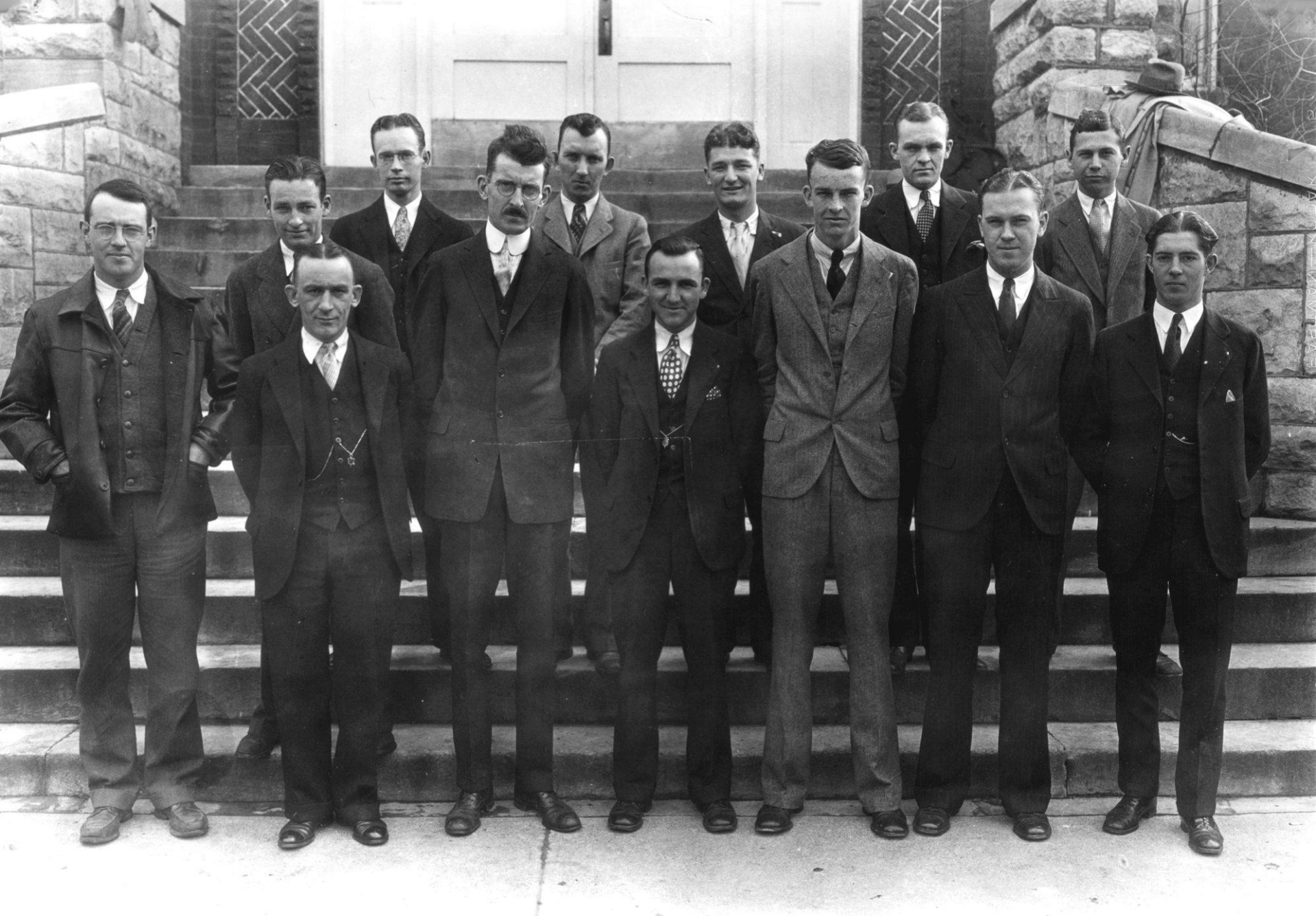
B.S., 1924, B.A.,  
1925

Endowed the  
Pirtle fund to  
support  
graduate student  
work in the  
department



**1928  
Sigma  
Gamma  
Epsilon,  
about to  
go on a  
field trip**





**A.C. McFarlan, faculty and students, 1930**



# 1941 Sigma Gamma Epsilon, with Prof. McFarlan



## Sigma Gamma Epsilon

NATIONAL METALLURGICAL FRATERNITY

*Founded at the University of Kansas, 1915*

*CHI Chapter Established in 1928*

### PURPOSE

This national metallurgical fraternity shall have for its objects, the social, scholastic and scientific advancement of its members, the extension of these relations among universities and scientific schools with recognized standing in the United States and Canada, and the upbuilding of a national college society devoted to the advancement of the Earth Sciences. The Earth Sciences shall include: Geology, Mining, Metallurgy, Ceramics, Petroleum Engineering, and allied subjects.

### FACULTY ADVISER

David M. Young

### MEMBERS IN FACULTY

Dr. A. C. McFarlan  
Dr. Carl C. Branson

David M. Young

Vincent E. Nelson  
William G. Haag

### OFFICERS

BEN PLANCH

COFER SUNDERMAN

RICHARD GARD

*President*

*Vice-President*

*Secretary*

### MEMBERS

Hubert Moore

Luther Powell

James Young

C. 5119

C. 5119



1943 Sigma Gamma Epsilon and excursion vehicle

# 1943 Sigma Gamma Epsilon

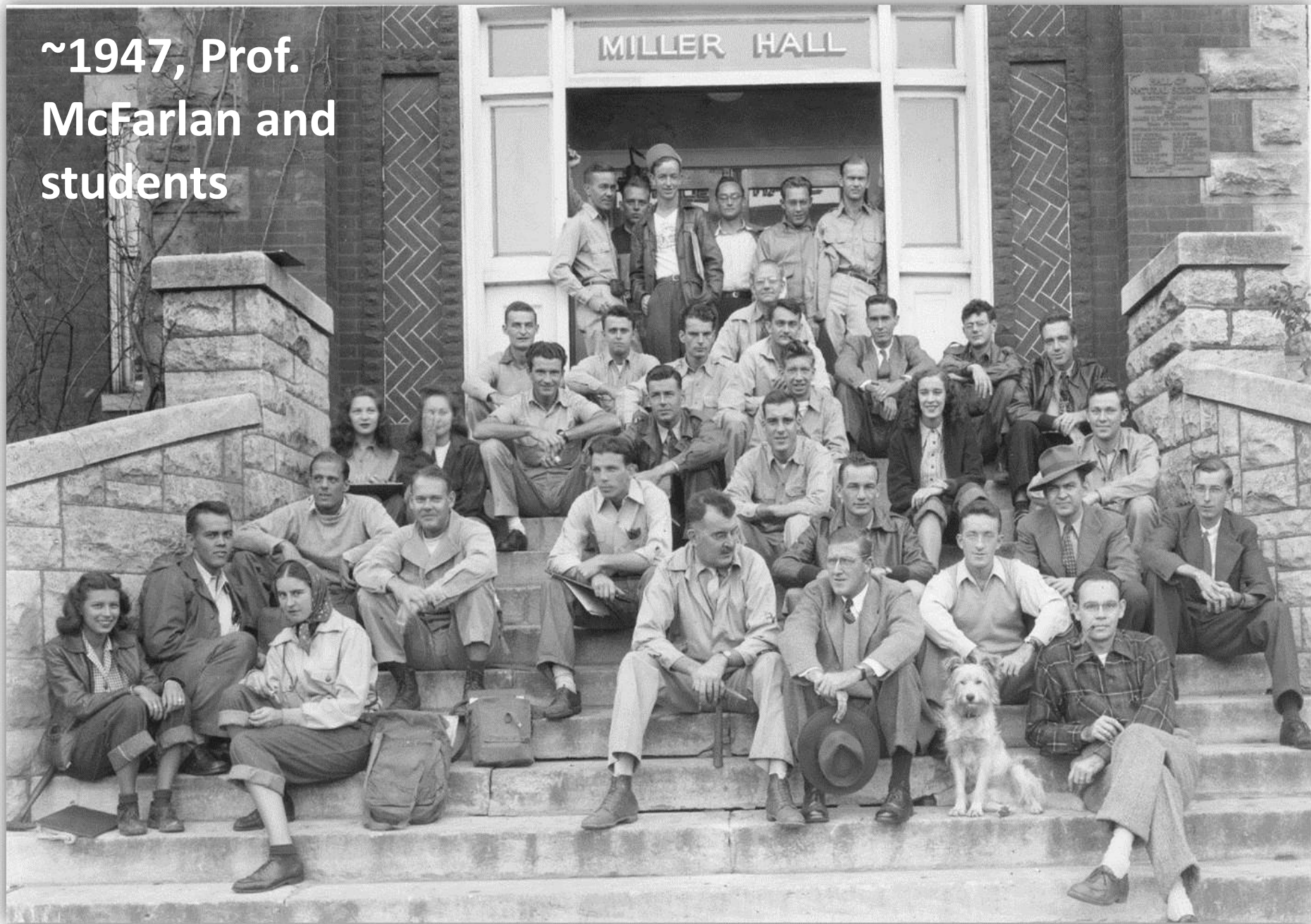






**1946 UK Geology field trip to the Black Hills,  
South Dakota**

~1947, Prof.  
McFarlan and  
students





# 1949 Sigma Gamma Epsilon



Nelson, Lewis, Brown, King, Macke, Murphy, Flege  
Bruce, Sargent, Roederer, Parker, Luttrell, Ford, Hall

Sigma Gamma Epsilon was founded at the University of Kansas in 1915 and Chi Chapter was installed on the University of Kentucky campus in 1928. Purpose: For social, scholastic, and scientific advancement of its members, the extension of the relations of friendship between universities and regions.

Officers: J. O. Lewis, president; Jephtha Roy Hall, vice president; Eugene M. Luttrell, corresponding secretary; William R. King, treasurer

Members: Clement H. Bruce, Robert Fred Flege



# 1964 Sigma Gamma Epsilon

## Association Acquaints Members With Field

Started in 1956 for students majoring in speech therapy and audiology, the University's Speech and Hearing Association acquaints its members with the professional field. Programs centered around all allied fields such as Cerebral Palsy, the perceptually handicapped, cleft palate, stuttering, deafness, and articulation disorders help fulfill this purpose. Social functions of the organization this year include a picnic and a Christmas party.

## Tarr Award Presented

Each year the Tarr Award for the outstanding senior in earth science and an award to an outstanding underclassman are presented by Sigma Gamma Epsilon. The Society also helped the geology department in the expansion of the geology library by assisting in the shifting of books.

Sigma Gamma Epsilon, national earth science honorary was founded March 30, 1915, at the University of Kansas. The annual fall picnic for anyone associated with the fields of geology, mining, and metallurgical engineering gave everyone a chance to talk shop.

SIGMA GAMMA EPSILON—*Row One:* Peter W. Whaley, Secretary/Treasurer; James W. Thornton Jr., President; William B. Turner, Vice President. *Row Two:* Charles E. Holbrook, Roger B. Head, Jojuk Sumartojo, James W. Hazel.



*Row One:* Peter W. Whaley, Secretary/Treasurer; James W. Thornton, Jr., President; William B. Turner, Vice President. *Row Two:* Charles E. Holbrook, Roger B. Head, Jojuk Sumartojo, James W. Hazel.

# Field vehicles over the years



**1943 Sigma Gamma Epsilon  
Geology Honor Society**



**1909 field trip to  
Kentucky River**



**1954 Field Course in Colorado**



**#vanlife: 2017 student selfie  
leaving campus for Colorado**



**1979 UK Geology "float" in  
Crested Butte, CO 4<sup>th</sup> of July party**

# **Dr. James Hudnall, B.S., '20 hands out the first Hudnall field camp scholarships, 1976**





**Vivian Hull was  
the Geology  
Librarian, 1963-  
1986**



# 1980, In front of Bowman



1. Brian B. Hunt, Acc'ts Clerk
2. Connie D. Irvine, Secretary
3. William R. (Bill) Brown
4. William H. (Bill) Blackburn
5. Lois J. Campbell
6. Mary R. Spencer, Libr. Ass't.
7. Thomas G. (Tom) Roberts
8. Irving S. (Bud) Fisher
9. Ronald L. (Ron) Street
10. Erwin J. (Erv) Lyons, Emeritus

11. Frank R. Ettensohn
12. Nicholas (Nick) Rast, Hudnall Professor
13. John C. Ferm
14. William H. (Bill) Dennen, Chairman
15. Vincent E. (Vin) Nelson, Emeritus
16. William C. (Bill) MacQuown
17. John Thrailkill
18. Vivian S. Hall, Librarian
19. Colin R. Ward, Visiting Prof.
20. Bruce R. Moore



**1985 Department Portrait on steps of Bowman**

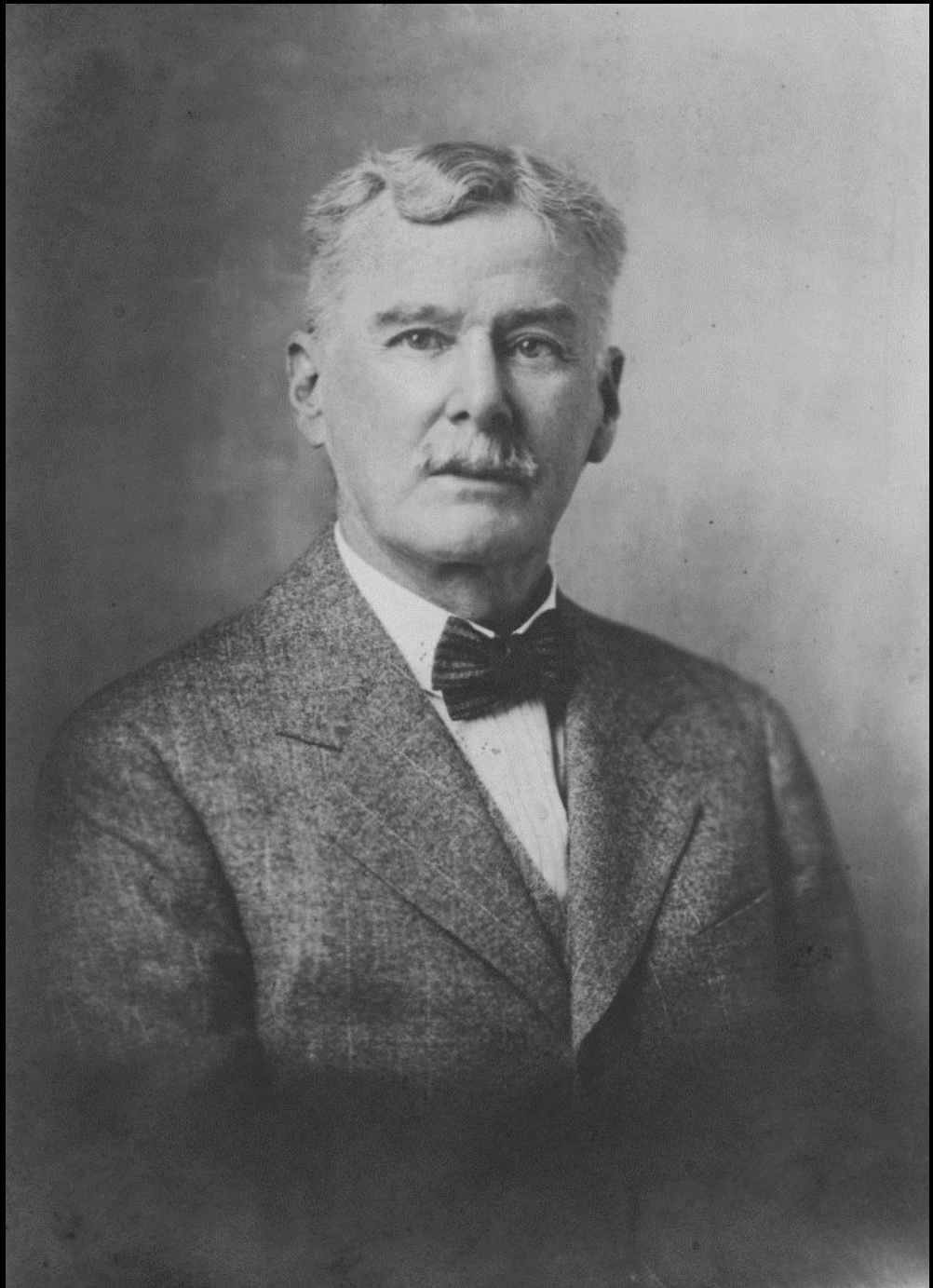


# UK Geology

Faculty through the Years



**Arthur Miller, Chair,  
1892-1925**

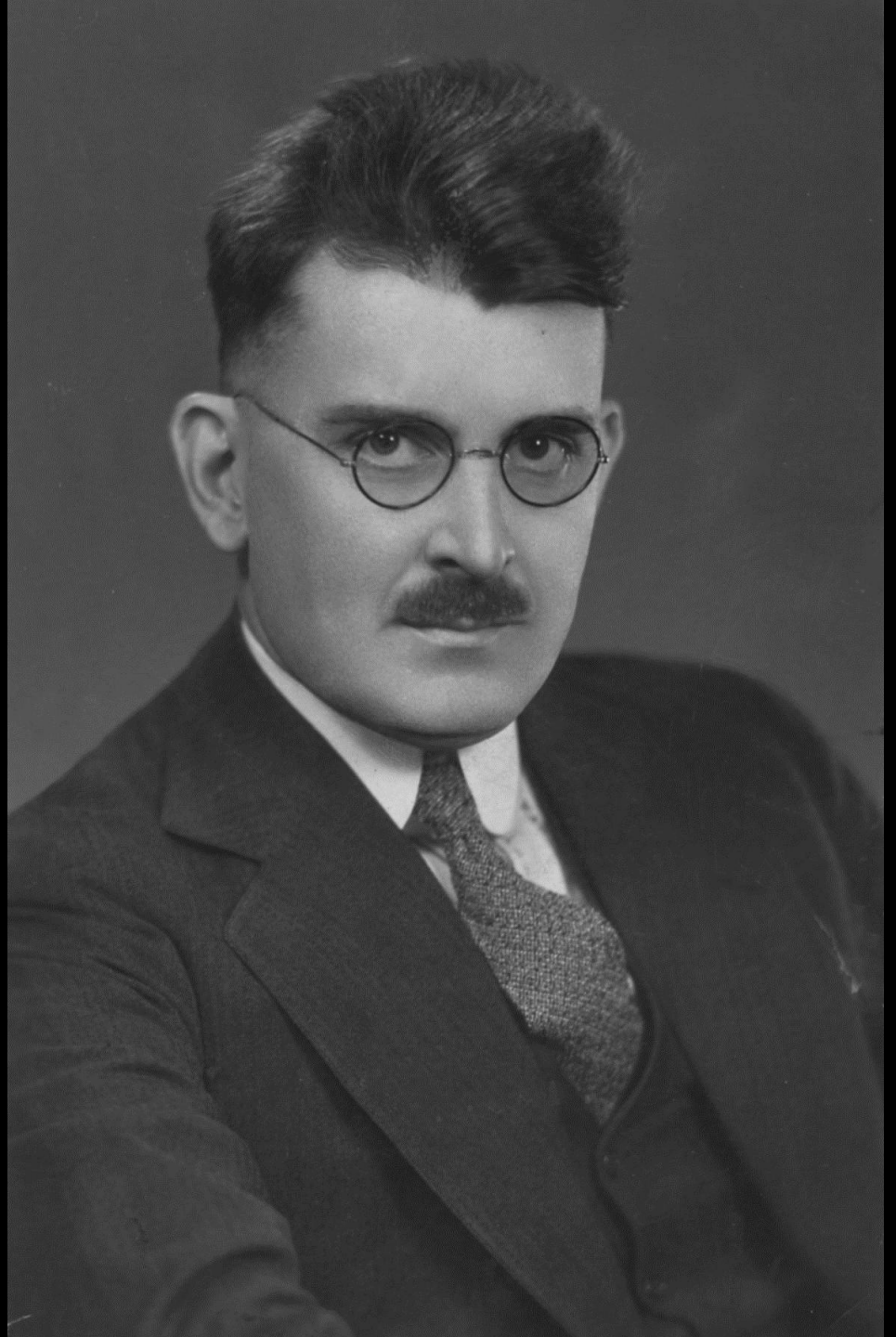


**Sue Dobyys  
McCann, Fellow  
Assistant in  
Zoology, Geology,  
and Entomology,  
1907-1912**

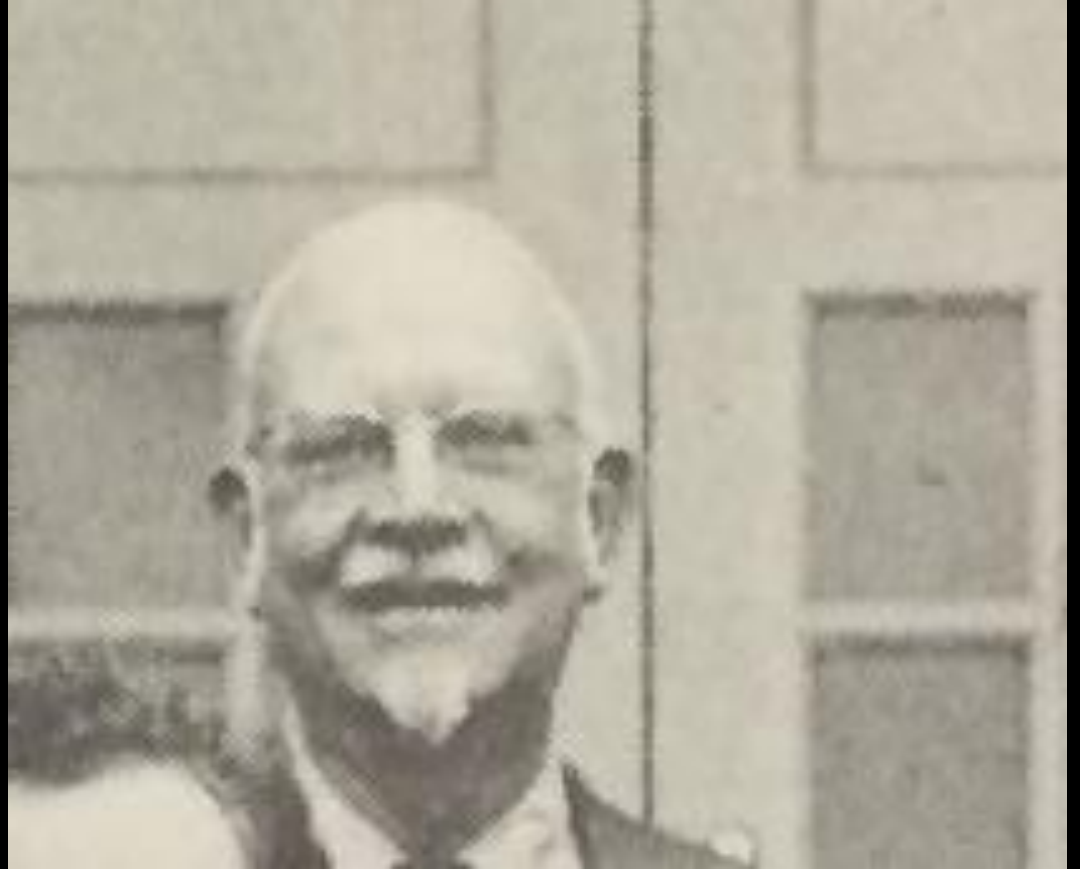




**A.C. McFarlan,  
Chair, 1925-1966**



**Vincent Nelson,  
Professor, 1938-  
1978**



**Louise B. Freeman  
Clarkson,  
Instructor, 1941-  
1948**

**Also:  
First female UK  
Geology graduate  
student, 1932**

**Received PhD,  
University of Chicago,  
1940**

**Founded Case Grande  
Oil Company**





**William  
MacQuown,  
Professor, 1945-  
1947, 1961-1983**



**William R. (Bill)  
Brown, Professor,  
1946-1984**



**Irving S. Fisher,  
Professor, 1949-  
1985**

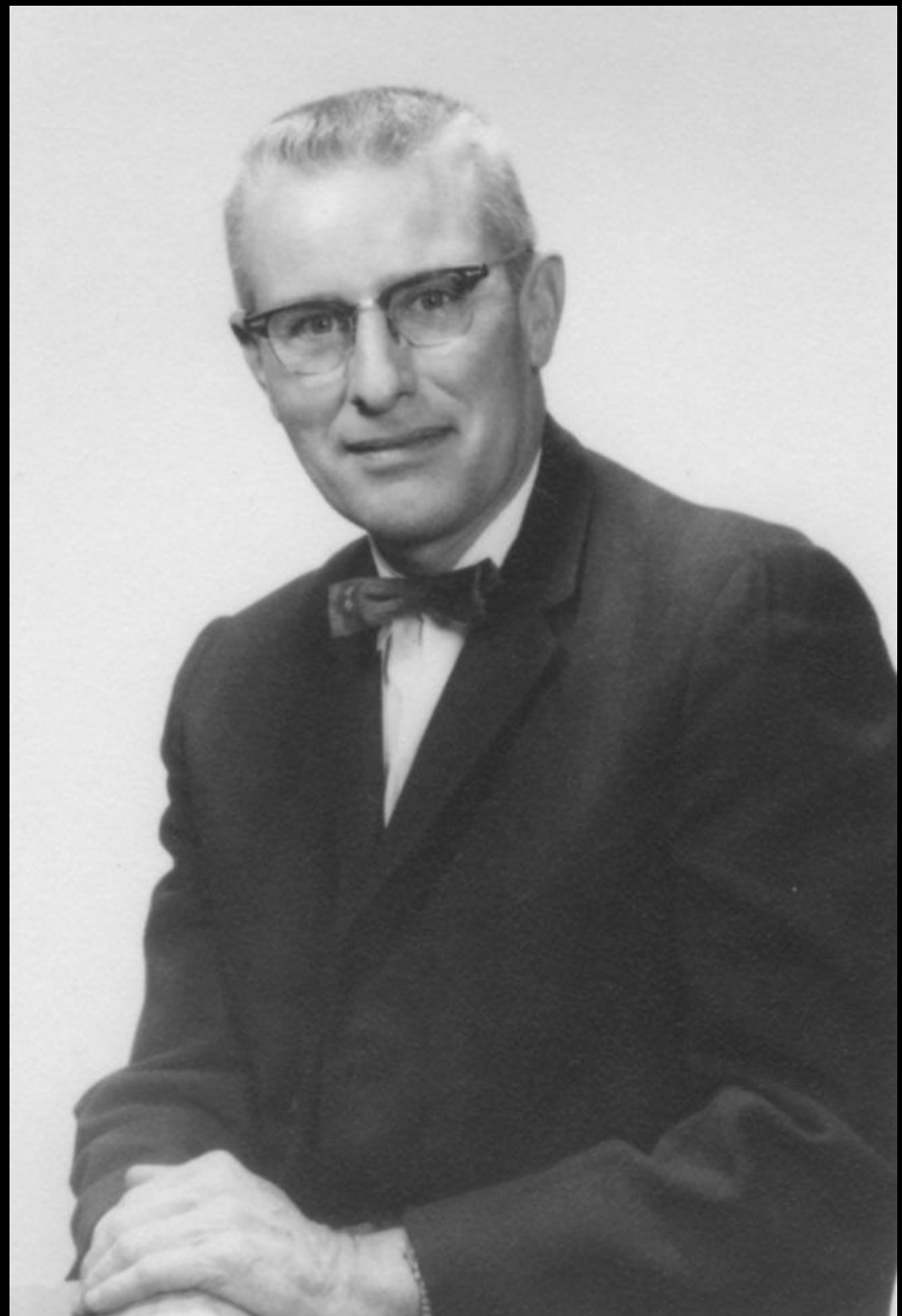




**Lois Campbell,  
Associate Professor,  
1954-1990**



**Thomas Roberts,  
Professor, 1956-1983**



**William Dennen,  
Chair, 1967-1975**



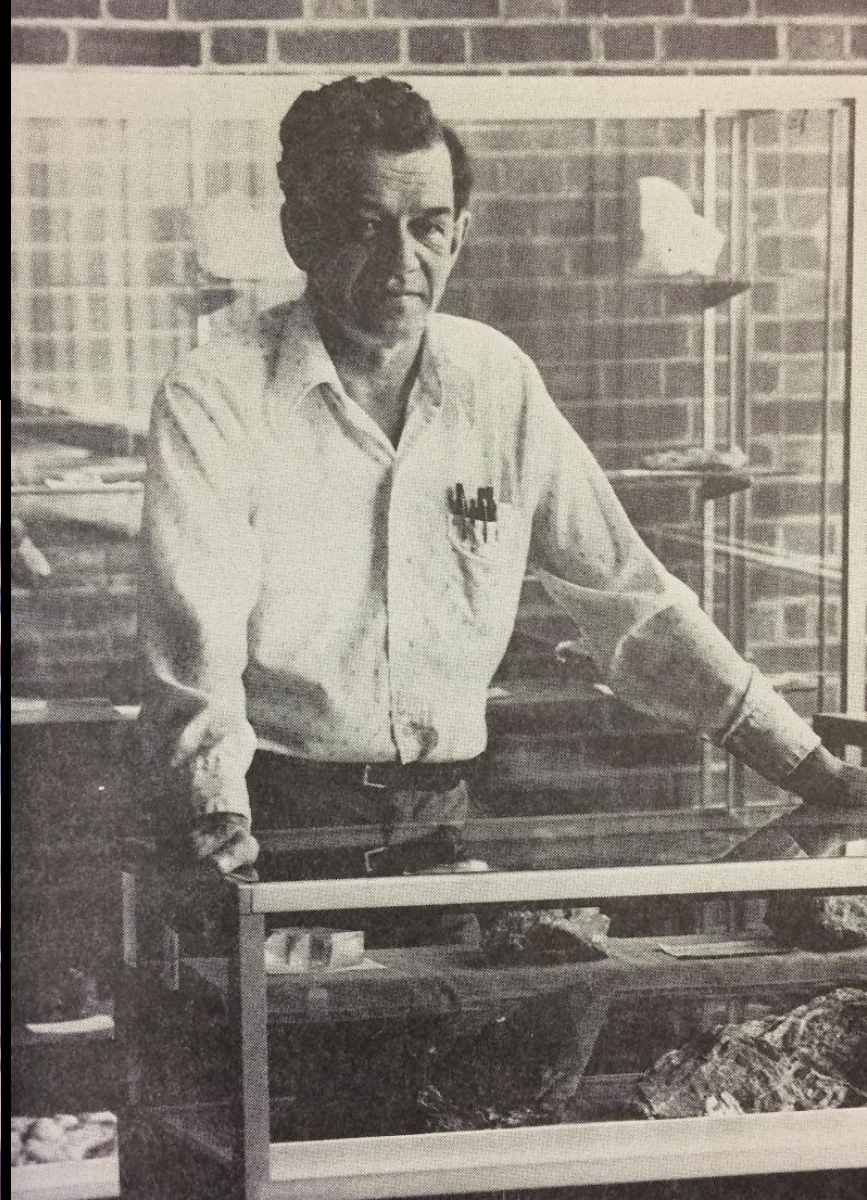


**John Thrailkill,  
Chair, 1976-1980**





# Nicholas Rast, Chair, 1981-1989



**William Thomas,  
Chair, 1991-1996,  
2006-2008**





# UK Geology

Field Camp





**Field camp, 1930**

# Field camp, 1951





**Field camp,  
1951**



**Field  
camp,  
1951**



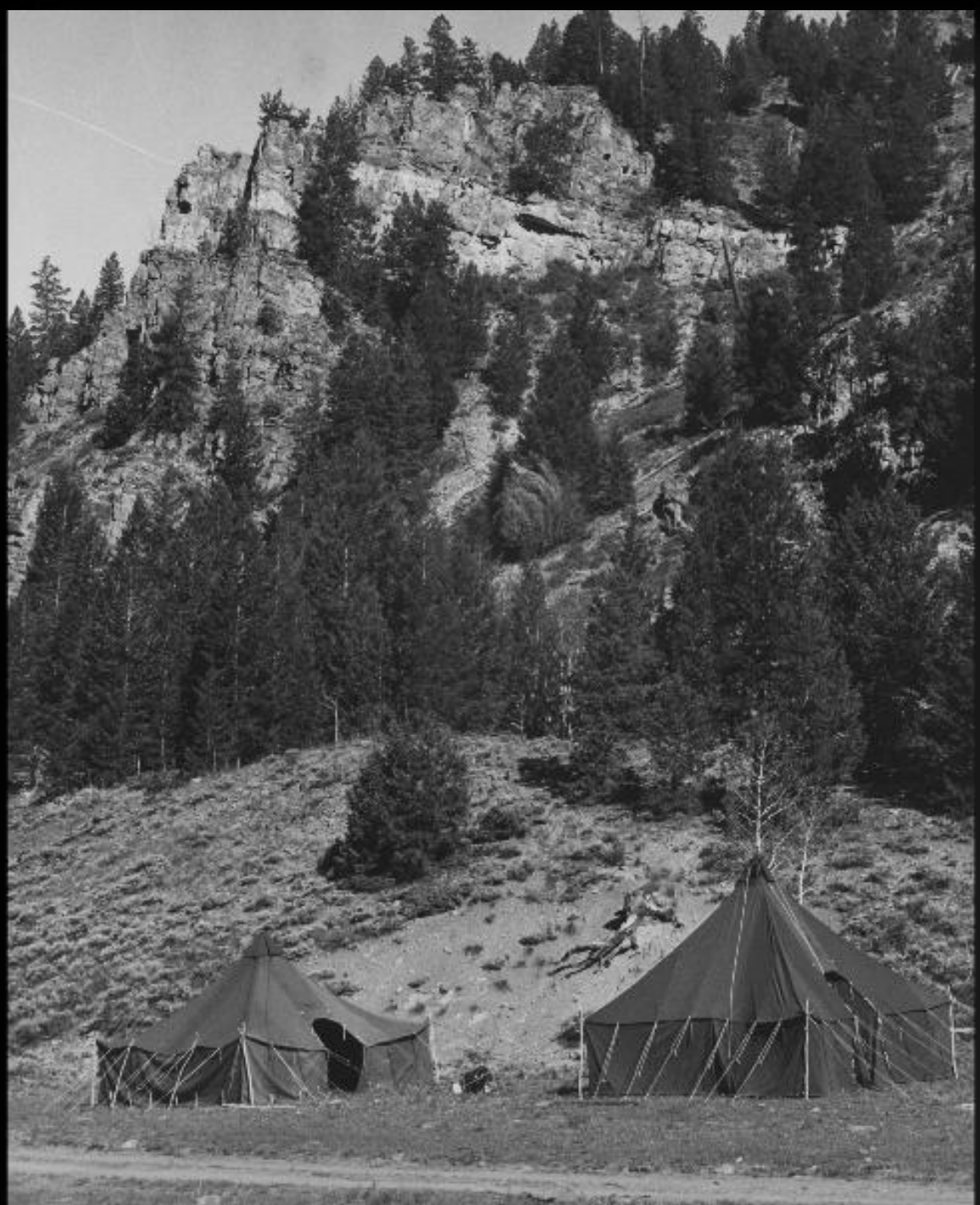


**Field  
camp,  
1951**





**1952 Cement  
Creek field  
camp near  
Walrod Gulch**



# Field Camp, 1952





**Emerald Lake, 1950's**





**1954 Field Camp**



# 1966 Yearbook Shot of Field Camp



Ranging up over a ridge, one of the members of UK's Geology Department confronts the majestic vista of Crested Butte, Colorado. Part of the Gunnison National Forest, Crested Butte was the site for the 1965 Geology Summer Field Camp. Extended academic experiences such as this are a vital part of the University's total education program and are offered in many departments.



# 1968 Field Camp





# 1968 Field Camp



## Field Camp, undated







**1975, Breakfast during take-down week, Cement Creek**



# 1979 Field Campers





**1979 UK  
Geology  
“float” in  
Crested  
Butte, CO,  
4<sup>th</sup> of July  
parade**



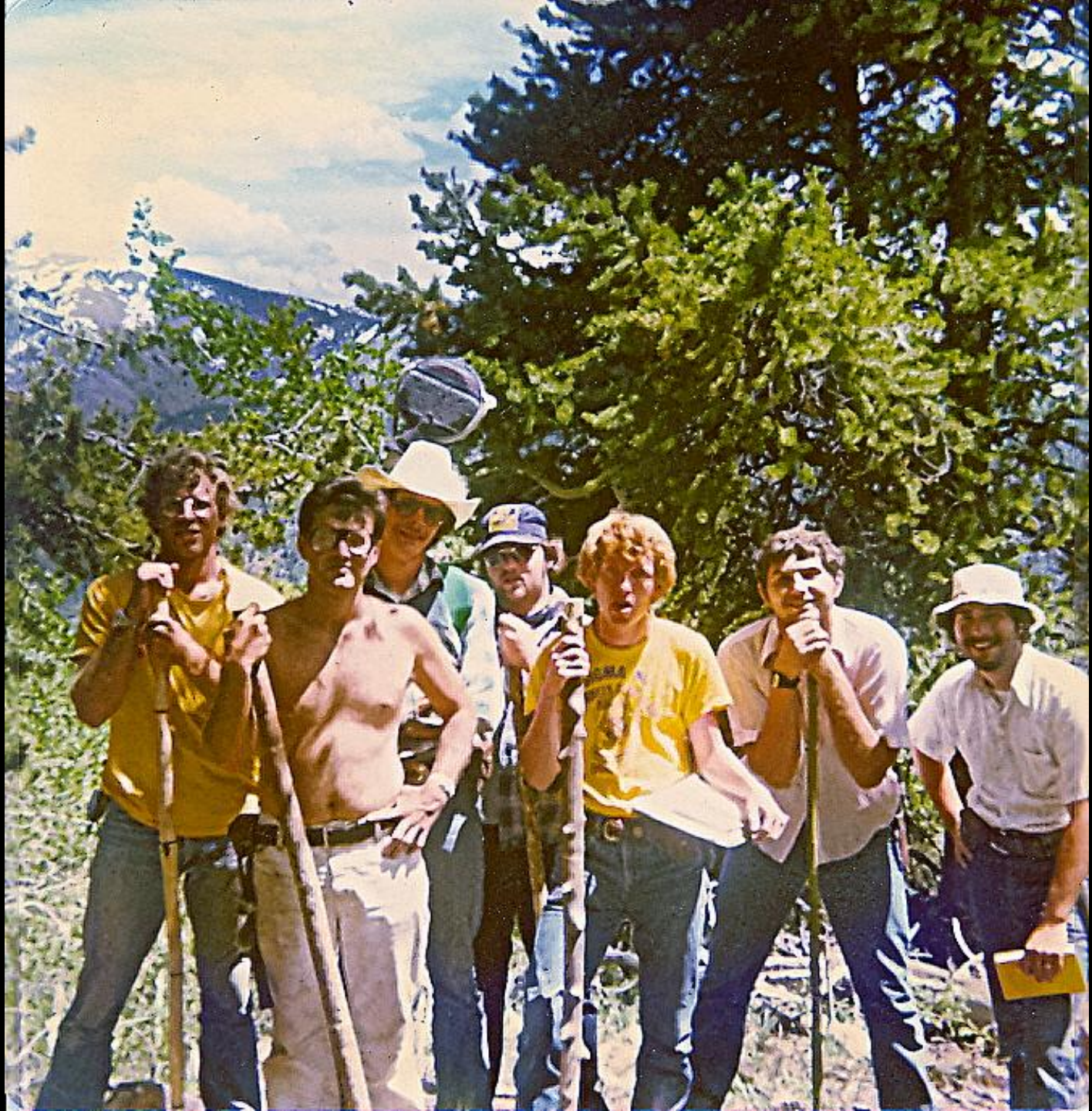


# 1979 Field Camp





**1979 Field  
geologists  
near top of  
Pt. Lookout**





**1980 pre-dinner time gathering around campfire at Cement Creek Camp**





# Mineral collecting at West Maroon Pass





# 1999 Field Camp





# 1999 Field Camp



# 2003 Field Camp



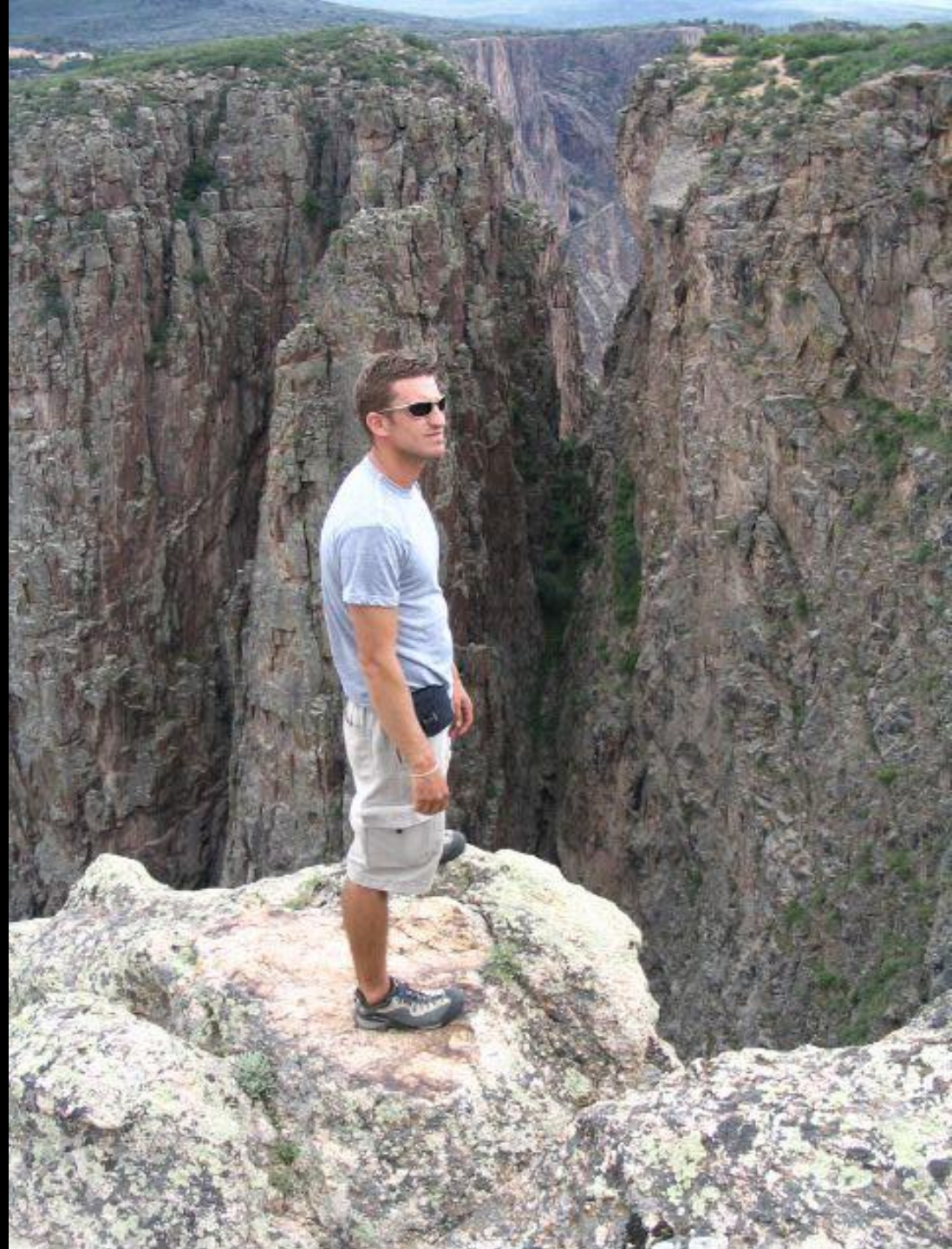


# Dave Moecher on Comb Ridge





# **Kit Clemons, TA, Black Canyon of the Gunnison**





# 2005 Field Camp





# 2009 Field Camp



# 2013 Field Camp





# 2015 Field Camp





# 2017 Field Camp



# UK Geology

Current Life in the Department







## Graduate students and Girl Scouts





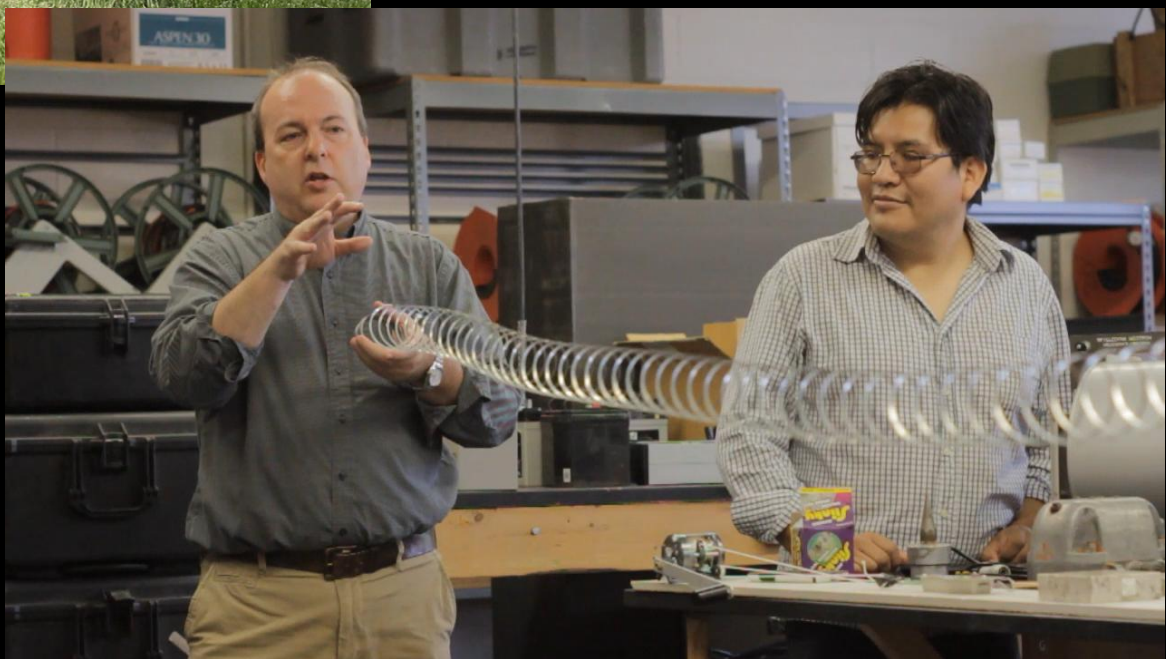
# Geology Club giving away fluorite crystals at Yates Elementary Science night







**Open House for  
undergraduate  
students**







**EES 150: Earthquakes and Volcanoes, in Memorial Hall**





**Petrographic Microscope Lab**





**Historical Geology trip to Maysville, KY;  
working with collected fossils in class**







Ig-Met Pet field trip to North Carolina, 9/29-10/1, 2017



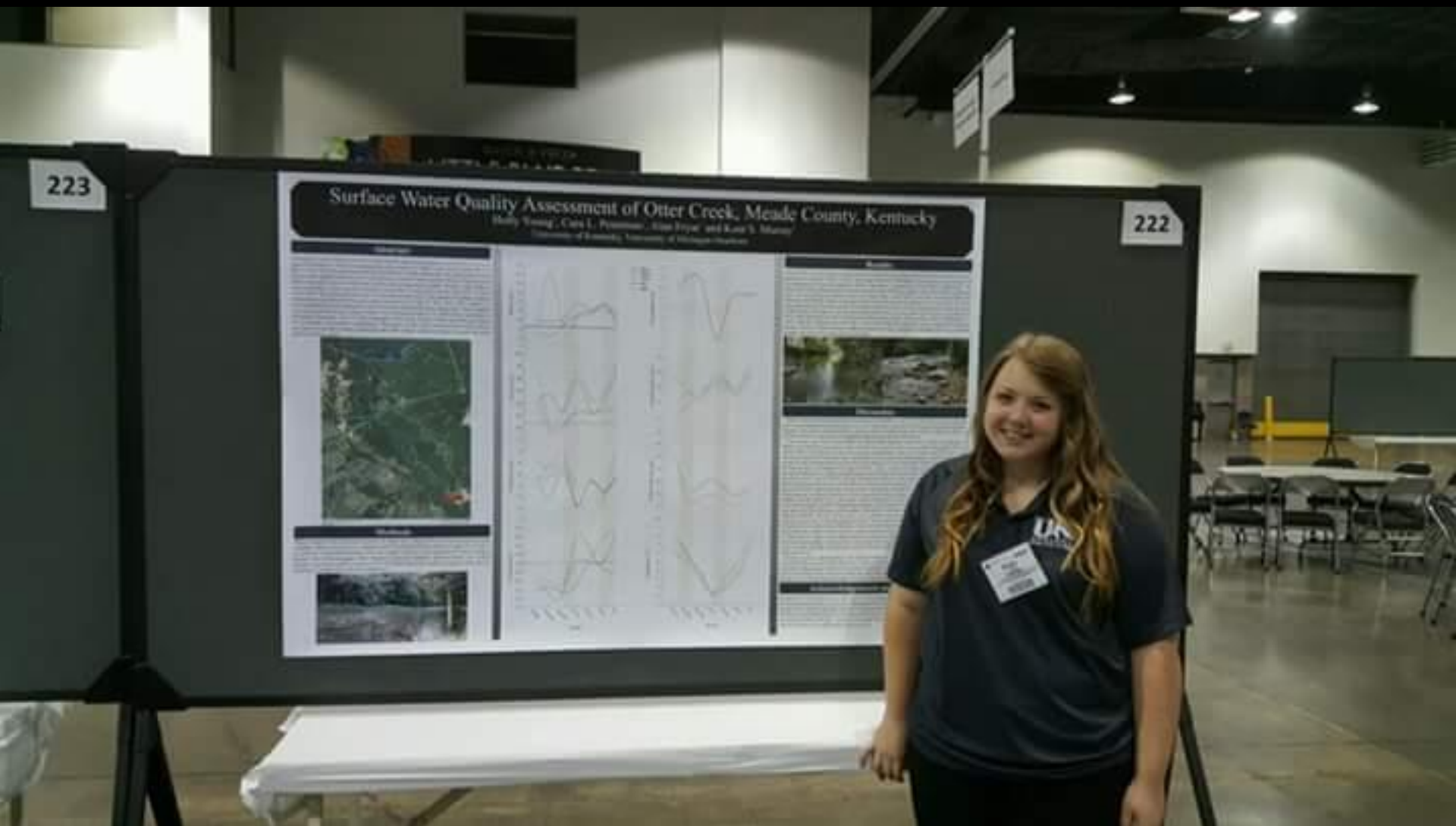
**2016: Geology of  
Maine field trip,  
supported by the  
Haynes Field Trip  
Fund**







**Graduation 2017: some of the graduating seniors with Drs. Moecher, Fryar, and Freeman**



**Undergraduate Holly Young, presenting her research at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Denver, Fall 2016: Research funded by Alumni Undergraduate Research Fellowship, travel to meeting provided by Brown-McFarlan funds**





**Spring Awards Luncheon, 2017: Winners of Glenn Rice Memorial Tuition Scholarships**



**And the 2017 winner of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Tarr Award is...  
Thomas Murrell!**





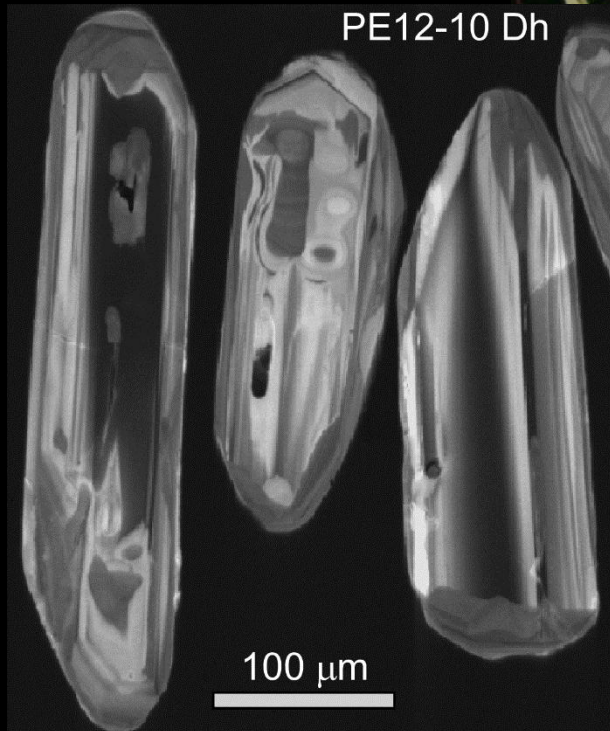
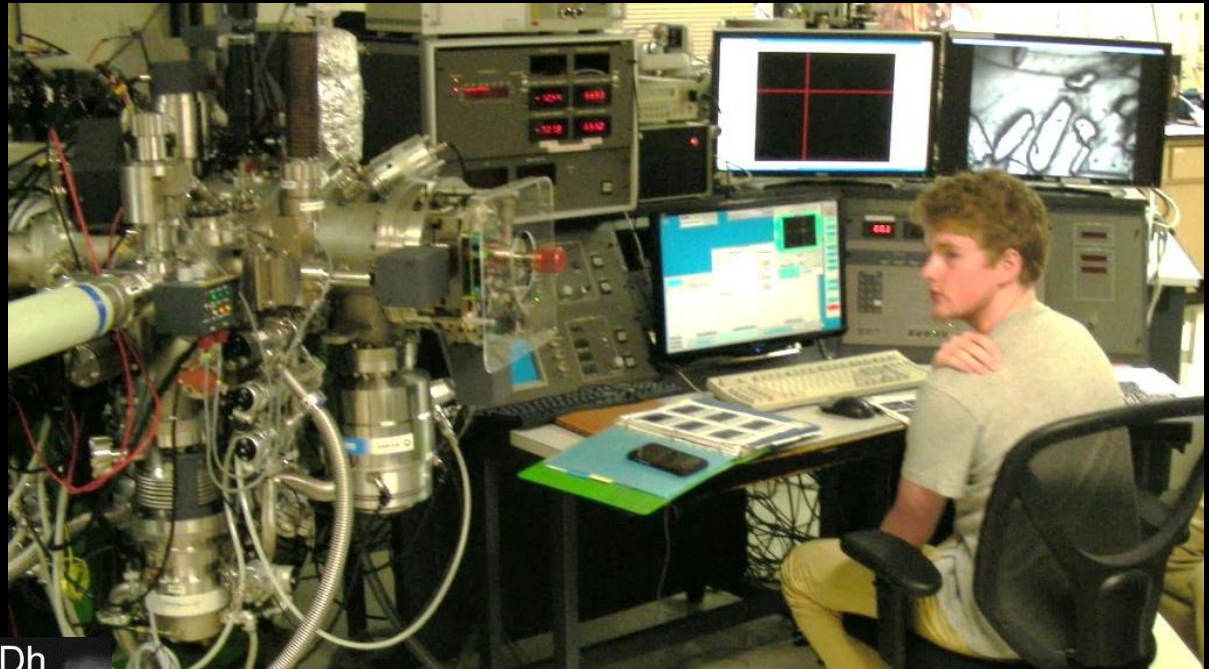
**Distinguished alumna Dr. Bridget Scanlon and Board Chair, Wendell Overcash**

**Geophysicist Dr. Keely  
O'Farrell, modelling Earth's  
mantle**



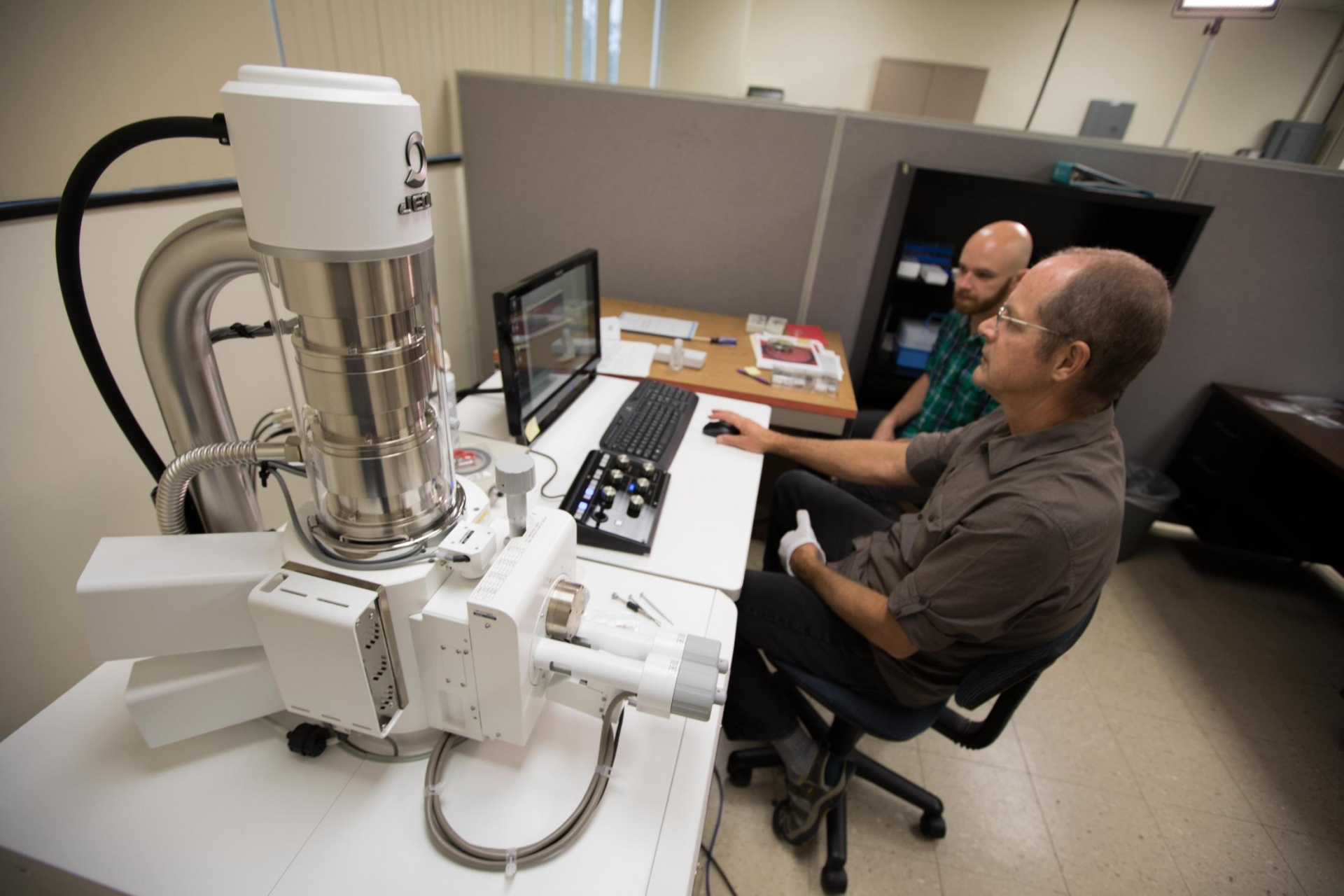


# Moecher lab graduate students and Dunbar High School student



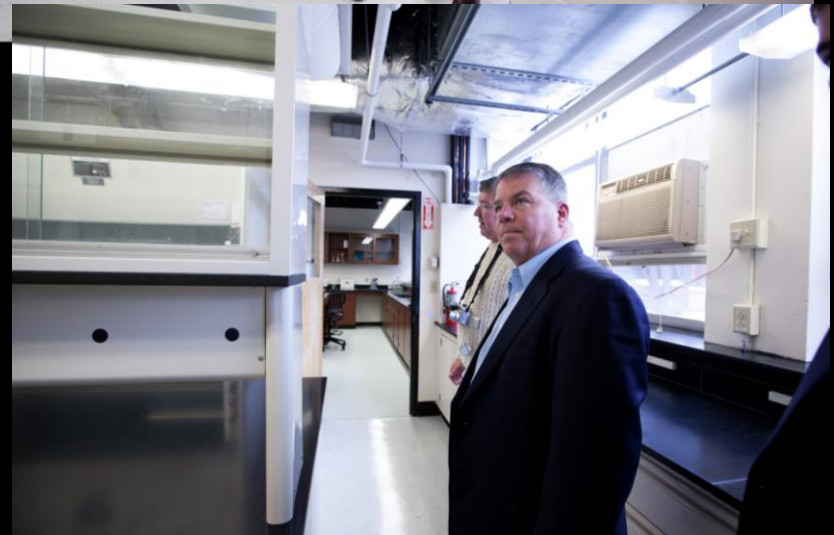






**Dave Moecher and grad student Mitchell Clay using the new SEM**

Scenes from the ribbon-cutting  
ceremony for the **PIONEER  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STRATIGRAPHY AND PALEO-  
ENVIRONMENTS LABORATORY**





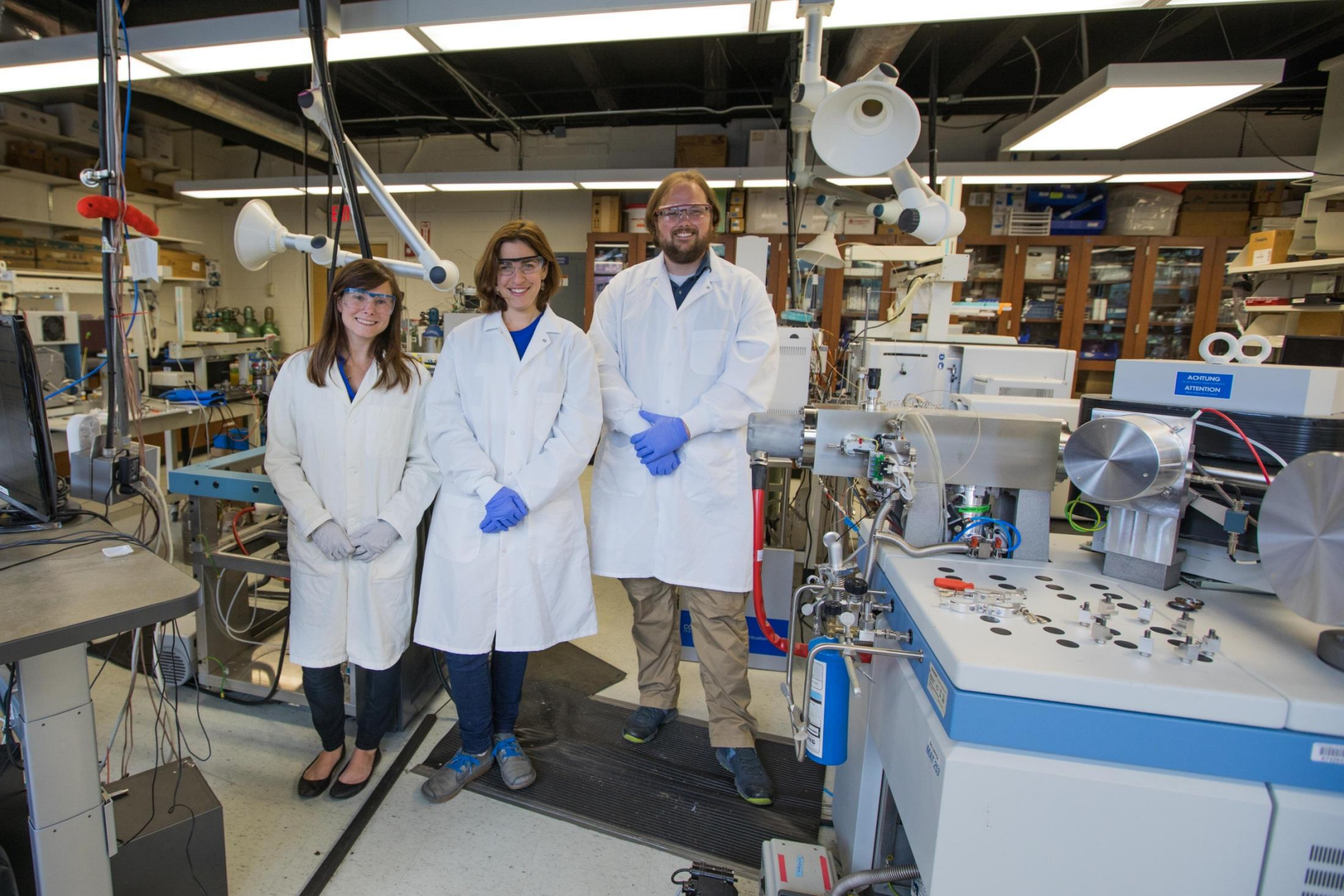


**Grad students looking at cores in the Pioneer Lab**



**Graduate student Edward Lo in the Pioneer Lab**





**Dr. Andrea Erhardt in the Stable Isotope Lab, with graduate students Bailee Hodelka and Alex Reis**



Summer 2017  
125<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary  
reunion party  
at Cement  
Creek, CO

