

# INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF EARTH AND MAN AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

#### 2006

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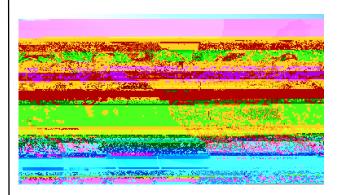
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Institute for the Study of Earth and Man N.L. Heroy Science Hall Southern Methodist Univerisity P.O. Box 750274 Dallas, TX 75275-0274 Telephone (214) 768-2425 www.smu.edu/isem Benefiting the community by promoting and supporting interdisciplinary research at the interface of people, Earth, and the environment.

The Institute has had a very successful year with efforts focused on its primary mission of supporting research. During 2006 the Institute provided funding for 32 research projects, of which 25 were carried on by students. Research topics ranged widely in geology and archaeology and included a number of international projects. Short reports by a cross-section of four of those graduate students appear on page 3 of this Newsletter. The Institute's ability to provide this level of research support is possible because of the generosity of a number of ISEM Trustees and friends. And those funds are again acknowledged with gratitude.

Important to signal here is the addition of new gifts that came in conjunction with the Iceland trip in July. SMU Alumnus (geology) and longtime friend of the Institute Roy M. Huffington made an endowment gift of \$105,000 and Trustees Jim Gibbs, Leighton Steward and Jack Hamilton each made gifts of \$25,000. These, added to other earlier gifts make possible the levels of research support that are described in this Newsletter and that are the principal reason for being of the Institute.

In addition to research projects that are funded by the Institute and that are principally related to students, faculty associated with the Institute have had a very successful year of funded grant and contract activity. Louis Jacobs is coordinating related research projects in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming which are important because they involve sites on two ranches owned by Hunt Consolidated, Inc., represented on the ISEM Board by Tom Meurer. These ranches are the Preston Nutter Ranch in eastern Utah and the Hoodoo Ranch in western Wyoming. Hunt Consolidated has provided support for this work in addition, of course, to access to the ranches. Beyond these integrated projects Jacobs also has funded projects in Angola and Mongolia. The Angola project is in part funded by the National Geographic Society which plans a short article on the project to appear in its magazine within the next few months. This project is of particular importance because Angola has been



ISEM Supports Research Worldwide

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ISEM at SMU P.O. Box 750274 Dallas, TX 75275-0274

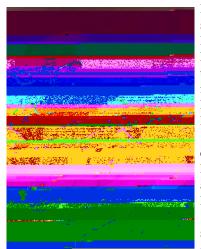
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### In Memorium: William B. Heroy, Jr. (1915-2006)

On September 24, 2006, William B. Heroy, Jr. passed away in Durham, North Carolina, where he and his wife, Dorthoy,



lived in retirement. Bill served as President of the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man from 1971 to 1981. He succeeded his father, ISEM's Founding President, William B. Heroy, Sr.

Bill majored in geology, earning a B.S. from Dartmouth College in 1937 and his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1941. He worked in the southwest for Texaco during WWII, and then

joined the Geothechnical Corporation in Dallas, where he worked 1945 to 1965, advancing to President of the company. Geotech was bought by the Teledyne Corporation in 1965 and Bill continued there as a senior executive until he resigned to accept the position of Vice President and Treasurer of Southern Methodist University in 1969.

Bill was always active in civic and professional affairs, having served in leadership roles in Dallas Geological and Dallas Geophysical Societies, numerous committees of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, as longtime Treasurer of the Geological Society of America, and as President of the American Geological Institute.

Bill's career touched many lives and many institutions and left each the better. He believed very stongly in "paying back" to society and he contributed generously of his time and efforts wherever he was asked and where he felt he could make a difference.

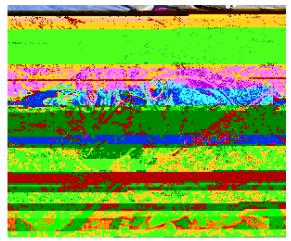
#### ISEM ANNOUNCES HEROY MEMORIAL GIFT

ISEM is pleased to announce the receipt of a gift from Jack Hamilton in memory of William B. Heroy, Jr. The gift is to initiate the **Heroy Geoscience Student Support Fund** in the Institute. In making the gift Hamilton said, "This gift is intended to recognize Bill's lifelong commitment to the geosciences and his understanding of the importance of financial support in preparing geoscientists of the future! It is certainly my hope that this initiating gift will grow through the support of Bill's many friends." Jack Hamilton was a longtime associate of Bill Heroy in the senior management of The Geotechnical Corporation and then in the Geotechnical Division of The Teledyne Corporation. Hamilton is also a Trustee of the ISEM. In accepting the gift Dr. Jacobs said, "This gift is indeed a fitting way to commmemorate Bill Heroy's life and contributions and we at the Institute are deeply grateful. We share Jack Hamilton's hope that the fund will grow and thus enable it to support a growing number of students in the geosciences."

Contributions to the **Heroy Geoscience Student Support Fund** may be made to **The ISEM Foundation**, in care of **Dr. Louis L. Jacobs, ISEM at SMU, Box 0273, Dallas, TX 75275-0274** and indicate that the contribution is for the **Heroy Fund**.

"In my opinion, the most creative research at a university is done by the most energetic investigators, by which I mean graduate students. Those are who we can support best." Dr. Louis L. Jacobs, President

## What some of our students say...

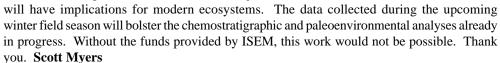


My gratitude goes out to the ISEM for their support of my analyses of clays and pottery from the Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo in west-central New Mexico. ISEM support allowed me to perform XRD analyses on numerous claysources and over 20 pottery vessels. 2004 excavations revealed a ritual closing deposit from which 11 pottery vessels were recovered. Collaborative research with advisors from the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Hopi, and Zuni indicated that all 11 vessels were manufactured locally and made specifically for the closing ritual. The funding provided by the ISEM offered the opportunity to empirically test this claim and match the pottery clays to their sources. In addition, 10 other vessels were analyzed in an attempt to prove that they too were manufactured locally. These vessels were long believed to be manufactured at the site of Pottery Mound, but funding from the ISEM allowed us to prove that these vessels were in fact made locally at the Hummingbird Pueblo. I will be able to incorporate these results into my dissertation. Thank you for your support. Jason Theuer

I am grateful to the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man for funding my field work in the Tieton River area of south-central Washington State. Vertebrate fossils have been known from the area for over 60 years, yet no study has examined the paleontology. The Tieton River area contains fossil mammals preserved in 30 million year old volcaniclastic deposits from the ancestral Cascade Range, and represents the earliest known terrestrial vertebrates in Washington. The field work this summer resulted in the discovery of fossils in previously unknown localities and the collection of data to construct a sound geological context for these fossils. These data will facilitate an investigation of North American Cenozoic history from a new point of view, the subject of my Master's thesis. Thank you for the support to travel and perform field work necessary for this investigation. **Christopher Strganac** 



I am grateful to ISEM for its generous support of my dissertation research in Portugal. The fossiliferous Upper Jurassic terrestrail deposits in this region offer a unique opportunity to understand how ancient faunas responded to paleoclimate change. Determination of rates of faunal response and the relative importance of different climate parameters as drivers of change



I would like to thank the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man for their support in my thesis

research, which is the study of desmostylian materials from Unalaskan Island, Alaska. The desmostylians are hippo-like mammals that are related to sea cows and elephants and known from the Northern Pacific region. The materials from Unalaskan Islands are very unique and will contribute to the study of the desmostylians. I scan the materials and create its three-dimensional image in order to reconstruct missing parts. The support from ISEM has provided me opportunities to see paleontologists in Japan and to visit the National Museum of Natural History to scan the skull of desmostylians. Thank you very much for your help. **Yosuke Nishida** 

