

The KU Geologic Record



Fundraising for New Building Hits \$20 Million

Fundraising for the new the Earth, Energy and Environment complex is moving forward at a swift pace. Twenty million of the \$28 million goal has already been raised.

In recent months, the Geology Associates Advisory Board, including present and past members, has made an impact on fundraising. Members have already personally committed a total of \$1.5 million toward their goal of raising \$2 million for the new facility. That funding will give the Geology Associates Advisory Board naming rights for the Department of Geology offices and the lobby outside of the Chesapeake Auditorium. The lobby (now dubbed an “edu-lobby”) will have exhibits that tell the story of energy to the thousands of students who will pass through the area each week on their way to the Chesapeake Auditorium.

This landmark facility at the corner of Naismith Drive and Jayhawk Boulevard will be the lynchpin of KU’s strategic initiative, *Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World*. Cutting-edge labs, 21st-century teaching spaces, and robust industry outreach facilities will transform KU’s opportunities to discover, contribute, and learn.

We would love to break ground next year. With \$8 million left to raise, we need your help! Please contact Nancy Jackson at KU Endowment to help us make this project a reality, njackson@kuendowment.org, (785) 832-7357.

Geological Society of America Elects González Fellow

Professor and Chair Luis A. González has been named a Fellow of the 25,000-member Geological Society of America. The announcement is in the July issue of *GSA Today*. He will also be recognized at the GSA Awards Ceremony in Denver, Colo.

GSA Fellows are chosen in recognition of their contributions to the advancement of the geosciences through such achievements as publications, presentations, leadership in professional organizations, teaching and promotion of scientific advances to the public.

Stearns Wins CAREER Award

The NSF has awarded Assistant Professor Leigh Stearns a CAREER grant totaling more than \$650,000. Stearns’ project is entitled “Improving Understanding of Antarctic Glacier Dynamics Through an Interactive Numerical Flowline Model.”

Stearns seeks to understand the flow dynamics of Antarctic glaciers by means of a physically based numerical model. The model will be used to systematically investigate the dynamics of Antarctic glaciers and to test their response to a variety of perturbations.

The speed at which outlet glaciers move exert major control over ice sheets and can contribute to the rise of sea levels. “It is essential that their (glaciers) sensitivity to a range of dynamic processes is properly understood and incorporated into prognostic ice sheet models,” Stearns says.

Rankey Becomes First Hall Professor

Gene Rankey has been named the inaugural recipient of the Hubert H. and Kathleen M. Hall Professorship in Geology. Kathleen Hall of Lecompton, Kan., made a leadership gift to establish the professorship. Kathleen (education '49) and her late husband, Hubert "Hub" Hall (geology '49), have been longtime supporters of KU and KU Geology.

In May, Kathleen was on hand to present the professorship to Rankey at the Geology Department's Honors Banquet in Lawrence.

"I'm happy to see this professorship being established at KU," she says. "My husband had a lot of close connections with the University. His parents both graduated from KU, as did his two brothers, and their father was director of the KU Natural History Museum and head of zoology. So, we've had a very soft place in our hearts for KU."

The Hall Professorship is awarded to a mid-career faculty member or an incoming professor. Recipients will have a research or teaching focus in sedimentary geology or in an area of research complementary to the energy industry.

After completing a master's and doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, Hub Hall joined Standard Oil (now ExxonMobil) in Tulsa, Okla. During his 34 years as a petroleum geologist, the couple lived in various countries as he explored for oil and gas. Hub served on the Geology Associates Advisory Board for a number of years. He died in 2010.

Devlin Heads to Denmark on Sabbatical

Professor Rick Devlin will be traveling to Denmark during the 2013-2014 academic year to pursue a sabbatical. Devlin will work with a hydrogeology group at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) to adapt some of the groundwater velocity probes he developed to measure water movement between aquifers and surface water bodies like lakes and streams. Devlin also says he hopes to get in a lot of writing during his sabbatical. He will leave in August and return before classes start in 2014.

KU Promotes Three Geoscientists

Three KU geoscientists have earned promotions from the University. Craig Marshall has been named associate professor with tenure. Kansas Geological Survey researchers Gaisheng Liu and Kerry Newell have been promoted to associate scientist.

Graduate Takes University of Mississippi Position

Brian Platt (PhD '12) has taken a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Mississippi's Department of Geology and Geological Engineering.

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information in the University's programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 W. Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS, 66045, (785) 864-6414, 711 TTY.

Larry Martin Passes

KU paleontologist Larry Martin died March 9 after a long battle with cancer. He was 69. Martin served as a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and a curator of vertebrate paleontology at the University since 1972.

A close collaborator with KU Geology and particularly with the paleontology faculty, Martin served as graduate and undergraduate advisor to many students in the Department. He published more than 170 scientific papers and received numerous research grants from NSF, National Geographic, NASA and many other funders. His wife, Jean, and two daughters survive Martin. A full memorial will be published in the *G-Hawker* in the fall.

IAGC Honors Macpherson

The International Association of GeoChemistry has honored Associate Professor Gwen Macpherson with a Certificate of Recognition. The award recognizes Macpherson's research in weathering and the impacts of climate change on groundwater chemistry and her outreach through social media to students on behalf of the IAGC.

Taylor Wins KU Award

Associate Professor Mike Taylor was one of 40 KU researchers out of a total faculty of 2,600 to win KU's Leading Light Award. The winners are principal investigators or co-principal investigators on externally funded grants of \$1 million or more during the 2012 fiscal year. "By contributing to the research enterprise at KU in a major way, these individuals and teams serve as leading lights and role models for others," says Jeff Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor.

Selden's Fossil Bucket List

The second edition of *Evolution of Fossil Ecosystems* by Paul Selden and John Nudds is out. A bucket list for fossil enthusiasts, the book describes the most significant fossil sites around the world. Selden is the Gulf-Hedberg Distinguished Professor of Geology and the Director of the Paleontological Institute. Nudds is senior lecturer in paleontology at the University of Manchester.

Students Excel

Sarah Gibson presented as part of Canada's Royal Tyrrell Museum Spring Speaker Series about her work on a new genus and two new species of extinct fossil fishes from the Triassic Chinle Formation of southern Utah.

KGS awards went to **Charity M. Phillips Lander** (Norman F. Plummer Outstanding Student Award), **Bevin Bailey** (William W. Hambleton Student Research Award) and **Carolyn Helm** (Frank C. Foley Groundwater Student Travel Award).

The KU Office of Graduate Studies has given doctoral candidate **Blair Schneider** its Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes service provided by a graduate student to the KU community. Her nomination cited her work in creating the KU Geology Mentor Program. KU also recognized **Jeffrey Oalman** with an honorable mention for his teaching and **Hunter Harlow** as a Capitol Graduate Research Summit Presenter.

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KU Geology's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/KUGeology, hosts lively discussions, features the latest photos of faculty and students, and reports KU geoscience news. Visit and *Like* the page to keep up to date on all the happenings.

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