

# Time on road well spent for geology students

Geology students at Texas A&M University spend more time on the road than a traveling salesman—almost anyway.

"Fundamentally, geology is the study of rocks and rocks are outside," said Dr. Travis Parker. "We feel that students studying geology need to get out of the classroom and see things first-hand."

To accomplish this, the geology curriculum includes four required field courses which send the students from Northwest Colorado to

Florida. "We want our students to see as many different kinds of rocks, structural features, and land forms as possible," Parker continued. "There are different stratigraphic units in Colorado than in West Texas, for example."

Students get their first exposure to field work in the fall semester of their sophomore year. Under the supervision of Dr. Karl Koenig, the students make short, weekend trips to such places as Marble Falls and

Llano. During a two-week period in May at the end of their junior year, the students head out to Northwest Colorado with Dr. Robert Scott. Vans are loaded with personal belongings, lanterns, stoves, tents, and so on; cooking and other responsibilities are assigned and roughing it begins. Here the structure of the Rocky Mountains is exposed for study.

This group arrives back on campus just in time to sign up for summer school, wash the Rocky Moun-

tains out of their clothes, and pack up again for a six-week jaunt to West Texas with Koenig. The study area is the Marathon Basin between Alpine and Big Bend National Park.

The geology student gets a chance to show what he knows during his senior year on a field trip with either Scott or Dr. Mel Schroeder. Typically, Schroeder takes his group into the Arbuckle Mountains area of Southeast Oklahoma and the Ardmore Basin.

"This is a three or four day camp-

out trip dealing with stratigraphic and structural problems," Schroeder explained. "It is designed to see how well the student can perform on his own in deciphering what the geologic events have been in this area."

A field course run by Dr. Wayne Ahr is required for students majoring in geophysics but may be taken as an elective by qualified geology students.

"We start right after New Year's Day and drive along the Gulf Coast

to upper Florida," he began. "After examining the great sink holes of this area, we go to the Florida Keys and set up camp."

"We study rocks in the process of being formed and the Keys area is a model for classical limestone deposition," Ahr noted. "We go out in the bay and also take a charter boat to the Straits. The students examine underwater reefs by snorkeling, or those who are qualified can scuba dive. On the way back to Texas, stops are made at points of in-

terest all along the Gulf Coast—including a fun-stop at New Orleans." In general, the students fare better on the field trips than their professors.

"Of course, we always have one or two seasick cases every year," Ahr noted. "And, someone always finds he's not as brave as he thought he was when he first encounters a barracuda or spotted ray."

## Meter reading economists offer rebates

Texas A&M University economists have begun reading electricity meters of 130 randomly-picked College Station residents in a unique research project.

The researchers, in cooperation with College Station Utilities, are experimenting in the area of "rebates" for consumers who use less energy in the form of price reductions and/or packages of energy conservation information.

The team wants to find out if electrical consumption will go down if consumers are given price cuts and tips on how to conserve energy.

"At present, the price of energy we use is actually reduced if we use a lot. We want to see what happens if the reverse occurs," explain Drs. John Kagel, R. C. Battalio and R. C. Winkler, faculty economists leading the research.

The College Station participants are all volunteers. Duration of the research is approximately through mid-August.

## Student services relocating in student center

Offices providing specialized student services have been relocated at Texas A&M University.

Now in the Memorial Student Center are offices of the student legal advisor, international student advisor and Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

The campus TRC counselor, Don Gardner, is in the MSC west wing. Ken Robison and Charles Hornstein have facilities in the second floor administrative area, near the Browning Library and MSC director's office.

Robison aids students with legal problems. His counsel may be sought for a variety of matters, but the chief problem so far encountered has concerned apartment leases.

International students' special needs are served by Hornstein and Corky Sanjel. They coordinate campus-wide resources to assist an enrollment of 1,000 students from outside the U. S. during a regular semester.

Vocational rehabilitation counselor of the state agency, Gardner is located in Room 146, near the west MSC entrance nearest Wofford Cain Hall. In helping handicapped TAMU students, the branch of the Bryan TRC offices provides information and assistance for many kinds of disabilities.

Telephone numbers of the three services remain the same. The legal advisor is at 845-2610; international students advisor, 845-1824, and TRC, 846-4782.



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