

This spring, the corridors of the Mining and Mineral Resources Building were buzzing with excitement and activity with the presence of four summer interns. Recalling the valuable experience he had gained while working at the Illinois State Geological Survey as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, State Geologist **Jim Cobb** wanted other students to have similar opportunities. Four student interns, **Bethany Overfield, Hannah Harbin, Matt Crawford, and Sarah Hawkins**, participated in the internship and earned credit in an independent studies course at the University of Kentucky this summer.

Bethany, a senior in geology this fall at Western Kentucky University, would like to work in topics of geology that concern the environment. Hannah, a junior

in geology this fall at Hanover College in Indiana, would like to be involved in earth-resources conservation from a geologic standpoint, to provide expertise to have a significant political impact. Matt, a master’s student in geology at Eastern Kentucky University, is interested in metamorphic petrology, tectonics, and geologic mapping. Sarah, a senior in geology at the University of Kentucky, is interested in public policy and outreach, and igneous and metamorphic petrology.

The interns were introduced to diverse research activities including digital geologic mapping, Global Positioning System (GPS) measurement, seismic research for oil and natural gas exploration, palynology and coal-quality studies, geologic

sequestration of carbon dioxide gas, hydrogeology, minerals and geologic mapping, curation of mineral and fossil collections, professional registration for geologists, and earth-science education and public outreach. Friday afternoons were devoted to mentoring sessions in which a KGS staff member shared his or her expertise and current research interests. The interns conducted field work and research to write articles for the county geology project featured on the KGS Web site at www.uky.edu/KGS/coal/webgeoky/county/county.html. Field trips provided for the interns included a tour of two underground quarries, the Ghent power plant, and the Star Fire Mine. Jeff Crevier and Kristin Toth, two summer students employed at KGS, also participated in the mentoring sessions and field trips. ❖

“I consider my internship at KGS this summer a chance of a lifetime.”
—Hannah Harbin

“My experience as an intern at the Kentucky Geological Survey has been unprecedented in my collegiate career. I have been given a most helpful perspective of geology at the state level. I believe that each person that I encountered at the Survey has a mission of teaching me as much as possible, and for that, I am grateful.”—Bethany Overfield

“I find myself loving every aspect of the science [of geology] and learning new things everyday. I would like to begin my career working for a state survey. I think being surrounded by exceptional scientists in a research environment would be a good way to begin a career. Working for a state survey would also be a good way to assist in promoting geology to the public. Also, being a teaching assistant in graduate school has had me thinking about teaching in the future. I think my internship at the Kentucky Geological Survey this summer is a perfect road to either aspiration.”—Matt Crawford

“The most important experience that I have gained at KGS has been one that could never be reproduced within an academic setting. I have learned the real-life practical uses and applications for the principles and techniques that are taught in the classroom.”
—Sarah Hawkins



Left to right: Matt Crawford, Jeff Crevier, Sarah Hawkins, Kristin Toth, Hannah Harbin, and Bethany Overfield.