

FIELD WORKSHOP ON THE CINCINNATIAN SERIES,
CINCINNATI, OHIO

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On Sunday, October 25, 1992 in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America the Keck Consortium sponsored a field workshop to study the Upper Ordovician Cincinnati Series in its type locality near Cincinnati, Ohio. The field portions of the workshop were organized by Drs. Thomas Algeo and Benjamin Dattilo in the Department of Geology at the University of Cincinnati and a 114 page field guide was organized and published for use by the Workshop participants.

From the Keck Consortium Coordinator's view, the purposes of the Workshop were two-fold. First, it was to be an opportunity to introduce the Consortium's students to some of the classic Ordovician stratigraphy and paleontology which is exposed in the Cincinnati region, and to show how new ideas are being tested against the observable characteristics of these relatively well known carbonate rock units. Thus the study centered on the storm-dominated aspects of the deposits and why the Kope, Fairview, and Bellevue Formations are now considered to be tempestite carbonate-ramp deposits.

Secondly, the opportunity was present to introduce Keck Consortium students to the professional aspects of the national meeting of the Geological Society of America, which took place immediately following the Workshop and seemed like ideal timing. The University of Cincinnati made this possible by making available low-cost student housing for all students. These arrangements were essential to the success of both the Workshop and the student participation in the following meetings of the Geological Society of America.

All indications are that the forty-two students, seven faculty, and two guests who participated in the workshop came away with an appreciation of the complexity of the origin of this classic carbonate rock sequence. Although a superb fall day may have gilded their comments, several faculty commented that this field study may have been the best offered during the Geological Society of America meetings!

Many conversations with students during and after the Geological Society of America professional meetings give strong anecdotal evidence that our students profited greatly by exposure to the highly diverse nature of geology and to what professional geologists really discuss at professional meetings. Many of the students also joined Keck Consortium faculty and guests at the Keck Consortium Breakfast, which is held annually at the time of the Geological Society of America meetings.