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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN 12

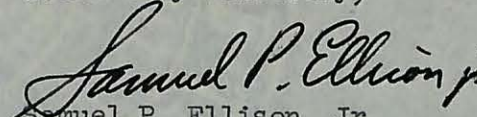
February 12, 1953

Dr. Alfred Travers  
Lignite Research Laboratory  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Travers:

I have your letter of February 6, and I am really sorry that you cannot consider the possibility of applying for a paleobotany teaching position here at the University of Texas. However, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your interest in the matter and I am placing your file of letters in our inactive prospective teacher file.

Yours very sincerely,

  
Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
Chairman

SPE:kj

CC: Mr. C. S. Barghoorne

Mr. Charles Heimsch

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Mr. Charles Heimsch

April 7, 1958

Dr. Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
Geology Department  
University of Texas  
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Dr. Ellison:

Probably I should have written you about having recommended that Dr. Becker contact you. He is not, of course, a palynologist, but an excellent general paleobotanist. I hope he can find some place where his talents will be put to good use. I told him to write you because I knew that you were down a paleobotanist. Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to him.

I was tremendously impressed by the setup you have in Austin for paleobotany and palynology. It would be a shame if you did not find a way to continue your work in this field, as U.T. is certainly a natural spot for an expanding program in plant fossil research.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse

AT:hmp

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

May 17, 1957

Dr. Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
Geology Department  
University of Texas  
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Ellison:

I enjoyed having a good visit with my old friend, Jane Gray, and appreciate having had the opportunity to talk with you briefly during the visit. I think Jane did a good job of taking me around the facilities, limited as she was by the brief time available, the other things there were to do, and the vast amount of note-comparison that was necessary. We had been in contact only by mail since 1951.

I was greatly impressed by your department, the general vigor of the faculty people, and by the atmosphere around the university in general.

Thanks again for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN 12

January 23, 1953

Dr. Alfred Traverse  
Lignite Research Laboratory  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Traverse:

I have your letter of January 19 and I am sorry that we had inadvertently omitted the biographical data sheet. One of the sheets is enclosed with this letter. In filling out the sheet you should attach a photo of yourself and if it is possible you should have a copy of your college transcripts sent to us or have one attached to the biographical data sheet. You need not at this time have a health report, or an x-ray report.

About the possibility of teaching paleobotany here at the University of Texas, we are very much interested in selecting a man to do just that and the rank or salary will of course depend mainly on what it takes to attract the man to the campus. At the present time the following wage scales are observed on the campus. Instructors are paid \$3300 to \$4000 per nine months, assistant professors are paid \$4000 to \$4800 per nine months, associate professors are paid \$4800 to \$5900 per nine months, and full professors are paid \$6000 to \$7900 per nine months. Usually one half summers and sometimes full summers are available, but this is not guaranteed. The summer work is paid at the same rate that the winter regular nine months salary is paid. If we considered you, we, of course, would try to make the salary one that would attract you and be worth while. I would appreciate your returning the data sheet and any supporting evidence. It would be quite helpful if you have publications available to send reprints. It would also be helpful to have others in addition to Dr. Barghoorn. Thank you very much.

*write letters of recommendation*

Yours very truly,

*Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.*  
Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
Chairman

Enclosure

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

AUSTIN 12

January 10, 1953

Dr. Alfred F. Travers  
Coal Technologist  
Charles Robertson Lignite Research Laboratory  
U. S. Bureau of Mines  
University Station  
Grand Falls, North Dakota

Dear Dr. Travers:

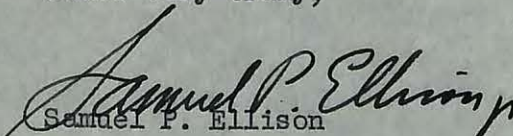
Your name has been suggested to us by Dr. Barghoorn as one who might be interested in teaching paleobotany in the geology department at the University of Texas. If you are interested, I would appreciate it very much if you would fill out the attached biographical data sheet, include a recent photo of yourself and have your college transcript sent to me. You need not at this time supply an x-ray or health report. It would, of course, help if you had three of the men who know your work best to write letters of recommendation to me.

The person who we tentatively believe could teach paleobotany in the department of geology would have an opportunity to do research on any of the plant bearing formations in Texas. It is a completely open field at the present time and there are fossil plants in the paleozoic, mesozoic and tertiary beds in Texas.

The man who is selected to teach paleo-botany here will, of course, have to teach some general geology courses in order to have enough students to come under the student and class hour rules of the University.

If you are interested in such a situation we will be most happy to consider your qualifications at this time.

Yours very truly,

  
Samuel P. Ellison

ch.  
Lignite Research Laboratory  
Grand Forks, North Dakota  
I intend to move unless the  
position is professionally attractive.  
January 19, 1953

I should like to know something about  
the rank, salary and term of appointment for this position  
before I make application. I am, of course, grateful to  
you for writing me about this job.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. Samuel P. Ellison  
University of Texas  
Austin 12, Texas  
Alfred Traverse

Dear Dr. Ellison:

Your letter of January 10 came recently. The  
biographical data sheet you mentioned, however, was missing  
when the letter was delivered to me.

Dr. Barghoorn was quite right in suggesting that  
I would be interested in teaching paleobotany. It is also  
most certainly true, as I remember telling a Texas scientist  
at the A. I. B. S. meetings this year, that Texas is one  
of the most fertile grounds for paleobotanic research.

However, my research work here, investigating the  
vast Tertiary coal deposits of North Dakota, is interesting  
and challenging, and I do not intend to move unless the  
position to which I go is professionally attractive.

In short, I should like to know something about  
the rank, salary and term of appointment for this position  
before I make application. I am, of course, grateful to  
you for writing me about this job.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Traverse

Lignite Research Laboratory  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

6 February, 1958

Dr. Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.  
University of Texas  
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Dr. Ellison:

Your very kind letters of January 10 and January 23, about the opening in paleobotany at the University of Texas, have caused me to examine my plans for the future very carefully. I believe that it would not be wise for me to leave my job here until rather more results have been reaped from the extensive preparatory work I have done during the past year. This, plus the fact that I probably could not do my best work in the Austin climate, have made me decide not to apply for the position in your department. Thank you for considering me.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse