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Robert W. Fields to become chairman of the Montana State University Geology Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Robert W. Fields will become chairman of the Montana State University Geology Department July 1, according to Dr. Robert W. Coonrod, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Fields will succeed Dr. Fred S. Honkala, whose appointment as dean of the Graduate School and research director of the MSU Foundation takes effect July 1.

Dr. Fields, a member of the faculty since 1955, takes over a growing department engaged in extensive research sponsored, primarily, by the National Science Foundation, as well as in an expanding teaching program. The department was the first in the College of Arts and Sciences authorized to grant the Ph. D. degree and the first geology department in the nation to receive National Defense Education Act fellowships, Dean Coonrod noted.

The geologist is the author of numerous professional papers on his field research in the western United States and in Colombia, South America. He was geologist and paleontologist in charge of a six-month expedition to Colombia in 1949, jointly sponsored by the University of California and the Geological Survey of Colombia.

Dr. Fields is currently conducting a long-term research project on Tertiary Intermontane Basins of the Northern Rocky Mountain Province. The work was begun with NSF support and is continuing under a second three-year NSF grant, for \$29,200, awarded last July.

The new chairman holds B. A. and Ph. D. degrees in vertebrate paleontology from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a geologist for the Shell Oil Co. for three years before joining the MSU faculty. He is married and the father of two children.

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