

GEOLOGY *at SMU*

An occasional newsletter from Earth Sciences for alumni and friends: April 2008.

A Bicentennial Trust Endows the Department **Huffington Gift Boosts Earth Science**

A gift of \$10 million from the Honorable Roy M. Huffington of Houston will endow the Department of Earth Sciences in SMU's Dedman College, now renamed the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. In addition to this bicentennial fund, the Ambassador and his late wife Phyllis Gough Huffingtons' gifts to SMU include endowed faculty chairs in Finance and Earth Sciences, and several endowed scholarship funds. The Earth Science chair is named in honor of the late Claude Albritton, his faculty mentor and lifelong friend.

The new Huffington gift will create the Huffington Bicentennial Endowment Fund for the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. The gift is patterned after the Benjamin Franklin Trust, a unique type of fund established more than 200 years ago through the estate of the American statesman. As with the Franklin Trust, terms are set forth for use of the Huffington Funds while they continue to grow over

The Honorable Roy M. Huffington

- SMU B.S. Geology
- Harvard M.A. and Ph.D. Geology
- Served in the US Navy
- Founded Huffco and later sold it to the Chinese Petroleum Corporation
- Served as Ambassador to Austria
- CEO of Roy M. Huffington, Inc
- Partial to bicentennial trusts

the next two centuries. Such a gift is a statement of great optimism for the institution and the discipline.

Huffington is chair and CEO of Roy M. Huffington Inc., an independent, international petroleum operations investment firm based in Houston. His distinguished career has included global oil and gas exploration, international business, and military and diplomatic service.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he spent 10 years with Humble Oil and Refining Company, now ExxonMobil. In 1956, he founded Huffco, an oil and gas



Two geologists and oil men, SMU Distinguished Alumni Awardees, and American Petroleum Institute Gold Medal winners, the Honorable Roy Huffington (left) and Dedman College Board Chairman H. Leighton Steward (right) get together in Alaska on the 2004 ISEM excursion.

firm that began exploration in Indonesia in the late 1960s. A major gas strike there, in 1972, led to a 25-year joint venture between Huffco and the Indonesian government. In 1988, *Newsweek* listed Huffington as one of 25 Americans "in the forefront of building bridges to the East."

Huffington sold Huffco to the Chinese Petroleum Corporation in 1990, when he added another dimension to his international activities as U.S. Ambassador to Austria from 1990 to 1993. As ambassador, he worked to open business opportunities between the newly accessible Eastern bloc countries and the West. Upon returning to the United States following his term as ambassador, he renewed his involvement in oil and gas investment.

Huffington has received distinguished alumni awards from SMU and the Harvard Business School. In 1990 he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from SMU and delivered the Commencement address. A member of the SMU Board of Trustees from 1980-87, Huffington was named a trustee emeritus in 1991. In 1996, he and his wife received the Mustang Award for longtime service and

continued on page 3

Ambassador Huffington's Remarks at the Dallas Hall Rotunda Celebration

March 27, 2008

President R. Gerald Turner: Endowment is what provides for the future of an institution and provides the financial basis. Roy's endowments are going to be here a long time as will SMU. So it is an honor, as the tenth President of SMU, to announce that Ambassador Roy Huffington has committed \$10 million dollars to provide a permanent endowment for the earth sciences and related science programs at SMU; thereby establishing the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. Join me in thanking Ambassador Huffington.

The Honorable Roy M. Huffington: Gerald, thank you very much. I am a little bit embarrassed. When I gave this gift, I said that I really didn't particularly want anybody to show up at the time. Gerald said, "We are going to have a little festivity." So it reminds me of my daughter and my son when I had my 90th birthday last October, I said, "I don't want a birthday party." They said that you are going to have a birthday party whether you like it or not. So that's the way life goes.

What I am doing is nothing that I think that anyone else wouldn't do. I have been fortunate in making a few bucks in the course of a somewhat extended life. I hope to extend it by 10 more years. Governor Bill Clements and I and a couple more of us have been around for awhile, but we need to stretch the time a little more; even younger man Ed Cox fits into that category.

I owe SMU a lot. When I came to SMU in 1935, I arrived in January. Earlier, I had been double promoted at Ben Milam Elementary School on McKinney Avenue, where I went to grade school. That put me a semester out of phase. I thought that maybe I would get double promoted again, but it didn't happen. So I went into North Dallas High School out of phase and graduated in January. At the time, I was thinking a little bit about going down to the University of Texas. But I also thought that I didn't want to go down there at midyear. By then we had moved to 3427 Rankin Street, right off Snider Plaza, so I planned to go to SMU for one semester.

Well, after I had one semester in SMU, you couldn't have pulled me out of here with a team of horses. No way. There were about 1500 students at the time. You quickly literally knew about everyone on the campus. It was a glorious three and one-half years. I went to school continuously through both winters and summers. I even went during the summer after I graduated. By then I was headed up to Harvard. I needed to have another year of German in addition to what I had. I had five years of Spanish. For an advanced degree at Harvard in Geology, since the Spaniards didn't do too much in geology in the early days, Spanish was not accepted. The Germans and the French

were the early researchers, together with the English, so that you needed to have a reading knowledge of those two languages.

To make a long story short, when I did start my studies, the Department of Geology was located on the second floor of Hyer Hall.

The faculty consisted of Ellis Shuler, an elderly Virginia gentleman, who used to gaze off into the distance as he'd lecture, thinking about all of his wonderful days in Virginia. We used to joke a little bit about it. He really loved Virginia. He also loved SMU. The other half of the faculty was J. Edwin Foscoe who was the Geography Department, but half of his time was spent teaching freshman geology. So we had one and a half people teaching geology at the time.

My last two years were in 1937 and 1938, when Bill (Clements) and I got out of SMU. Previously, in 1937, a young geologist by the name of Claude Albritton arrived at SMU to teach. Claude's parents had lived in Corsicana originally. They happened to have a farm that had some small pump jacks on it that were just a few feet high. They would pump a few barrels of oil. Even though it was just a few barrels of oil and oil was pretty cheap in those days, it amounted to money. So Claude and his family had decided that what he would like to do is to dedicate his life to teaching. They moved to Dallas. After graduating from SMU and then getting his Ph.D. from Harvard, Claude had returned to SMU to teach geology. Claude was a wonderful, wonderful teacher. He loved teaching. He loved the students.

At the end of my junior year, Claude said, "Roy you need to think about going away to graduate school. You really haven't gotten enough geology here. What you've got is good, but you need to have more." We worked out a deal whereby I got into Harvard. I went up there and paid the first year's tuition. My father had been killed in an oil field accident, years before, down in Venezuela. So we sort of grew up during the depres-



Photo by Hillisman B. Jackson

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sion days without really much income coming in. Claude said, "See if between you and your mother, you can't come up with the tuition for Harvard."

In those days, Harvard tuition was only \$400 a year. You had a medical fee that cost \$40 more. At the conclusion of my first year at Harvard, they offered me their best scholarship, but it only paid \$400 a year. But what would you live on if you didn't have any other money coming in? I said that I couldn't do that. They said well let's offer you a teaching fellowship that paid \$900 per year, in which \$220 goes back as tuition for half time study and the remaining \$680 would be left for living expenses. That netted out to \$1.10 a day for food. The 10 cents a day was actually the evening tip. I was in an old Civil War dormitory, Conant Hall, next to the Geological Museum. They didn't serve anything in the dormitories, so I had to eat all meals out in different places on the nearby streets of Cambridge.

It was a wonderful, wonderful experience. It was all due to the fact that Claude Albritton was the one who instilled into me the knowledge that I needed to continue my geological studies, instead of heading out into the oil patch. Fortunately, it worked fine. I gave a chair in Claude's name about a year or two before he died. Jane, his wife, told me that he was very emotionally moved by that. He was one magnificent teacher.

From there, after Harvard, the Navy had me for three and one-half years, the last 16 months in combat out in the Western Pacific on an aircraft carrier admiral's staff. Then came ten years with Humble Oil and Refining Company; I originally thought I would be with them forever. Then Esso in New York City wanted me to go to Europe to open a new company. That was the route on which Esso had put Larry Rawls, the man who I thought would ultimately head Exxon. Larry Rawls was a Corpus Christi district engineer when he was moved to New York City. I knew that I would

be making a number of interantional moves in the future, if I went to New York. My boss, who was Chairman of the Board of Humble at the time, said, "Roy you don't have to go, I said I told you that you are going to be on the board." I was 39 at the time. In those days, if you weren't nearly 50, you didn't get on a board like that.

To make a long story short, I jumped ship and became an independent oil operator. Actually that is where the money was earned that is now being given to SMU. I ended up in Indonesia where I found major gas reserves. We had discovered about 15 trillion cubic feet and about a 500 million barrels of oil at the time I sold the company, so we ended up with a little cash. I want to thank all of you for coming. I am sorry that we are taking up your time with this event. SMU is a wonderful school.

I have done several things in the bicentennial form, that they refer to as the Ben Franklin Trust. Actually, I remember that old Ben had a little deal back there in which he left a 1000 pounds to Philadelphia and 1000 pounds to Boston. It was set up in a 100 to 200 year trust. Liz Williams (*SMU, 1990*) found the original papers on his trust, but I don't think any of us have ever found out how much money came out of that at the end (*see page 6*). I had given a million here and a million there. After a while you found out if you give a million dollars with no restrictions, the next year the group would have already spent the million and they would be back asking for another million. And so I thought the best thing to do on some of my gifts is to make them a bicentennial deal. During the last 70 years, the stock market has probably averaged earnings at about 7%/yr. If you compound at that rate, in a hundred years, a million goes to a billion and in another hundred years the billion goes to a trillion. With the way things are working on Wall Street now, I don't know what this gift will be like two hundred years from now, but it should be worth a couple of bucks anyway. But thank you very much for letting me do it.

Continued from Page 1

philanthropy to the University.

Among the many other honors Huffington has received are the Gold Medallion Oil Pioneer Award from the Indonesian government, the Grosse Goldene Ehrenzeichen Award (Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold) for services to the Republic of Austria, the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Henry Laurence Gantt Medal from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement from the American Petroleum Institute. He is also chairman emeritus of both the international Asia Society in New York City and the Salzburg Global Seminar in Salzburg, Austria.

The Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences is only the second endowed academic department at SMU. The first is the William P. Clements Department of History.

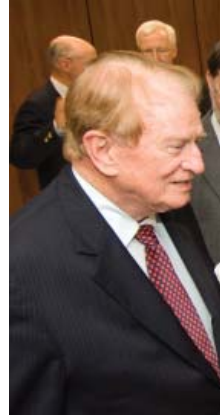


The Ambassador gives his extemporaneous remarks in Dallas Hall while SMU's Brad Cheves, Caroline Brettell, and President R. Gerald Turner look on. Robert Dedman, Jr., lower right, is representing the Board of Trustees.

A Day on Campus to Commemorate the Historic Gift



SMU President R. Gerald Turner and Dean Caroline Brettell greet the Huffingtons in front of the new entry way to the main office. Three Huffington Fellows, John Robbins (below), Scott Myers (bottom left) and Meredith Faber describe their research to the Ambassador and his daughter, Terry. A majority of Earth Science graduate students now receive some type of Huffington financial aid.



Event to Earth and Natural Sciences: March 27, 2008



From left to right: SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Louis Jacobs, Bonnie Jacobs, James Brooks (Professor *Emeritus*); Terry Huffington, Hamilton Chair David Blackwell, the Honorable Roy M. Huffington, Hamilton Fellow Henry Gray, Neil Tabor, Albritton Chair Brian Stump, Dean Caroline Brettell (Dedman College), Crayton Yapp, Chair of Earth Science Robert Gregory, A. Lee McAlester, Shuler-Foscue Chair Eugene Herrin, Matthews Chair John Walther, Robert Laury (Professor *Emeritus*).

Clockwise from the right: The Ambassador greets Alexander Albritton, the grandson, and Susan, daughter-in-law of his late mentor Claude Albritton, Jr. (right). The three long time friends, the *Emeritus* Trustees: Governor Bill Clements and Ed Cox flank the Ambassador (bottom right). Roy Huffington meets with three traveling companions, Albritton Chair Brian Stump, James Brooks, and Jack Hamilton while Provost Paul Ludden looks on (bottom center).

Photography ©SMU, Hillsman Jackson and Kim Ritzenhaler, photographers, except photo on page 1: courtesy of Jack Hamilton.



Dean Caroline Brettell explains the gift in the context of Natural Sciences in Dedman College

Dean Caroline Brettell responds for the college: Dedman College is the heart and soul of SMU and hence the strength of all our university programs, undergraduate, graduate and professional, relies on the academic programs within Dedman College. This gift made by Ambassador Huffington supports a high priority of the University's Centennial Strategic Plan, that of building strength in Dedman College's core programs in the humanities and sciences.

Many years ago, Claude C. Albritton Jr., a faculty member in the Department of Geological Sciences, and later Dean of the Arts and Sciences and Dean of Graduate Studies (a post he assumed in 1959), had the vision to identify areas of teaching and research where SMU could truly excel and make its mark. One of these areas was geology, and the Department of Geological Sciences became one of SMU's first Ph.D. granting departments. Dr. Albritton believed that pure and applied research supported in the national interest would make it possible for SMU to build a department of distinction and it has become that in four principle areas: geothermal studies, seismology, petrology, and paleoclimatology.

In 1981 Ambassador Huffington recognized this vision for a unique center of excellence by endowing a professorship in Claude C. Albritton Jr.'s name. With us today are Professor Brian Stump, a geophysicist who holds the Albritton Chair in Geology, as well as some of the children and grandchildren of Claude C. Albritton Jr.

Now, with his transformative gift of 10 million dollars, Ambassador Huffington propels the renamed Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences to a new level as a center of innovative and critical teaching and research at SMU.

More than ever, Earth Science education is vital to the liberal arts program within Dedman College. My colleagues on the faculty of Earth Sciences have observed that we are perhaps the first species capable of contemplating and anticipating our own extinction. Knowledge of earth processes and the limits of nonrenewable resources are essential if we are to understand the root causes of the changes that will be brought on in the coming years and decades. Further, the consequences of climate change in the next 50 years will play an ever-increasing role in the political life of the nation and the globe. As a Native American proverb reminds us "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

But there is more to this gift. In addition to supporting the Huffington Department of Earth Sciences, the Ambassador recognizes the interdisciplinary nature of scientific fields and science education, and he therefore has designated that when this new endowment reaches a value of \$15 million, \$5 million of the funds will be used to create five new million dollar endowments to support Physics, Biology, Chemistry,

Mathematics, and Astronomical Sciences. Although decisions about the specific use of these funds has yet to be determined, looking forward we must be mindful within the college of the blurring of lines among scientific disciplines and of the teamwork and cross-disciplinary training that is necessary to tackle the complex scientific problems of our day.

This newest gift, together with his 2006 gift of \$10,000,000 to support students and faculty in Dedman College (including start-up funds to help us attract the best scientific researchers to our campus), brings the total Centennial Campaign endowment support from Ambassador Huffington to the College to 20 million dollars.

Thus, on behalf of the faculty and students in Dedman College, I would like to express profound gratitude, Mr. Ambassador, for your consistent commitment to and support of the programs within the College, and for your truly far-sighted and transformative gift.

Caroline Brettell is Professor of Anthropology. She is finishing a two-year term as Dean ad Interim of Dedman College.

The Bicentennial Trust often referred to as the Franklin Trust dates back to the will of Benjamin Franklin (1790). The idea for the trust was originally from a spoof of *Poor Richard's Almanac*. A French mathematician Charles-Joseph Mathon de la Cour wrote of a "Fortunate Richard" setting up a trust fund whereby the beneficiaries could not touch the principal for some 500 years as a statement mocking American optimism. Franklin credits the mathematician for the idea that became the basis of the Franklin Trusts, two, 200 year term, bequests of 1000 pounds each to the cities Boston and Philadelphia. The trusts expired in 1990, with assets of approximately \$7 million dollars, \$5 million and \$2 million for Boston and Philadelphia, respectively, after significant withdrawals from the trusts (>75%) after the first 100 years.

In the Huffington bicentennial trust, the spending limit is 1%/yr of the value of the trust for the first 100 years. The remaining income from SMU's investments for the trust will be rolled into the principal. At present rates, the five new \$1 million funds should start early next decade.

News of alumni, faculty, & friends



Professors Louis Jacobs, Brian Stump and Bob Gregory welcome Ambassador Roy M. Huffington into the Department.

Golden Mustang Geologists, Jerry Ingels, Hollie Irvin, Donald Reaser and Vinton Scholl got a headstart on the annual reunion through their attendance at the bicentennial gift celebration.

Katherine Becker (B.S. candidate, 2008, Geology and Chemistry) has accepted a graduate assistantship at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego for Fall 2008.

Onofre Espanola (M.S., 2007) has accepted a position with Iceland Energy who are operating an office out of Los Angeles with interests in developing geothermal resources in the Salton Trough, Southern California.

Paten Morrow (B.A., 1998; M.S., 2005) of XTO arranged a site visit to the 3-D seismic reflection project centered around Fort Worth Meecham Field. The AAPG SMU student chapter were led in the field by geophysicist Wayne Hoskins.

Aaron Pan (Ph.D., 2007) will be taking a job as Curator of Science at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History starting this spring.

Donya Quick (B.S. candidate, 2008, Environmental and Computer Science) has been accepted into the Computer Science Program at Yale University.

All are standing in the Dallas Hall Rotunda (right) for the singing of *Varsity*.

*Please share any career news and interesting photos with us for use in our newsletter. Contact Jenny Rosendahl. *All prior issues of Geology at SMU can be found online at <http://www.smu.edu/earthsciences>*



ROY M. HUFFINGTON DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

David D. Blackwell, Hamilton Professor, Ph.D., Harvard. Geothermal studies and their application to plate tectonics, energy resource estimates and geothermal exploration.

James E. Brooks, Professor *Emeritus*, Ph.D., University of Washington. Stratigraphy and Sedimentology

Robert T. Gregory, Professor, Chair, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology. Stable isotope geology and geochemistry, evolution of earth's fluid envelope and lithosphere.

Eugene T. Herrin, Shuler-Foscue Professor, Ph.D., Harvard. Theoretical and applied seismology, solid earth properties, computer analysis of geophysical data.

Louis L. Jacobs, Professor, Ph.D., University of Arizona. President of the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man. Vertebrate paleontology, evolution.

Bonnie F. Jacobs, Associate Professor and Chair of the Environmental Science Program, Ph.D., University of Arizona. Paleobotany & palynology of the Cenozoic.

A. Lee McAlester, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University. Paleocology, evolutionary theory, petroleum geology.

James E. Quick, Professor, Ph.D. California Institute of Technology. Igneous and metamorphic petrology, tectonics, volcanology.

Brian W. Stump, Albritton Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. Seismology, seismic source theory, regional waves, seismic and infrasonic instrumentation.

Neil J. Tabor, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Sedimentology, paleosols, stable isotopes and paleoclimate.

John V. Walther, Matthews Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. Experimental and theoretical aqueous geochemistry, fluid-mineral interactions in the crust.

Crayton J. Yapp, Professor, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology. Stable isotope geochemistry applied to the study of paleoclimates, paleoatmospheres, and the hydrologic cycle.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Steve Bergman, Research Professor, Ph.D., Princeton University. Tectonics, petrology & geochronology.

Anthony Fiorillo, Research Professor, Ph.D., Pennsylvania. Museum of Nature & Science. Vertebrate paleontology.

Jason R. McKenna, Research Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Southern Methodist University. Applied Geophysics.

Mihan H. McKenna, Research Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Southern Methodist University. Seismology and Infrasound.

L. L. "Roy" Mink, Research Professor, Ph.D., University of Idaho. Geothermal energy and hydrology.

Troy Stuckey, Adjunct Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of North Texas. EPA. Environmental Science and Policy.

John Wagner, Research Professor, Ph.D., University of Texas, Dallas. Chief Geologist, Nexen Petroleum, USA.

Alisa J. Winkler, Research Professor, Ph.D., Southern Methodist University, Mammalian paleontology, anatomy.

Dale A. Winkler, Director, Shuler Museum of Paleontology, Ph.D., UT Austin. Paleontology, paleocology, stratigraphy.

Pierre A. Zippi, Research Professor, Ph.D., University of Toronto. Biostratigraphy, palynology, and oil exploration.

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