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News Release

**GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST**  
**SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES**

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RELEASE - Immediate

GRCSW SCIENTIST GOING TO ANTARCTICA TO GET ROCK SAMPLES FOR  
GEOCHRONOLOGY STUDIES

--DALLAS

Dr. Martin Halpern, a Research Associate with the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in its Geosciences Division, will leave Dallas Sunday, Oct. 17 to collect rock samples in the Antarctic for research in geochronology. Working along a 300-mile arc on the 75th parallel, south latitude, he hopes to provide more geological information on the relationship of the Antarctic Peninsula with West Antarctica.

On his return sometime in February, he will determine the geological ages of the samples by radioactive dating techniques used in one of the GRCSW laboratories. The results may provide a key to structural kinship of rocks in Antarctica and in the far reaches of the South American Andes.

Dr. Halpern has previously explored the Tierra del Fuego, Chile's land-of-fire, to obtain samples. His work is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, and the results of his program will be made available for general publication.

Dr. Halpern will travel to Washington, D. C., and board a Military Air Transport System plane for Oakland, Calif., Hawaii, and Christchurch, New Zealand. His trip will continue by military air transport to McMurdo Station in the Antarctic, with a probable fuel stop at Byrd Station before he is landed at the peninsula baseline.

He will carry two flags on the trip. One will be the Texas state flag. The other will be the Center's own flag. Both will be flown on the expedition sledges as the traverse is made along latitude 75 south. The flags are also expected to cross the South Pole by air as Dr. Halpern is picked up for his return to the Center. The weather-worn flags are expected to be returned to Dallas for display after their farthest-south travels.

(more)

Geographically, Halpern will follow the arc of the 75th parallel from approximate longitude 77 degrees, 40 minutes west, to approximately 60 degrees, 30 minutes west. The 300-mile search for volcanic, sedimentary, and possible plutonic rocks (formed from molten sources) will cover the same degree-distance as an equatorial march from Quito, Ecuador, to the mid-course of the Amazon; but an equatorial trip would be more than 1,000 miles long.

Dr. Halpern will join a University of Wisconsin geology party, directed by Dr. Tom Lowden of the Department of Geology. Chief interest of the Wisconsin scientists will be in paleontology, the study of fossil rocks and structures.