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Around the Columns

Camp: Rite of passage for geology students

MU's Camp Branson in Lander, Wyo., has hosted students and faculty from around the country since 1911, and it is celebrating its centennial with a summer reunion.

As early as the 1950s, the camp's reputation earned it a place on the Harvard undergraduate list of classes, and it continues to be one of the most respected geology field camps in the world.

[Adobe Flash version 8, or higher, and Java Script are required to view the slide show for this feature story.](#)

This summer, anyone hoping to have another glimpse of Derby or Dallas domes, two of the area's unique rock formations, or to compete in the horseshoe-pitching tournament is invited to attend the reunion.

Named for MU geologist Edwin B. Branson, who collected amphibian fossils at the site during his graduate work at the University of Chicago, the facility is one of the oldest continually operating geological field camps in the United States.

Former camp director Bob Bauer estimates that more than 3,000 Mizzou students have attended summer sessions at the camp. The Camp Branson fieldwork is an experience that connects generations of geologists, and Bauer expects a banner crowd.

Aside from hiking and visiting, a gourmet banquet will be prepared on Saturday by Don Siegel, one of the camp's regular instructors from Syracuse University.

Changes over the years at Camp Branson include Lander itself, which now has a half-dozen well-appointed hotels where visitors can relax in between their stints at camp.

The festivities take place July 16–17, 2011, and registration is required through the camp's [website](#) by May 15. The cost, which includes two meals, is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

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