

Department of Geology
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
5 December 1955

Professor H. B. Stenzel, Chairman
Department of Geology
University of Houston
3801 Cullen Boulevard
Houston 4, Texas

Dear Professor Stenzel:

Thank you for your letter dated November 22nd. Attached are the forms that constitute my formal application. Perhaps I ought to point out just one reservation about the questionnaire: that is the affirmative answer showing my willingness to visit Houston for an interview. I would, of course, be delighted to come to Houston but I cannot now predict my ability to finance the trip. There are no other obstacles.

You inquired about my connection with a course in Geology of the United States. May I take a few paragraphs to describe this? For the past two years I have been assisting in this course, the first year as a half-time laboratory assistant and the current year as a full-time assistant. The course consists of lectures and a laboratory, each having two hours per week. The enrollment commonly consists of 15 students, the majority of them in their junior year, all of them majoring in geology. This assistantship is the only one dealing with undergraduate majors at Yale.

Lectures are given by men with professorial rank in the Department; each man delivers a few lectures on that area he knows best. Occasionally, when the regularly scheduled lecturer has been unable to attend class I have presented the lecture for him. The laboratory meets once weekly for two hours but commonly the work requires the student to spend some additional time. I conduct these laboratory classes, occasionally lecturing, discussing and, most important, guiding the student: letting him do his own work uninterruptedly so that he does not go astray.

Because the lecturers have other teaching chores I conduct all administrative work such as compiling examinations, grading quizzes and examinations, reporting necessary details to the appropriate place and supervising the reserve reading shelves (in both the departmental library and Main Library). When lecturers illustrate their talks with kodachrome slides I manipulate the projector. If my listing these details seems overly zealous let me add that I do so only to point out my familiarity with the working of the course.

In broad outline, the course covers systematically the entire country. The scheme is to discuss the various sections on an outline generally following Fenneman's physiographic division. Emphasis is placed on the stratigraphic and tectonic history and the important economic commodities. Some representative lecture titles are: Geosynclinal history of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Superior iron ranges, Major drainage changes of the Central Lowland, Geology of West Texas, and Late Paleozoic history of Central and Southern Appalachians.

The course requires extensive reading by the student prior to his attendance in class and he is frequently quizzed on the assigned reading. For the most part the reading consists of original sources in the literature. In the laboratory we assume that the student can read a geologic map and that he is familiar with the broad bases of historical geology, elementary mineralogy, and petrology.

I am really too close to this to tell whether or not I have satisfactorily answered your questions. Will you let me know what further information I can supply you?

I shall look forward to hearing from you again.

Yours respectfully,

Kurt Servos

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