



Earth & Environmental Sciences

SUMMER 2018 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



College of Arts
and Sciences

*Department of Earth and
Environmental Sciences*

ees.as.uky.edu



Earth & Environmental Sciences

2017-18 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Regular Faculty

Andrea Erhardt, Assistant Professor
Frank Ettensohn, Professor
Rebecca Freeman, Assistant Professor
Alan Fryar, Associate Professor
Michael McGlue, Assistant Professor
David Moecher, Professor
Keely O'Farrell, Assistant Professor
Dhananjay Ravat, Professor
Ryan Thigpen, Assistant Professor
Kevin Yeager, Associate Professor
Ed Woolery, Professor

Research Faculty

Bill Haneberg
Jim Hower

Senior Lecturer

Dr. Kent Ratajeski

Emeritus Faculty

William Blackburn
Bruce Moore
Kieran O'Hara
Sue Rimmer
Lyle Sendlein
Ron Street
William Thomas

Post-Doctoral Research Associates

Vanessa Fichtner
Maggie Sanders
David Willis

Instructors

Summer Brown

Staff

Adrienne Gilley, Dept. Manager
Pete Idstein, Academic Lab Coordinator
Joseph Lucas, Lab Manager
Jordon Munizzi, Research Facility Manager

Adjunct Faculty

Rick Bowersox, KGS
Cortland Eble, KGS
Steve Greb, KGS
John Hickman, KGS
Marty Parris, KGS
Tom Robl, CAER
Zhenming Wang, KGS
Junfeng Zhu, KGS

Cover Photo:

One of the 2017 UK Geology Alumni receptions to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Geology at UK was held at Cement Creek in the middle of the traditional field camp mapping area on Cement Creek Rd.

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Stay Connected...

You can keep track of department events, the Rast-Holbrook seminar schedule, our contact information, and alumni events via the department web page: ees.as.uky.edu

And Keep in Touch

Please let us know if your address or contact information changes. Send a note to, email, or call Adrienne Gilley, the EES Department Manager.



Adrienne Gilley

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Dear UK Geology Alumni and Friends,

2017 is long gone but that doesn't mean we can't take a retrospective look at the year in which we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of Geosciences at the University of Kentucky.

Our program has been around longer than the majority of Colleges and degree programs at UK! To give you a sense of our history we've put together a narrated presentation and a photo montage from the early history of the department to the present. These materials were assembled by Ms. Adrienne Gilley, our talented Department Manager, and Pete Idstein, our Academic Lab Coordinator, from documents in the Department and University archives, along with creative support by Professor Rebecca Freeman. We encourage you to browse these items and look for yourself or classmates or faculty and staff members from your time at UK. These are all viewable on the web at:

ees.as.uky.edu/ees-125th-anniversary

We've also scanned all the Department Newsletters from as far back as we can find (1941 when it was originally the "Roundup"), which is also a treasure trove of memories – see:

ees.as.uky.edu/ees-newsletter

To celebrate our anniversary and promote our 125th Anniversary Fundraising campaign ("125 for 125") we hosted three alumni reunions in 2017: the AAPG Annual Convention and Exposition in Houston in April; at Cement Creek Ranch in Crested Butte in July; and in Lexington in October. At all of the events the dedication to UK and goodwill of our alumni were evident, which is inspiring to experience. You can see photos from the Colorado and Lexington celebrations elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Please also note our social media sites (Facebook and LinkedIn) where you'll find information on department events and activities.

With gratitude for your steadfast support of our teaching and research mission—

Here's to the next 125 Years of Geoscience at UK!

Dave Moecher

Alumni Professor and Chair

Graduate Student Degrees and Awards

(WITH THESIS ADVISOR, AS OF MAY 2018)

Spring 2017

Samantha Burk, M.S.: “Zircon as a Proxy for “Taking the Temperature” of Granites: An Example Using Zircon Thermometry Applied to Grenvillian Mid-Crustal Magmas in the Blue Ridge Province, Virginia” (D. Moecher)

Jeremy Eddy, M.S.: “Effects of Hydrologic Connectivity and Land Use on Floodplain Sediment Accumulation at the Savannah River Site, South Carolina (K. Yeager)

Dibya Koirala, PHD: “Interpretation of the Depositional Environments and Soft-Sediment Deformation in the Upper Tanglewood Member (Upper Ordovician) of the Lexington Limestone, Central Kentucky, U.S.A.” (F. Ettensohn)

Zachary Perlman, M.S.: “Stratigraphic, Geochemical and Geochronological Analysis of the Wolfcamp-D Interval, Midland Basin, Texas” (M. McGlue)

Patrick Whalen, M.S.: “The Ologocene West Elk Breccia: Evidence for Massive Volcanic Debris Avalanches in the Eastern Gunnison River Valley, West-Central Colorado, U.S.A.” (F. Ettensohn)

Summer 2017

Rachel Durham, M.S.: “Potential Field Modeling Across the Neodymium Line Defining the Paleoproterozoic-Mesoproterozoic Boundary of the Southeastern Margin of Laurentia” (D. Ravat)

Andrew Holcomb, M.S.: “Initial Microseismic Recordings at the Onset of Unconventional Hydrocarbon Development in the Rome Through, Eastern Kentucky” (E. Woolery)

Clara Rucker, M.S.: “Constraining Boundaries and Extent of the Charleston Uplift, Northeast New Madrid Zone, Using Shallow Seismic Reflection Methods” (E. Woolery)

Edward Lo, M.S.: “Fluvial-Lacustrine Processes Shaping the Landforms of the Distal Paraguay Fluvial Megafan” (M. McGlue)

Spring 2018

Alex Reis, M.S.: “A Multi-Indicator Approach to Understanding the Diagenesis of Carbonates in Pennsylvanian Mudrocks of the Midland Basin” (A. Erhardt)

Kevin Walsh, M.S.: “Geochronological, Geochemical, and Petrological Constraints on the Origin of Cartoogechaye Terrane, Clyde-Dellwood Area, Western North Carolina: Implications for the Late Precambrian to Early Paleozoic Evolution of the Eastern Laurentian Margin” (D. Moecher)

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts:

Darion Carden, May 2018
Matthew Cecil, December 2017
Noah Dixon, May 2018
Andrew Duffy, May 2017
Alex English, May 2018
Thomas Murrell, May 2017
Ryan Parks, May 2018
Holly Young, May 2018

Bachelor of Science

Cailey Bechtol, May 2018
Ethan Davis, May 2017
Craig Floyd, May 2017
Megan Hackett, May 2017
Hunter Lohre, May 2017
Adam Nolte, May 2017
Brian Overwein, May 2017
Tanner Polen, May 2018
Nathaniel Swallow, May 2017
Meredith O'Dell Swallow, May 2017

Undergraduate Awards

Pirtle Outstanding Senior Scholarship

Noah Dixon, 2017
Jonathan Wilson, 2018

Glenn Rice Memorial Tuition Scholarship

Alssam Al-Adawi, 2017	John Eblin, 2018
Mahnad Al-Jabri, 2017	Jarrold Fairchild, 2018
Riyam Al-Riyami, 2017	Madison Hood, 2017
Cailey Bechtol, 2017	Nathan Martin, 2017
Peter Boateng, 2017	Zach Loffer, 2017
McKenzie Brannon, 2018	Holly Young, 2017

Sigma Gamma Epsilon Tarr Award

Thomas Murrell, 2017
Holly Young, 2018

Advancing Science for Kentuckians (ASK) Scholarship

Madison Hood, 2017
Elizabeth Ann Winebarger, 2018

Jay G. Henthorne Jr. Scholarship

Erik Gudmunson, 2018
Jonathan Wilson, 2017

Alumni Earth & Environmental Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Rebecca Smiley, 2017

Pioneer scholar

Meredith O'Dell, 2017

Rast Brown Scholarship

Spencer Dixon, 2018
Bailee Morrison, 2018
Rowan Rich, 2018
Holly Young, 2017
Elizabeth Ann Winebarger, 2018

Graduate Awards

Pirtle Summer Graduate Fellowships

Elizabeth Avery	Eva Lyon
Josh Barna	Jason Merrick
Ben Currens	Alex Reis
Rachel Durham	Clara Rucker
Betsy Herbert	Stephanie Sparks
Rachel Hoar	Brandon Spencer
Edward Lo	Meredith Swallom

Ferm Graduate Research Award

Elizabeth Avery	Cara Peterman
Josh Barna	Alex Reis
Morgan Black	Clay Seckinger
Drew Burford	Brandon Spencer
Samantha Burk	Laura Streib
Ben Currens	Meredith Swallom
Rachel Durham	Sean Swick
Rachel Hoar	Frank Tamakloe
Eva Lyon	Kevin Walsh

Brown-McFarlan Fund Travel Award

Samantha Burk	Cara Peterman
Mitchell Clay	Alex Reis
Rachel Hoar	Clara Rucker
Bailee Hodelka	Amanda Sherman
Andrew Holcomb	Stephanie Sparks
Edward Lo	Kevin Walsh
Wisam Muttashar	Stephen Zotto

Outstanding TA Award

Betsy Herbert, 2017
Cara Peterman, 2017
Meredith Swallom, 2018



May 2017 Graduation

Back Row (L-R):

Nathaniel Swallom, Thomas Murrell, Adam Nolte, Ethan Davis, Professor David Moecher, Professor Alan Fryar, Matthew Cecil

Front Row (L-R):

Meredith O'Dell Swallom, Professor Rebecca Freeman

Rast-Holbrook Seminar Speakers

The Rast-Holbrook Seminar Series is a weekly Department event. It is an opportunity for students and faculty to hear about emerging research and for us to showcase the Department. The Rast-Holbrook endowment was made possible by a generous foundational donation by Mr. Charles Holbrook, and numerous donations by alumni made in memory of Prof. Nicholas Rast.

Spring 2017

Dr. Bill Haneberg, Director, Kentucky Geological Survey, "The Laprak, Nepal Landslide: Rainfall Triggered Movement, Response to the 2015 Mw 7.8 Gorkha Earthquake, and Implications for the Utility of Simple Models in Regional Landslide Hazard Assessment"

Dr. Moumouni Ali, University of Kentucky Visiting Fulbright Fellow, "Groundwater Accessibility and Quality Challenges in Niger, West Africa"

Dr. Maureen Long, Yale University, "The Appalachians and how they got that way: Structure and dynamics of eastern North America"

Seth Carpenter, Kentucky Geological Survey, "Induced Seismicity: Cases in North America and the Outlook in Eastern Kentucky"

Dr. Sebastian Bryson, University of Kentucky, "Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to Remotely Assess Landslide Events"

Dr. Howie Scher, University of South Carolina, "Biotic Invasions in Late Ordovician Shallow Marine Communities: Food Webs and Ecosystem Dynamics"

Dr. Ed Harvey, National Park Service, "Water Resource Stewardship in the U.S. National Park Service"

Dr. Carrie Tyler, Miami University, "Biotic Invasions in Late Ordovician Shallow Marine Communities: Food Webs and Ecosystem Dynamics"

Dr. Sarah Ivory, Ohio State, "The Past and Future of African Forests: Inferences from Models and Lake Muds"

Dr. Michael Cosca, USGS Denver, "Timing, composition, and tectonic significance of lavas erupted along the Rio Grande rift in northern New Mexico and Colorado"

Dr. Sarah Stamps, Virginia Tech, "Present-day kinematics of the eastern Tibetan Plateau and Sichuan Basin: Implications for lower crustal rheology"

Fall 2017

Dr. Bill Ford, University of Kentucky, "Water quality monitoring and modeling in disturbed Midwestern watersheds: integrating stable isotopes into watershed management"

Dr. Jason Unrine, University of Kentucky, "Nanotechnology at the food, energy and water nexus"

Dr. Rebecca Freeman, University of Kentucky, "From the Cambrian Explosion to the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event: The role of brachiopods"

Dr. Kent Murray, University of Michigan-Dearborn, "Innovative solutions to widespread soil lead contamination in southwest Detroit"

Dr. Rodney Metcalf, UK Alum, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, "Naturally occurring asbestos: petrology, public health, and politics"

Dr. Geoff Ellis, U.S. Geological Survey, "A Comparative Study of Coal-Sourced Natural Gas Resources in the US and China"

Dr. Lanmin Wang, Lanzhou Institute of Seismology, "Earthquake hazards in the Loess Plateau of China"

Dr. Whitney Behr, University of Texas-Austin, "Geologic heterogeneity and transient rheology of the deep subduction interface"

Dr. Jeannette Wolak, Tennessee Tech University, "Geologic heterogeneity and transient rheology of the deep subduction interface"

Dr. Robert Powell, U.S. Geological Survey, "Geologic heterogeneity and transient rheology of the deep subduction interface"

Dr. Daniel Sturmer, University of Cincinnati, "Using tectonic subsidence analysis to understand intraplate deformation inboard of the Late Paleozoic southwestern Laurentia plate margin"

Spring 2018

Dr. Maggie Sanders, UK Alumna, University of Kentucky, “Applying oxidative hydrothermal dissolution to organic-rich shales”

Dr. Wei Ren, University of Kentucky, “Global crop productivity responses to multiple environmental drivers under climate change”

Dr. Jen O’Keefe, UK Alumna, Morehead State University, “Filling in the Gaps: Palynology at Birthplace of North American Vertebrate Paleontology”

Dr. Jordon Munizzi, University of Kentucky, “Reconstructing the Holocene Ecology of Caribou and Muskoxen on Banks Island, NWT, Canada: A Stable Isotope Approach”

Dr. Rebecca McCulley, University of Kentucky, “Decomposition in Drylands: Effects of soil-litter mixing and UV-B on microbial communities and mass loss”

Dr. Nancye Dawers, UK Alumna, Tulane University, “Improving Our Understanding of Fault Behavior in Deltas and Implications for Coastal Sustainability”

Dr. Carlton Brett, University of Cincinnati, “Mid-Paleozoic Environmental Stasis and volatility: Linking patterns of physical process and biotic macroevolution”

Dr. Sean Trim, University of Toronto, “Improving the Accuracy of Thermochemical Convection Models: Mass Conservation in the Tracer Ratio Method”

Dr. Dave Willis, University of Kentucky, The Influence of Congested Subduction on New Zealand’s tectonic evolution”

Dr. Guleed Ali, Lamont Doherty, “Improving the Accuracy of Thermochemical Convection Models: Mass Conservation in the Tracer Ratio Method”

Dr. Liz Griffith, Ohio State University, “Stable metal isotopes in barite - applications in marine and continental settings”

Callan Bentley, Northern Va Community College, “Visualization in Geology: a brief history, best practices, & dispatches from the future”

Dr. Eric Ferre, Southern Illinois University, “Crustal accretion processes recorded at the thermal boundary layer of fast spreading oceanic lithosphere: IODP Hole U1256D and ophiolites”

Dr. Dave Wunsch, Delaware Geological Society, “Water Supply Issues in the Delaware River System: A tale of Tunnels, Transfers, Tumult, and Trout Fishing”

Dr. Todd Halihan, Oklahoma State University, “Electrical Hydrogeology: A Picture is Worth 1000 Wells”



Dr. Kent Ratajeski presenting his poster at the Earth Educators Rendezvous in Albuquerque, NM, July 2017.

Faculty News

Ettensohn Recognized for Contributions to Geological Education

Frank Ettensohn, professor in the University of Kentucky Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has received the Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award for 2018 from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), an international association of petroleum geologists. The award is given in recognition of distinguished and outstanding contributions to geological education.

Ettensohn began his career at UK 40 years ago and is an internationally recognized expert in sedimentary geology and paleontology. Much of his research on unconventional shale resources is widely used in the petroleum industry. During his time in the UK College of Arts and Sciences, Ettensohn's research has resulted in nearly 200 publications, more than half of which were co-authored with his students. Over the years, Ettensohn has successfully mentored 37 master's and 12 doctoral students to degree completion and still has graduate students in progress.

"In truth, it has been the interactions with my many students over the years that have been the source of much creativity in my teaching and research. Many of my best research ideas were generated by the need to explain complex ideas more simply for students and colleagues," Ettensohn said.



"I appreciate much the opportunities provided to me by the university, the college, my department and the many students I have encountered," Ettensohn said. "I really value the freedom and necessity of thinking broadly in the university setting."

Professor William A. Thomas Recognized as the 2018 Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist

Join us in congratulating Dr. William A. Thomas, the James S. Hudnall Professor Emeritus of Geology at the University of Kentucky and Visiting Scientist at the Geological Survey of Alabama, on his 2018 Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist Medal.

Thomas has enjoyed an exceptionally productive career in research, teaching, administration, and service to the geoscience profession. His career of nearly six decades spans four years in the petroleum industry, 47 years as an academic at five universities, and eight years as a research scientist with a state geological survey.

Throughout his research career, he has published more than 180 articles in journals, monographs, and field trip guidebooks, including more than 120 peer reviewed publications. He has been invited to give numerous

keynotes, including at the prestigious Arthur Holmes Meeting of the Geological Society of London in 2016.

In addition to mentoring numerous undergraduates in the courses he taught, Thomas advised 26 M.S. students and 16 Ph.D. students through completion of their degrees between his time at the University of Alabama and the University of Kentucky. Today, his former graduate students hold a variety of positions in industry, state and federal government agencies, and universities.

Read more about Dr. Thomas' award at ees.as.uky.edu.

Tom Spalding

(UK B.S. 1980, M.S. 1982)

The College of Arts & Sciences annually inducts alumni and former faculty into their Hall of Fame. This year we had our first geology alumnus inducted: Tom Spalding (B.S. 1980, M.S. 1982). Tom is Vice-President of Geosciences at Pioneer Natural Resources in Dallas and has been instrumental in the past decade in directing significant funding for graduate student support and research funding, in offering summer internships to over a dozen graduate students, and in hiring our students into permanent professional geoscience positions at Pioneer. Tom cites UK Geology Professor Bill MacQuown as being instrumental in his career development, using that mentoring relationship as a model for his mentoring efforts and generous support of the Department. In addition to being the motivating force behind creation of the partnership between Pioneer and UK, Tom has been a very generous donor to the Department. You can view the video presentation related to Tom's Hall of Fame induction ceremony at: as.uky.edu/halloffame



In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Spencer, the Pirtle Geology Librarian for 42 years. Two alumni provided these remembrances of Mary.

Rodney Metcalf (UK B.S. '79; M.S. '84): "In the Bowman Hall days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Geology Library was the center of the Department's academic and social life and the librarians, Vivian Hall and Mary Spencer, were its brains and its heart. I have fond memories of both, and I say without hesitation that they both made a positive impact on my life and career. I am saddened to hear of Mary's passing, but my memory is of some one that lived a life of service to others."

Bill Thomas (UK. B.S. '56, M.S. '57) offers: "Mary Spencer was the heart and soul of the Geology Library at the University of Kentucky. As a faculty member in the department, I had the opportunity to work with her frequently. She knew the location of every item in the library, and she helped us all find what we needed. She managed the library through a succession of changes, first in a less-than-ideal layout in what was once the lounge when Bowman Hall was a dorm, then during the move to a new facility in what had become the science library, and finally the operation of the geology library in an actual library facility. She was instrumental in keeping the library for geology separate from being integrated into the more general science library. This was really critical for maintaining the utility of the library for geologists. We always regarded Mary as part of the Department, and she made sure we felt it was our library. Mary was an excellent librarian, as well as academic manager, and a good friend to all of us."

EES Geoscience Students in Action



EES 180 (Geology of National Parks) field trip to Mammoth Cave National Park, led by Dr. Kent Ratajeski and Pete Idstein.



Field geology course visiting Stone Mtn., North Carolina, led by Instructor Summer Brown.



Amanda Sherman collecting a water sample from the Cumberland River in Knox Co., KY (July 2017). Amanda is an M.S. degree candidate working with Prof. Alan Fryar on groundwater-surface water interaction in eastern Kentucky.



Ben Currens monitoring water chemistry in Guizhou Province, China (June 2017). Ben is a PhD candidate in Geological Sciences working with Professor Alan Fryar.



(above) Students of Prof. Andrea Erhardt examining and sampling core from the Midland Basin, as part of a collaborative research project with Pioneer Natural Resources.

(right) Prof. Andrea Erhardt visiting the well site as part of her collaborative research project with Pioneer Natural Resources.



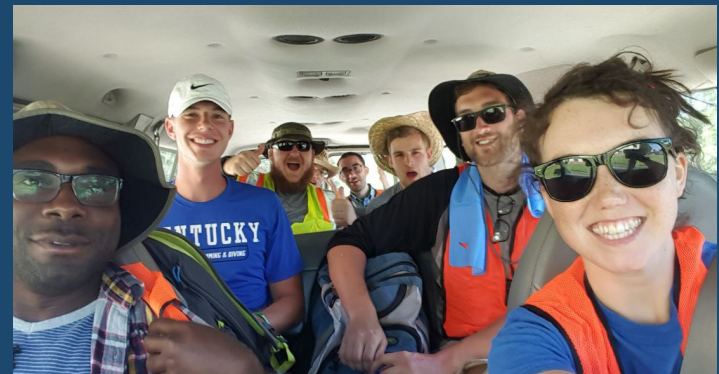
2017 Field Camp



The traditional group photo on top of Almont after measuring the Mesozoic and Cenozoic sections.



Prof. Frank Ettensohn is still teaching field camp, and still loves it! Ship Rock is always an exciting stop.



Van life is always fun!



Students receiving guidance on their interpretations during one of Prof. Ettensohn's many "opportunities."

Letter from Wendell Overcash, Chair of the UK Geology Alumni Advisory Board

Greetings to All Alumni and Friends,

After 5 years, it remains my honor and privilege to serve as chair of the Geology Alumni Advisory Board. Your Board continues to grow: we anticipate adding another alum at the April 2018 meeting. We meet twice a year, typically in October in conjunction with homecoming events and in April usually on the morning of the student awards luncheon. We strive to support the department in many ways: fund raising, mentoring, advice and counsel to faculty and students.

This last year has been quite active having had three reunions; Spring in Houston, July at Cement Creek and October in Lexington. These events all proved quite popular with great turnouts. The only negative was the cold late-afternoon rain at Cement Creek (don't like Colorado weather, wait ten minutes.). These reunions were underwritten by the generosity of Board members— we try hard to make a real difference.

Previously, the department and the Board announced its “125 for 125” fundraising program. There were three goals all of which are directed to increasing the gift and endowment accounts of the Pirtle Fellowship fund. This fund is the primary source of direct financial support to undergraduate and graduate students and we want to ensure its growth. It is important that the department can continue to offer financial assistance to students at levels comparable to our institutional peers. The initial goals were and remain:

1. Increase EES's donor base to 125 alumni and friends.
2. Raise \$125,000 for the Pirtle Fellowship gift account.
3. Increase the endowment fund to \$1,000,000 over the next 10 years with major gifts and bequests.

As this article is being prepared the results of the “125 for 125” effort are:

1. The donor base was increased to more than 125 alumni and friends.
2. The Pirtle Fellowship gift account was increase by approximately \$80,000.
3. The increase in the Pirtle Fellowship endowment account is a long-term goal and there is no significant growth to report.

It is important to note that the total gifts of all alumni and friends was approximately \$97,000 for 2017. Donations other than to the Pirtle Fellowship are equally important and while we fell short of the \$125,000 Pirtle Fellowship goal the department did benefit greatly by the generous gifts of all benefactors. Thank-you!

The Board awarded its Distinguished Alumni Award to Bridget Scanlon for her myriad accomplishments. Her award was well deserved: she has a very active and distinguished professional life.

The Board continues to support the faculty and students in many ways and will continue to do so. It is our hope that as graduates leave and begin their professional careers, they will remain supporters of the department. This department is unique among all others. It has the support of very loyal alumni and friends. As opportunities arise, please remember the department in your charitable gift giving.

It's all good.

Wendell H. Overcash, BS 1977, JD 1980
Geology Department Alumni Advisory Board, Chair

We are some of the 125!

The following UK Geology alumni were among the first donors for our “125 for 125” fundraising campaign in 2017.

The complete list of donors is presented on the following page.

Olivia Woodruff



Olivia received her M.S. from UK in 2014, which examined the biogeochemical impact of the BP Macondo oil spill. During her time at UK Olivia participated in a summer internship with Pioneer Natural Resources. She so impressed the Pioneer leadership that she was offered a permanent position as a geoscientist in 2014. Olivia received her B.S. from the University of Colorado before coming to UK. She is an avid cyclist. Olivia was supported on a Pirtle Summer Graduate Fellowship during her time at UK, and has generously given back to the department every year that she has been at Pioneer. In addition to the financial support, Olivia regularly returns to UK to help recruit interns and to make presentations to our undergraduates on careers in geoscience. “When I was working towards my Master’s degree, every little bit of financial support made a difference. I’m honored to now be able to return the favor and help students achieve their goals through alumni donations. UK gave me the opportunities and connections that got me where I am today and it’s one way I can say ‘thank you!’”

Dr. Matthew Massey



Matt has a long career at UK. He first came to UK in 2000 to start the M.S. degree. After completing that work, he went on for a Ph.D. and post-doctoral research position at UK. He is currently a staff scientist at the Kentucky Geological Survey working in their mapping branch. Matt was also supported on Pirtle Fellowships during his summers at UK and in acknowledgment of that support made a generous donation to the Pirtle Gift Fund. Matt is an accomplished rock climber who has more recently taken up surfing! “I spent a number of years as a student in EES and was fortunate enough to receive consistent funding, largely due to alumni donations. At the time, I never really considered that I would one day be an alum myself, but here I am...although still just across the street from Slone Building. I am honored to now be in a position to actively give back to EES and support current students!”



“125
125”

Dr. Susan Eriksson



Susan Eriksson has an incredibly wide range of academic and professional experience that took her from Lincoln County (Kentucky) to the other side of the world and back to Kentucky...for a while. Among her many accomplishments, she was on the faculty in Geoscience at Virginia Tech; she was on the management team of the Earth Observatory of Singapore; she was an administrator at UNAVCO, a research consortium that supports access to geodetic research and education; and most recently an Associate Dean of Research in the College of Design at UK. Seeing the need to encourage more students from rural communities to pursue science degrees, she helped establish a UK scholarship for students from rural Kentucky with an interest in science. She continues to be an avid world traveler, having recently hiked the Southern Alps in New Zealand.

Mike Bourque



Some geoscientists spend their entire career with one company – Mike Bourque was at Shell from 1978 until his retirement in 2008. Mike received his B.S. in Geology from UK and cites Professor Vin Nelson as inspiring a passion for field work and helping Mike land a part-time student position at the Kentucky Geological Survey. After attending the UK Geology field camp at Cement Creek, Mike went on to receive his M.S. from the University of Illinois and “the rest is history!” Mike is an avid amateur astronomer and spends a lot of time peering at the stars and planets from his mountain hideaway in Taos, New Mexico. Mike holds the distinction of being the sole alumnus who attended all three alumni celebration events in 2017! Thanks for being there Mike!

Mike Currie



Mike is a 1981 M.S. graduate of the department and is another UK Geology alumnus who was strongly influenced by Prof. Bill MacQuown, his M.S. thesis advisor. Mike has a long and varied career as a geophysicist in the energy industry, including stints with Pennzoil, Sohio, BP, and then retiring with Newfield Exploration...although many alumni have a hard time really retiring. After a stint in the consulting world, Mike joined Deep Gulf Energy in 2014. He serves on the Geology Alumni Advisory Board. “I am fortunate to have had a wonderful career. The great faculty of the UK Geology Department was a primary reason, as several were at least as much mentor as instructor. My financial contributions to the Department are my way of saying thanks, and I sincerely hope that they will help enable current students to pursue rewarding careers of their own. After having met many of them over the past few years, I have no doubt that these young women and men will make us proud”.

5 for
25”

125th Celebration: Cement Creek



I-r: Marsha and Mike Bourque (BS '74), Pat Anderson (B.S. '80)



The reception venue was Cement Creek Ranch at the foot of Cement Mountain



I-r: Dave Moecher (EES Chair), Dan (BA '12, MS '14) and Paige Spaulding, Bill Pierskalla (BBA '97), Mike Priddy.



I-r: Dr. Lyle Mars (Ph.D. '95), Dr. Jack Pashin (Ph.D. '90), Prof. Frank Etensohn, Faith Fiene, Emeritus Prof. Bill Thomas (B.S. '55, M.S. '56).



2017 Field camp students who are new alumni! I-r: Tanner Polen (BS '18), Thomas Murrell (BS '18), unknown student in cap, Craig Floyd (BS '17), Brian Overwein (BS '17)



Rear I-r: Joanne and Wendell Overcash (BS '77), Dave Scott (B.S. '78), Kurt Hull (BS '78) and Jeanne Hull, Jerry Griffin, Steve Sullivan (BS '79, MS '83). Front: Butch Butler (BS '81) and Cindi Sullivan.



Prof. Rebecca Freeman (l) and Goe Sakulpitakphon (BS '01)



I-r: Mike and Courtney Priddy (both BA '15), Vicki Oberc (BA '15), Bill Pierskalla (again), and Clay Seckinger (BA '15).

125th Celebration: Lexington



The reception venue was the Boone Center on the UK Campus. Alumni Board members attending include, l-r above, David Jackson, Jon Konkler behind Curt Hull, Butch Butler, Doug Gouzie, Olivia Woodruff behind Donny Loughry's arms, Mike Bourque, Bill Spies, Kit Clemons, Dr. Susan Eriksson, Steve Sullivan, Mike Currie, Jay Henthorne, Jr., Tom Spalding, Wendell Overcash, and Dr. Rod Metcalf.



UK alumni Prof. Ed Woolery (UK) and Prof. Rod Metcalf (UNLV) share a good laugh



(l-r) Todd McFarland, Lee Gatterdam, and Karen Thompson reminisce about working with Prof. Alan Fryar.



Emeritus Professor Bruce Moore chats up alumni Tom and Mary Helen Scott.



Jay and Mary Beth Henthorne, who established the Henthorne scholarship for undergraduate majors.



Current students (future alumni!) and Geology Club officers selling fluorite and T-shirts to raise money for club activities: (l-r) Edward Lo, Eric Gudmunson, and Holly Young.

Below: the venue for our Lexington125 celebration was the Boone Center on the UK campus. Over 125 alumni, family, and friends attended.



Donations 2017

The 125

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Rast-Holbrook Seminar

Beginning August 30th, every Thursday from 3:30–5:00pm in 303 Slone Research Building. Full seminar schedule and details can be found at ees.as.uky.edu/seminar-schedule.

