**O range Keystone Tour Facts:** *Guyot Hall*

* **Guyot Hall** is the current home of **Princeton University’s Geosciences Department.**
* This department includes the fields of **Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Environmental Science.**
  + However, these fields **went unrecognized** until well **after World War II,** when they could have been instrumental in *discussions surrounding the* *ethics of nuclear weapons testing and the relationship of nuclear tests to Indigenous communities.*
  + These subdivisions were formalized in **1946 (Geochemistry), 1950 (Geophysics) and** **1968 (Environmental Science).**
  + According to **Prof. Emeritus Samuel G. Philander,** there was only a **single geochemist in the department in 1990, and no individuals that could radiometrically date materials.**
* **Deficiencies within the Geosciences Department** as recorded by past staff such as **Chairman Harry Hess** led to an *attitude of rapid growth which forwent internal reflection on the interactions of the department.*
  + Many documents show the ramifications of this aloof departmental demeanor:
  + A **1914 list of Indigenous properties being sold on Cheyenne River Reservation and South Dakota** was described as simply “a printed broadsheet of Sioux names”.
  + A **Dec. 1982 graph in *The Smilodon,* of oceanic tritium concentration, was used to demonstrate current detection**; though the fact that these radioactive isotopes came from nuclear tests was mentioned, *the implications of this fact were not considered.*
  + ***Art of the Northwest Coast* is a dossier detailing a collection of Northwestern Indigenous works;** it describes Guyot Hall as a “treasure house” of these works and contains the following excerpt steep
  + ed in colonial descriptions of Native culture:
    - *“In the spring each of the towns broke up, each of the kinship groups… to tend its traps and wires on* ***its proprietary grounds”*.**
    - The fate of the collection described is **unknown**; though it is likely in a Princeton warehouse, it has been **in danger of being discarded in the past** *due to concerns of space.*
* The attitude of the Geosciences Department in matters of nuclear safety has caused a few **close calls relating to nuclear materials.**
  + An example relating to Guyot Hall directly, **as recalled by Prof. Emeritus Lincoln S. Hollister**, would be a **high amount of radiation present in one of the mineral storage rooms;** the isotopes responsible were taken to a rooftop room temporarily until some were discarded and others were **relocated by the Museum of Natural History.**
* Guyot Hall is set to become the new home for **Computer Science** by 2026, undergoing renovations and a name change to **Schmidt Hall**. The Geosciences Department will continue their long history in a **new environmental science building set to open in 2024.**
  + Given that many of the historical issues in the department and building’s relationship with nuclear science and Indigenous community have resulted in a *constant need to adapt the interests of the field to its current focus,* this change in scenery could have the potential to *establish a stronger foundation* for Guyot Hall, alongside both the Computer Science and Geosciences Department.
  + Such an outcome benefits strongly from *critical thinking surrounding the building’s identity and histories!* 