

For distinguished lifetime achievement and/or service to the UW-Madison

Distinguished Alumni Awards 2000



photo: Carl Bowser

William E. Laing (center right), with Mrs. Laing and professors Bob Dott, far left and Jean Bahr, right.



photo courtesy J.D. Robertson

James D. Robertson



photo courtesy C.C. Bradley

Charles C. Bradley

Honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the Spring Banquet 2000 :

Dr. Charles C. Bradley

BPh '35; PhM '47; PhD '50

..for distinguished scholarly contributions in structural geology and petrology and for work in environmental restoration and preservation at the Leopold Memorial Preserve, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

William E. Laing

BS '51

..for distinguished lifetime achievements in oil exploration, scholarly contributions in geophysics and outstanding professional service.

Dr. James D. Robertson

MS '72; PhD '75

..for distinguished scholarship in geophysics, outstanding service to the hydrocarbon industry, exceptional professional contributions, and excellence in service to the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alumni News

Burt A. Amundson (BS 1949, MS 1951)

My regard for the geology department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison continues strong. I am appreciative of what my five and a half years at that wonderful institution has done for me—no exaggeration, it totally changed my life. Among the professors who influenced me the most were Cline, Laudon, Tyler, Thompson and Thwaites.

Editor's note: Our apologies to Burt and to our readers for neglecting to mention in last year's (1999) *Outcrop* the fact that he was one of the presenters at the department's Sesquicentennial Banquet held on May 9, 1999.

Dr. Edward W. Best (PhD 1953)

In September I was inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame which is in the Petroleum Museum at Leduc, Alberta. The hall and museum were formed three years ago on the 50th anniversary of the Leduc oil discovery, the beginning of the modern Canadian petroleum industry.

Kenneth W. Ciriacks (BS 1958),

a retired vice president of technology for Amoco Corporation, has been appointed to the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) Board of Directors as a director-at-large. His three-year term will begin July 1, 2000.

After earning his bachelor's degree in geology from UW-Madison in 1958 and his PhD in geology from Columbia University in 1962, Ciriacks began a thirty-two year career with the Amoco Corporation. He held a mix of research and exploration positions in both the United States and international offices. During his years as an exploration manager, he led exploration activities in Egypt, the African-Middle Eastern region, and Houston, Texas.

Since retiring in 1994, Ciriacks has continued to be active in professional societies such as the Geological Society of America and the American Geological Institute. He also serves on the alumni board for the UW-Madison Department of Geology and Geophysics, is chair of the department's development committee, and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the department in 1999. In his spare time, Ciriacks enjoys, traveling, hiking, and skiing with his wife, Linda.

Ruth Mary Dudley (BA 1937, MA 1938),

widow of alumnus Robert Crump, was remarried in June, 2000 to Gerth E. Hendrickson (PhB 1940, MS Michigan State U. 1966) Ruth and Gerth now make their retirement home in Madison.

Dwaine Edington

Just a short note to let you all know that I have been offered, and have accepted a position with Halepaska and Associates in Littleton, CO. My first day was May 25, 2000. They are a small groundwater-consulting firm with clients in groundwater resources along the front range, mining companies, and the fertilizer industry. Initially, I will be working part time as I still have my thesis at CSM to finish. I have promised Lisa that I must make significant progress (i.e., be on the verge of defending) by this December. Otherwise, I will tender my resignation and finish by next May. Keep in touch one and all.

Alan F. Gregory (PhD 1958)

Greetings to all GeoBadgers! On page 11 of the (1999) *Outcrop*, there is a picture with Mark Emerson and Harry Abendroth. I haven't seen either of them for nearly 50 years. The deaths of Gene Cameron and Sheldon Judson cast a sad aura over many happy



Mark Emerson and Ken Ciriacks at GSA

photo: Mary Anderson

memories of my years with them and the department. I'm long retired and working on family history. Best wishes from A.F.G., Peterborough, Ontario.

John Harbaugh (PhD 1955),

of Stanford University, has been selected to receive the AAPG Distinguished Educator Award "for distinguished and outstanding contributions to geological education both at the university level and toward education of the general public."

Caroll Ann Hodges (MS 1960),

is the mayor of Woodside, California. She tells us that: "Situated as we are on top of the San Andreas Fault, geologic constraints necessarily govern many of our development regulations."

Dick Hutchinson (MS 1951, PhD 1954),

sent this letter 12/07/00:

Dear Dr. Anderson,

I thank you sincerely for your, and the department's thoughtfulness in sending me a certificate recognizing my former membership on the Department's Advisory Board. It was an honor and real pleasure to serve on the Board, especially as this did take me back to Madison after so many years.

As one of Gene Cameron's advisees, it was particularly enjoyable to again visit with him during those years, and I regret greatly that other commitments prevented me from also attending the opening of the new probe lab named in his honor this past fall. Gene was indeed, not only a respected teacher and mentor, but one of the finest and most diligent earth scientists it has been my fortune to know, and finally, in later years, a friend. I miss him, as I'm certain you all do.

Please pass my thanks on to all department members, most of whom of course, I do not know. As a “long in the tooth” 1954 PhD grad, perhaps I may be permitted one broad, and hopefully relevant reminiscence—that the Camerons, Tylers, Laudons, Clines, Emmons, Thwaites, Baileys, Gates, Woollards of those years left a challenging heritage for us and for you.

John Kleist (BS 1969, MS 1971),

is joining Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas as Assistant Professor of geological sciences. He was previously a geological consultant to the Chevron Company in Houston.

Gary Kocurek (PhD 1980),

current Chair of Geological Sciences at the University of Texas-Austin, and his wife, Dianna (MS 1980–Civil Engineering), are slowly building themselves a proper castle southeast of Austin. Both are “Tex-Czechs” and have traced their ancestry to an eastern part of the Czech Republic. They have established that some of their very distant ancestors belonged to a nomadic group known as the Vlachs. When asked by Dott how one could possibly do genealogy in the Balkan region with all the complex invasions and assimilations, Kocurek replied as follows: “What could be more simple than black slaves taken by Romans to Dacia, thereupon abandoned as the Legions withdrew under barbarian pressure, only to flee into nomadic shepherddom in the Carpathians, with perhaps a brief interlude of fighting with that great prince, Vlad, only to flee again because of Turkish invasions into Moravia, to fight the Hapsburgs, lose, endure two centuries of the most oppressive serfdom in Europe, then flee to Texas after the Revolution of 1848? Nothing like a couple of thousands of years of slavery, fleeing and serfdom.” He alleges that there is some connection with Dracula, and after visiting the famous Dracula Castle, Gary seems to have discovered a need for fortification as evidenced in the accompanying photo (this is actually his second castle, for he built a tower keep in his backyard some years ago—sort of a warm-up effort).

Robert P. (Bob) Koehler (BA 1973, MS 1975)

Well you got me! I never took a hydro course in Madison while working on my BS and MS under Dr. Clark. I guess I should have, my job classification at work is “Hydrogeologist.” Now I am one!—sort of.

After leaving the petroleum industry as a carbonate petrologist I have been nibbling at the fringes of geology and in the last four or five years doing work with computer databases.

I was hired by Rocky Mountain Remediation Services at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technol-



photo courtesy G. Kocurek

“The modestly named Castle Kocurek rises stone by stone from the brown earth of Fayette County, Texas. The castle is intended to serve as the fortress from which raids will be conducted into the neighboring farms until, ultimately, the 13th century Balkan Vlach Empire is restored.” (G. Kocurek)

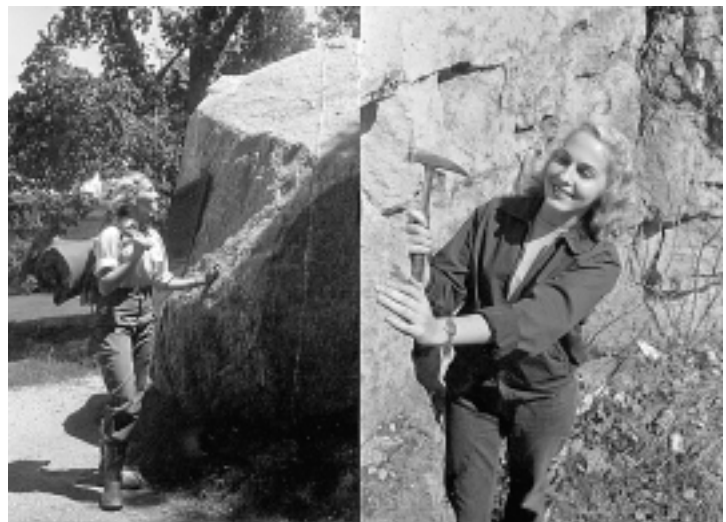
ogy Site (= Rocky Flats Weapons Plant if you aren’t into euphemisms) near Golden last January. I am responsible for writing the Quarterly Groundwater Report and for former H-bomb plant. RMRS has been good to me and I wanted to pass it around.

It’s hard for me to believe that I left Madison at the end of the summer of 1975. It’s been 25 years—WOW!

Joan Link (BS 1954)

While looking through the UW archives John Fournelle found, in an envelope, several photographs marked “Geology Dept.” Two had a name on the back, Joan Link, and a comment “Havana, Cuba.” A quick look in the alumni records revealed her as having received a BS in 1954, and he contacted her to ask about the photo. Here is her reply:

I regret to say there is no story in those pictures. The newspaper was interested in the oddity of a female in geology, so the pictures were posed near Madison. I was, indeed, from Havana, Cuba, as that was my home address, i.e., my mother’s home address, and I lived with her when I wasn’t in school. It wasn’t a bad place to go for summer vacation! Both my



photos: UW-Madison Archives

Joan Link, 1954.

parents took geology degrees at Wisconsin in the '20s. My father was Walter Link and my mother was Miriam Wollaeger.

When I completed my first PhD (Mineralogy, U-Utah, 1963) we were in the middle of an employment slump for geologists, exacerbated by Kennecott's policy of hiring women only as secretaries. I did check out a job teaching at Weber State in Ogden, where I was offered what they were willing to pay a man with a BS. I refused, and took stock, and went back to grad school in 1969 and completed my PhD in clinical psychology at in 1969.

At that point I went to work and was so sick of being a student that I didn't bother to run the thing through the thesis office until 1980, so the degree was actually granted in 1981. I count myself lucky that I have had the freedom to try and do many interesting things, more freedom than most men might have had. I retired in 1997 after a 20 year career as a clinical psychologist at a mental health center, work I both loved and was ready to move on from. Now I am busier than ever with family interests, many pastimes, and several fairly demanding volunteer jobs. I am also a sometimes poet and nonfiction writer.

I still find the earth a fascinating subject, and read *Science News* to keep in touch. You know as well as anyone how much the field has changed since the mid-fifties.

One small item of interest: Our next door neighbors the past seven or so years are Phil Mitchell, a Wisconsin geology grad of much more recent vintage, and his family. Small world, isn't it?

Eric Luttrell (BS 1963, MS 1965)

I have retired from BP Amoco after 32 years in the petroleum industry and am looking to settle in the Portland, Oregon area (with winters in San Antonio, Texas). I can be contacted through my e-mail address: Hedgehoghouse@aol.com.

Debora de Miranda (PhD 1994),

worked in London for Shell for several years and then moved with her family to Germany. She has taken a position with BP-AMOCO in Aberdeen, Scotland. She has been a full time mom for a few years, and is looking forward to getting back to geology. She and her family recently had a fabulous visit with her brother in Oman, during which they camped in the desert.



Robert Laury (PhD 1966) and his BMW cycle in 1964. The photo was sent by former student Robert Richardson, who had Bob as his TA in Geology 101.

Jack E. Morris (1935-40)

I'm glad things are going well in the department. I have had a busy career in geology, much of it in exploration and a good time with E.J. Longyear on several projects and nearly 34 years as Chief Geologist for Sloss Sheffield Steel and Iron Company, Birmingham, AL, which became U.S. Pipe and Foundry Company, later taken over by Jim Walter Resources, Brookwood, AL. Thus my job was to drill and evaluate the company's property in the Warrior Coal Basin, a region of many faults including Cooper Basin, displacing the coal more than 300'. Very interesting study. Ultimately, four mines were developed by the time I retired in 1982.

After retiring, I spent several years as a consultant, until a four-by-pass heart operation put an end to my career in July 2000.

I give credit to the teaching of Dr. Twenhoffel, Emmons, and others for my success and I think Bob Gates will remember me.

Maria Mutti (MS 1990),

will receive the 2001 James Lee Wilson Award from SEPM in recognition of "Excellence in Sedimentary Geology by a Young Scientist."

Maria received her degree under Toni Simo and was a tenured professor at USC between 97-99. She is now a C3 professor at the University of Stuttgart.

Do you have a “Laudon story?”

Jim Parks (MS 1949, PhD 1951),

is writing the definitive biography of Lowell R. Laudon. To be titled *Fossils by the Bushel*, with a subtitle, *The Extraordinary Life of Lowell Robert Laudon: Field Geologist, Teacher, Paleontologist and Mentor*, the book should be completed by mid-2002.

Lowell Laudon was a faculty member in our department from 1948 to 1975.

If you have a Laudon story and have not already been contacted by Parks you may email him at jparx@iglou.com or write to him at 159 Wesley Drive, Wilmore KY 40390.

Robert Richardson (BA Geography 1964),

emailed in search of the whereabouts of alumnus Robert Laury (PhD 1966), who had been his TA in introductory geology, and with whom he had become a good friend. Richardson remembered fondly Lowell Laudon’s physical geology with his excellent slides and amusing stories, some of which were acted out. He also remembered Bob Dott’s historical geology as “The best class I had as an undergraduate...marvelously well organized, always interesting.” Richardson went on to get his MS at LSU and PhD at Oregon, both in geography. He now teaches at California State University at Sacramento.

James Robertson (MS 1972, PhD 1975)

I retired from ARCO on June 1 following ARCO’s merger into BP. After 25 years with the company, I am adjusting to a different lifestyle and no complaints so far. Professional society projects and involvement with the children’s activities have produced a busy and enjoyable six months. Stella has had a busy year. My retirement did not come soon enough to accompany Stella on a May trip to Israel to speak at an Ophthalmology Congress in Jerusalem, but I did tag along on an October trip to Barcelona and Mallorca and a November trip to Cayman Islands. I decided that ophthalmologists generally go to nicer places than oil explorationists do.

Our email is: jdrsmr@mindspring.com (home) and jdr@alumni.princeton.edu (alternate) for home and we expect to be in Fort Worth indefinitely.

Christy Smith (MS 1977) and Tim Carr (PhD 1981),

sent a report of a major meteorite fall on Tagish Lake last January. They knew that veterans of Lowell Laudon’s Yukon Field Course would be particularly interested. Here are excerpts paraphrased from a news story found on the Internet, which they forwarded to the department:

Last January 16, a fireball sliced through the early morning sky above the mountains between Carcross,

Yukon and Skagway, Alaska, and then thousands of people in the region felt the earth shake. Among the witnesses was Jim Brooks, an outdoor guide who lives with his family in isolated simplicity on Tagish Lake in northwestern British Columbia. Smith and Carr note that the Brooks family will be remembered fondly by Yukon Field Course alums, for a visit to their place was always a highlight of the course and resulted in a great party. Tim also reminds us that he and several other folks met their spouses on that trip, making Lowell Laudon a super matchmaker.

On January 26, Jim decided it was a perfect time to drive a pickup load of supplies over the frozen lake to his remote lodge at the south end of the big lake. What he did not count on was finding the largest field of meteorite fragments ever discovered—fragments strewn for ten miles across the ice. “As soon as I saw them on the lake, I knew what they were,” Brooks said. He immediately collected several dozen pieces and notified scientists of his find. The following week, fresh snow covered the rest of the stones, so it was not until April that 13 researchers could collect more of them. By that time, many fragments had become frozen in ice, so chain saws as well as spoons and chopsticks were used for collecting. Before the ice melted, a total of 500 pieces were recovered, the largest of which were the size of a small potato.

It turned out that a 200-ton asteroid had been detected in January by U.S. defense satellites as it plunged toward earth. When the meteorite fragments from Tagish Lake were analyzed, they were found to be of the rare carbonaceous chondrite variety. Only about three percent of meteorite finds are of this type and they weather very quickly at the earth’s surface, making Jim Brooks’ discovery exceptionally important. Carbonaceous chondrites date from the dawn of the solar system and they contain organic compounds, which include the building blocks for biological material. The Tagish fragments may also contain primordial water preserved by keeping them frozen, which could tell us about the origin of water on earth, for it is thought that countless numbers of chondrites fell upon the early earth. It has been proposed that both water and the building blocks for making life were brought from outer space by such missiles. The Tagish Lake meteorites should help test this intriguing hypothesis.

Robert M. Sneider (PhD 1962),

has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering and he has been selected to receive the 2001 Sidney Powers Medal, AAPG’s highest honor. AAPG described “Sneider’s long career of exploration successes, teaching and service to AAPG as an embodiment of what the Powers Award represents.” After many years with Shell, Bob is now president of his own exploration company in Houston.

**Robert A. (Bob) Sterrett (MS 1974, MS 1975
PhD 1980)**

I have nothing but fond memories of my years in Madison. Who could not have fun on that campus? But more than that, I got a superb education.

I earned an MS in Water Resources Management in 1974 and an MS in 1975; and a PhD in Geology and Geophysics in 1980. It's an education I have put to good use over 20 years of professional activity—and now, in volunteer activity. For the past year, I have been working with an organization called Nuevos Pequeños Hermanos that builds and staffs orphanages in Mexico, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. I am providing the technical expertise for the design and installation of water and waste water systems for two new orphanages—one in El Salvador and one in Guatemala. We are designing them to U.S. standards—they're more rigorous than the country demands, but it's a chance to introduce some improvements.

After leaving Madison in 1980, I worked for a number of laboratories and firms in California and Colorado as senior hydrogeologist, professor and consultant. The bulk of the work that I have undertaken over the past 20 years is in the area of nuclear and hazardous wastes. This work has involved detailed site investigations, data analysis and the design and evaluation of remediation systems.

In 1989, two colleagues and I started our own company, Hydrologic Consultants, Inc., in Lakewood, Colorado, with a focus on siting of waste management facilities and remediation of ground water and soil. When I sold my interest in the company a year ago I became a private consultant, and looked for volunteer opportunities.

**Peter Vogt (MS 1965,
PhD, 1967),**

received an Honorary Doctorate last August from the University of Bergen in Norway and also was elected to membership in the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters. After completing his PhD, Peter has spent his career based in Washington, first with the Naval Oceanographic Office and then with the Naval Research Laboratory. He was sometimes associated there with alumnus **Ned Ostenso**. Much of Peter's work has been with marine magnetics, which he says began rather accidentally when a Woods Hole cruise to the Indian Ocean needed someone to watch the magnetometer—for seven months! His timing was good, for that was just as



Peter R. Vogt

Photo courtesy U. of Bergen

sea floor spreading was a hot new idea.

In recent years, Peter has worked closely with some Norwegian oceanographic scientists in the European Arctic. His interest in high-latitude work brought him early in contact with marine geologists and geophysicists at the University of Bergen. Subsequently, the contact developed into a long-term scientific collaboration lately highlighted by the spectacular manned submersible dives to the mid-oceanic spreading center west of Svalbard. The promotion as *doctor honoris causa* is based upon his international scientific standard, and his long term research cooperation and excellent relations with colleagues at the University of Bergen.

There is yet another Norwegian connection, for his wife is a native of that country. In September 2001, Peter will be a keynote speaker at an international conference in Gent, Belgium on Subsurface Sediment Mobilization.

Peter remembers Wisconsin fondly, especially skating on Lake Mendota, sliding down Bascom Hill on cafeteria trays, and creating the "Ski Big Bascom" patch. Bob Dott still has a rock specimen that Peter once brought him—a piece of granite collected on the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean. These islands were a problem because they have only continental granitic rocks far from any continent—no problem for continental drifters, of course. Peter also brought Dott a miniature Styrofoam cup, which had been lowered to -1800 fathoms; that experience had shrunk it from 8 cm to 3.5 cm (apparently a favorite oceanographer's trick).

Another Vogt-Wisconsin connection is the fact that Chuck DeMets was a post-doc with Peter before coming to the department.

John G. Weihaupt (BS-52; MS-53)

Dr. and Mrs. John G. (Jack and Audrey) Weihaupt were honored at the Explorers Club Annual Banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on March 25, 2000. The banquet, the club's "Millennium Dinner," was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf, and attended by 1500 members and their guests, including Astronaut Gene Cernan, Sir Edmund Hillary, Senator Harrison Schmitt (next-to-last man on the moon), Carolyn Porco, Johan Reinhard, Sylvia Earl, Senator John Glenn, Robert Ballard, Bradford Washington and others.

The occasion for the recognition was the fortieth reunion of Jack's mountaineering and scientific team which was the first to enter and explore the extensive and deep interior of Victoria Land, Antarctica in 1959-1960. The field party of scientist-mountaineers climbed to the ten thousand foot Victoria Land Plateau in East Antarctica by crossing some two hundred miles of the Ross Ice Shelf, then more than one hundred miles up the Skelton Glacier through the Transantarctic Mountains, and ultimately onto the Victoria Land Plateau. After a total of four more months in the field, with temperatures charac-

teristically -30 to -55 degrees Fahrenheit, and 1500 miles from the Ross Sea, the party discovered a range of mountains (later named the USARP Mountains), traversing the upper reaches of one of Antarctica's largest glaciers (the Rennick Glacier) in the Pacific Ocean sector of the continent. The party also discovered Earth's largest meteorite impact crater in Wilkes Land, using gravity-detecting techniques. Jack Weihaupt and three other members of the party then made the first ascent of one of the newly discovered mountains, Mt. Welcome, which they named. Following the ascent, and failing to reach the Ross Sea (because of the intervening mountains) where a waiting U.S. icebreaker was to air lift them by helicopter, the field party was eventually evacuated by a U.S. Navy R4D ski-equipped aircraft as the sun dipped below the horizon for the last time, with the approaching Antarctic winter night.

All of the members of Weihaupt's party were later honored for these accomplishments with the naming of mountains for each member of the team. Mt. Weihaupt is located in East Antarctica in the vicinity of Rennick Glacier.

Weihaupt, a professor of geology at the University of Colorado-Denver, also holds a commission as Captain in



photo courtesy J. Weihaupt

Dr. and Mrs. John G. (Jack and Audrey) Weihaupt were honored at the Explorers Club Annual Banquet.

Naval Intelligence. He and his wife Audrey live in Evergreen and have made Colorado their home for the past nineteen years.

Editor's note: Please see a related article about Badgers in Antarctica on page 46.

Death Notices

Dr. Thomas M. Frost, a prominent UW-Madison lake researcher, drowned in Lake Superior on August 25, 2000, after saving his son from a strong current.

Frost was an associate director of the College of Letters and Science Center for Limnology and was responsible for the Trout Lake Station, a lake research outpost north of Minocqua. From the station, he conducted a nationally known experiment on Little Rock Lake that chronicled the effects of acid rain on lake chemistry and biology. Frost also team-taught a UW-Madison field course in limnology to about 160 undergraduates per semester, and oversaw research projects at Trout Lake for many undergraduate students.

His wife Susan Knight and their two sons Eliot and Peter survive him. Memorials may be made to the Nature Conservancy (633 W. Main, Madison WI 53703) for the Thomas Frost Memorial Fund to be used for purchase of the Wolter tract. This property, a few miles north of the Trout Lake Station, contains many pristine lakes.

Ward B. Meek (PhB 1934; MS 1935; PhD 1947) died January 23, 2000 in Sun City, AZ. He is survived by Geraldine T. Meek, his wife of 54 years.

After receiving his MS, Ward went to the Philippines to work for the Bureau of Mines. When WWII broke out, he

was immediately commissioned as a 1st Lt. in the Army Engineers. He was captured and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. Ward suffered three and a half years in five Japanese prison camps. His accounts of experiences, some written on toilet paper, record many tortures. After the war, Meek obtained a PhD at Wisconsin, using some of his Philippine mining work as a basis for the dissertation. After teaching at the University of Oklahoma for three years (1947-51), he worked at the Atomic Energy Commission until 1961, when he was forced to retire for medical reasons.

Augustin (Gus) Pyre (BA 1934) age 88, passed away on January 1, 2000. He spent most of his career as an exploration geologist with Gulf Oil Co. Gus was a member of AAPG for over 50 years, and an obituary, put together by friends he knew in the oil business, was published in the AAPG magazine. He will be greatly missed in the industry and by his lifelong friend Alex Cameron.

J. (Joe) Russell Whitaker (MS 1922) died February 24, 2000 in Nashville, TN.

He graduated in geography and was Professor Emeritus at Peabody College.