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News Release

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

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Director of Information

RELEASE ON RECEIPT

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION APPROVES GRANT TO GRC
FOR BETTER ROCK-MAGNETISM MEASURING INSTRUMENT

DALLAS--

A highly-sensitive magnetometer, to be used for measuring the basic magnetism of sediments, will be completed at the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest under a National Science Foundation grant.

The device will be used to measure and determine directions of remanent magnetism in soft and weak rock materials. Previous instruments have not been sensitive enough to record basic, or oldest, rock magnetism after other "layers" of magnetism have been cleaned away; or, they have subjected small core samples to strong spinning forces and thus caused disturbances to the magnetic record.

In the new instrument, the core sample will remain stationary, and a spinning coil will sense the magnetic information in the rock. A small amplifier will spin with the coil, and deliver electrical signals to another set of coils, similar to a transformer.

Records will be produced graphically, on roll paper in a commercial X-Y recorder. The recording system also offers an opportunity for extension into an automatic computer-feeding system, to process data as measurements are made.

Principal investigator in the magnetometer program is Prof. John W. Graham, Geosciences Division. The National Science Foundation grant for its construction is effective for one year. Funding is \$7,200.