

GEOLOGY *at SMU*

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

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Two geologists and oil men, SMU Distinguished Alumni Awardees, and

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March 27, 2008

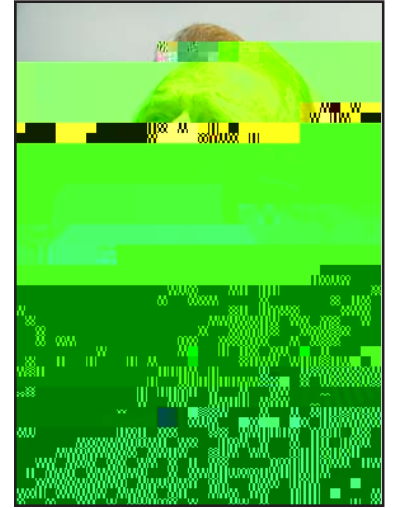


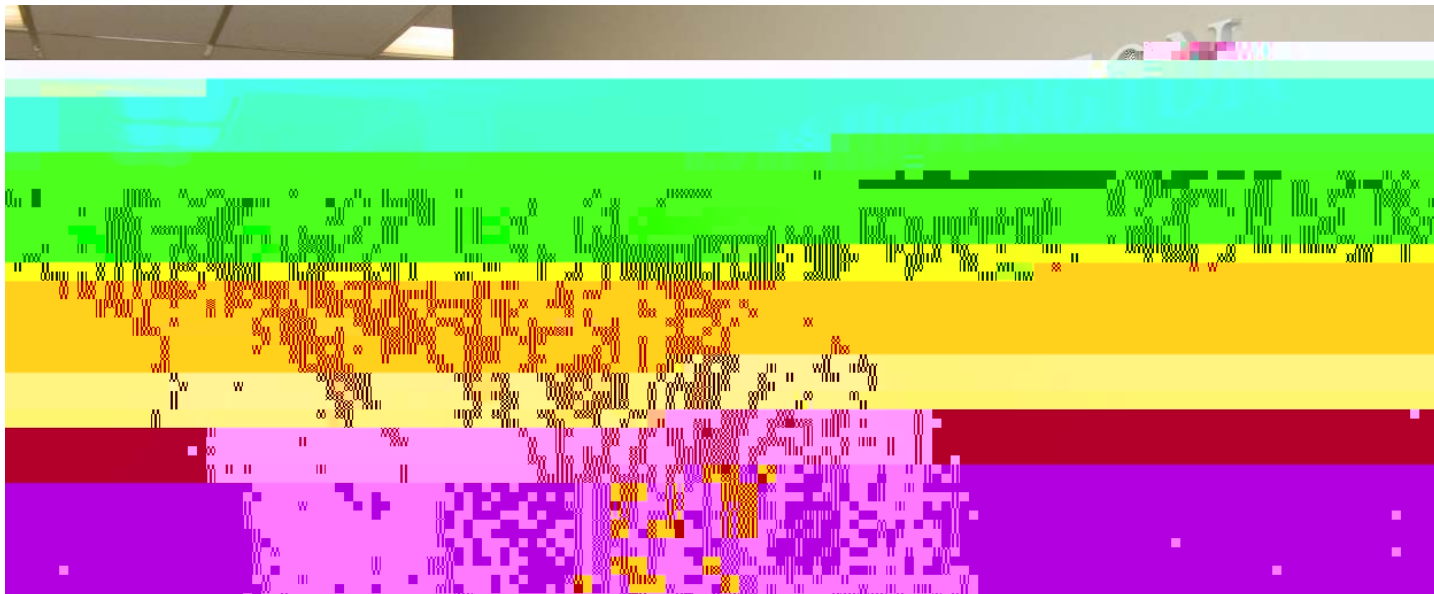
Photo by Hillsman B. Jackson

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 Foscue 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.

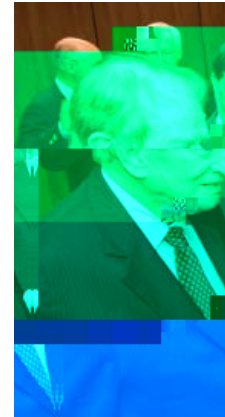
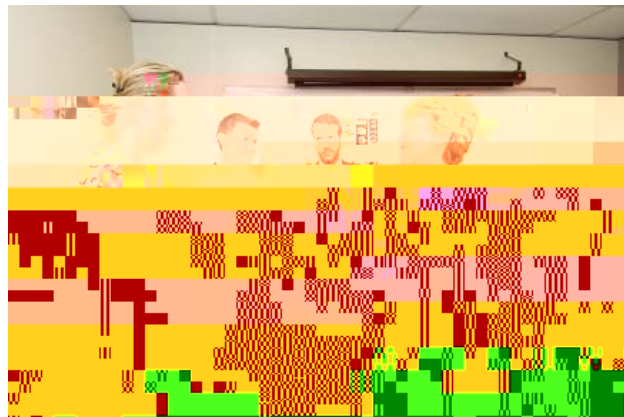
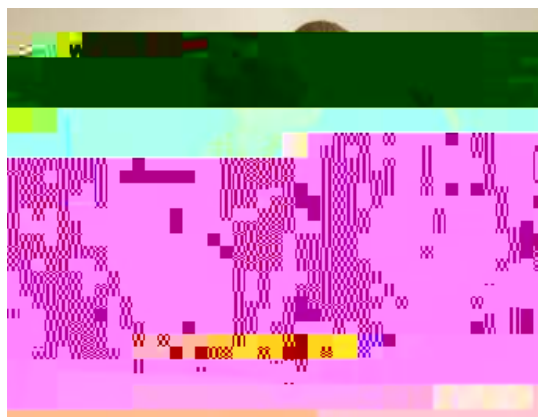
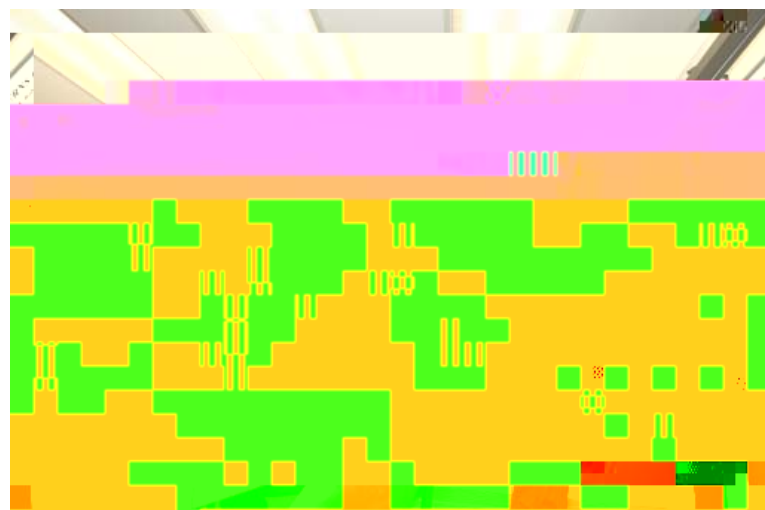
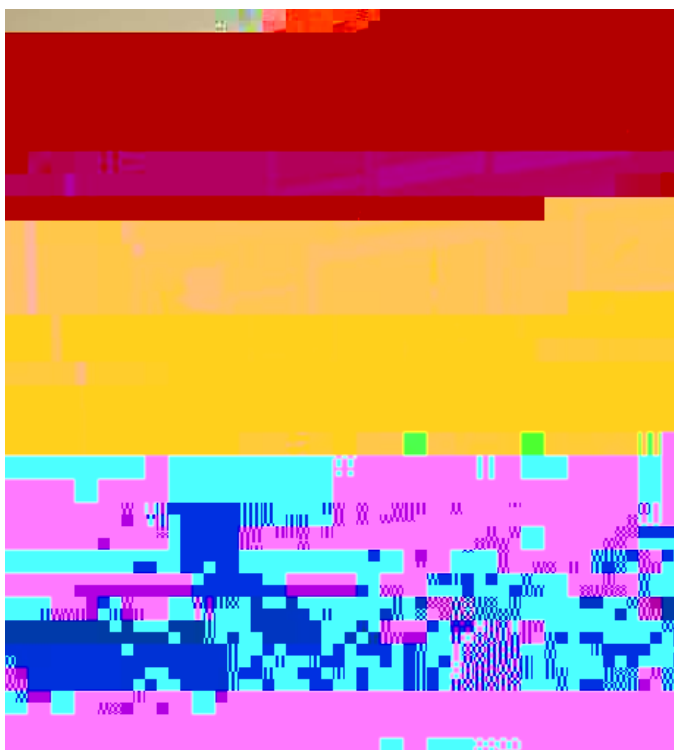
My last two years were in 1937 and 1938, when Bill (Clements) and I got out of SMU. Previously, in 1937, a young geologist by the name of Claude Albritton arrived at SMU to teach. Claude's parents had lived in Corsicana originally. They happened to have a farm that had some small pump jacks on it that 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

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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.



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

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