

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Professor Bill Morris**
Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**
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Clip 2

[00:28:10-00:30:37]

Oh my God, I've only been to one external exam since that even compares to the torture that I went through because it's the only time I've ever been to an external exam where there were two externals. Not just one. And then I rolled up and I didn't, usually here now the student knows when they're finishing their degree who the external examiner's going to be. I didn't know who this was. So the external exam's done in Milton Keynes. Ian Gass I think it was, was around. And Ian Gass had been at Leeds and he'd moved down to The Open University. So I kind of still knew him so off we go and I meet, I'd moved from Leeds at this point and I was back home so I went down to Milton Keynes for the exam. I walk in the room and there's this guy called Fred Vine.

And I'm looking at this, because you know, there was this paper called Vine and Matthews by Vine and Matthews. Vine and Matthews at this point in time was one of two papers that you were absolutely compulsory reading if you did anything in plate tectonics. And there sitting across the table looking at my PhD thesis is Fred Vine. Well at this point I'm thinking this is getting over it because I'm not, I can't play in this league at all. Then the other side of the table there's this chap called Rod Wilson. Well Rod Wilson was at University of Liverpool at the time and Rod Wilson was like the man that you went to if you wanted to do palaeomagnetism. So not only do I have, not only do I have, not only am I facing Fred Vine I've got Rod Wilson on the other side of the table as well. Like oh my goodness. And then Ian Gass is in there as well asking questions. And Jim Brydon's in there asking questions.