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
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
Paleo specimens on display in Miller Hall
“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 chilton 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.
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
“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.”
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 door three sides 300 feet below its level, the scene of each aquatic sport, the long rafted life when

"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."

Launching our boats at noon, each in the care of a deadly Charyb, we headed down stream, between lofty walls of bluish limestone, that gave sufficient shade for the voyager to traverse, and too, too, be floating through the misty blue of Nymphetamine. At last we disembarked. Here, indeed, the ladies were ministering angels, and, while we dried until rustic exhausted and urban aches, there was leisure to remember such as it

"Perfect woman, nobly planned.
To war, to comfort, and command;
And yet a spirit still and bright;
With something of an inward 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 mole patches. The river ride was finished; our journey hence began. From Kentucky homes turned us to our distant destination, soothing our wearied senses by the chime-like clatter of their winged boats.

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
“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 credit 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 drooping of the limb.

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

Are You Interested In Old Fossils?

If We Can't Bungle Your Credits No One Can

ONCE A STUDENT ALWAYS A STUDENT

THEN SEE ME BEFORE MAKING OUT YOUR COURSE IN GEOLOGY

A. M. MILLER

(293)
Professor Miller and students,
1922 excursion to Hinds Cave, KY
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
1941 Sigma Gamma Epsilon, with Prof. McFarlan
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
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 relation of friendship between university and science.

Officers: J. O. Lewis, president; Jeptha Roy Halvice president; Eugene M. Luttrell, corresponding secretary; William R. King, treasurer

Members: Clement H. Bruce, Robert Fred Fle
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.

Row One: Peter W. Whaley, Secretary/Treasurer; James W. Thornton, Jr., President; William B. Turner, Vice President. Row Two: Charles E. Holbroook, 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 4th 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
1985 Department Portrait on steps of Bowman
UK Geology
Faculty through the Years
Arthur Miller, Chair, 1892-1925
Sue Dobyns 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
UK Geology
Field Camp
Field camp, 1951
Field camp, 1951
Field camp, 1951
1952 Cement Creek field camp near Walrod Gulch
Emerald Lake, 1950’s
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.
1975, Breakfast during take-down week, Cement Creek
1979 Field Campers
1979 UK Geology “float” in Crested Butte, CO, 4th of July parade
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
2003 Field Camp
Dave Moecher on Comb Ridge
Kit Clemons, TA, Black Canyon of the Gunnison
2005 Field Camp
2015 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 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
New Scanning Electron Microscope and Brachiopod Fossil
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
125th
anniversary
reunion party
at Cement Creek, CO