

# Continuing the Weeks Legacy

## *A major gift to the Student Field Experiences Campaign*

In mid-December, the Department received the most unexpected and amazing news that the Reverend Marta Sutton Weeks, widow of Lewis G. Weeks' son Austin, was making a million dollar gift to the Student Field Experiences Campaign. The gift was given in memory of her father-in-law, who in Marta's words "is the one who made this possible." Marta supports various educational projects and is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees at the University of Miami.

In his memoir "... a lifelong love affair" describing his passion for geology, Lewis Weeks recalled the courses that thrilled him during his studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These included general and historical geology by Eliot Blackwelder, mineralogy and petrology taught by Edward Steidtmann (photo, right) and Alexander Winchell, and "most of all, Leith's courses in economic

and structural geology. His seminars were so exciting that we students took pains to arrive early and to be in our seats around a great table before the clock struck. . . . Even more thrilling than the seminars were the field trips he took us on, to the Mesabi and Cayuna iron ranges of Minnesota, the Menokee-Gogebic iron ranges of Wisconsin and northern Michigan, the lead-zinc mines of southwest Wisconsin and the Kewanana (sic) copper mines." We are proud to continue the tradition of field based training that so thrilled our generous benefactor when he was an undergraduate. We are most grateful for this new gift that continues the Weeks legacy and will sustain field trips to thrill future generations of geoscientists.



**Lewis G. Weeks (seated center front) on a 1917 mineralogy field trip to southwest Wisconsin with fellow students and Professor Steidtmann (standing center rear).** (Department archives)

This wonderful gift allows us to meet the critical transportation needs for field trips in majors courses and for topical trips that are essential to graduate education. A portion of the gift has been allocated to the Museum Field Experience Fund and will be used to assist the Museum with staff and travel support for its summer paleontology expeditions. With these basic needs met, we now are able to focus the campaign on achieving big dreams for the field education programs that we thought were beyond our reach in a five-year campaign. In particular, we believe that offering field camp scholarships that cover the full cost of tuition and expenses would be a powerful incentive for students who must forego a summer job in order to complete this critical component of their

geoscience training. In light of the strong support for the Field Experiences Campaign that is evident in the donations that have already been received from so many alumni and friends, the Board of Visitors and the Department agreed that we should continue the campaign with a revised endowment goal of two million dollars. This larger endowment would give us the resources to support approximately a dozen field camp scholarships per year and to further enhance other components of field training in the Department and the Museum. ●

## Donors to the Student Field Experiences Campaign

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