

Advancing Excellence

Update from the Development & Alumni Office at The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences - No. 11, Spring 2014



Alumni and Friends of the Jackson School,

This year offers a reminder that great dreams can come true. Since becoming a college-level school in 2005, we have invested in people – 26 new faculty, 43 new research scientists, and nearly double the number of graduate and undergraduate students. We are pleased to announce that U.S. News & World Report's 2015 edition of Best Graduate Schools recently moved the Jackson School up in the rankings to #8 in the nation (#4 for public universities), a sure sign that our investments are beginning to be recognized.

Your support has been critical to our success in many ways, such as helping to fund the Holland Family Student Center and new endowments like the Writer in Residence Fund and William L. Fisher Endowed Chair in Geological Sciences. Your contributions also enable student field experiences, undergraduate research, and new important initiatives like our Rapid Response program.

As we continue to move forward, we are faced with significant infrastructure needs. As you will read in this issue, recent scientific advancements in unconventional resources, salt tectonics and other areas have pushed the Bureau of Economic Geology beyond the capacity of its current facilities. UT's paleontology labs, now a part of the Jackson School, are also in dire need of long-term facilities to house and preserve priceless vertebrate and invertebrate collections.

I have great faith that our alumni and friends will help us to address these critical capital needs — and that, overall, you will continue to support our dream of becoming the world's top geosciences program.

Warmly,

Sharon Mosher, Dean



JSG alum Gregg Robertson (second from left) holds core cuttings that led to the development of the Eagle Ford shale at 2013 BEG Industry Day. The BEG plans to double its core examination and analysis area as part of its facilities campaign. Others in the photo include (left to right): James Donnelly (BEG staff), Scott Tinker (BEG director), and Eric Potter (BEG associate director).

Bureau of Economic Geology Expands Research Capacity

The Jackson School's Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) is undertaking a crucial campaign to fund major upgrades to its research facilities. We are calling upon friends and supporters to step up and play a significant role in empowering the BEG to remain the top energy and environmental research institution in the world.

"Facilities play a vital part in fueling the BEG's research capabilities. We have highly skilled scientists who are challenged every day in carrying out cutting-edge research in laboratories that have not been upgraded in decades. Building new facilities and enhancing current ones is absolutely essential if we are to stay ahead of the curve," says Scott Tinker, BEG director.

The campaign focuses on three urgent needs. The first is an upgrade of the BEG's research laboratory building. First opened in November 1984, this building houses a large number of the BEG's energy and environmental laboratories. As technology has changed exponentially in the past 30 years, major renovations are required to improve the functionality and safety of these labs and bring them up to current state-of-the-art standards.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

JACKSON

SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

Bureau of Economic Geology Expands Research Capacity — Cont'd



Kitty Milliken (second from right), BEG senior research scientist, provides a hands-on talk at the Core Research Center to industry professionals.

The second urgent need is the construction of a new core examination building. The new 7,000 sq. ft. facility will be used exclusively by BEG researchers to conduct vital studies into the rock properties of the school's vast core holdings. The building will double the BEG's core examination and analysis area, while the existing examination room will be transitioned for use by the general public, students, outside researchers and industry professionals.

The third urgent need is for targeted support of specific research laboratories and complexes that reinforce the foundation of the BEG's primary research disciplines (see sidebar).

BEG Research At-A-Glance

- Water and Environment
- Unconventional Reservoirs
- Salt Tectonics and Modeling
- Carbon Sequestration
- Sedimentary Rocks and Processes
- GeoFluids and GeoMechanics
- Public Core and Cuttings Repository



BEG scientists conduct research using a vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) in the Advanced Energy Consortium laboratory. Upgraded facilities will enable staff scientists and students to achieve greater research success.

“The BEG capital campaign is one of our highest priorities at the Jackson School”

— Sharon Mosher, dean

“The research conducted by scientists and students at the BEG contributes directly to our understanding of the most important energy and environmental issues of our day – from unconventional resources to reservoir characterization to water resources and drought mitigation to carbon capture and storage. I invite companies, foundations and individuals who value this insight to contribute to this campaign,” says Sharon Mosher, dean.

There are multiple naming opportunities available for this initiative. If you are interested in learning more about this crucial effort, please contact:

- Belle German, director of development and alumni relations, at (512) 471-1993 or bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu
- Karen Cochran, associate director of development, at (512) 471-6010 or kcochran@jsg.utexas.edu
- Jazmine Leon-Wing, assistant director of corporate and foundation relations, at (512) 232-8085 or jleon-wing@jsg.utexas.edu



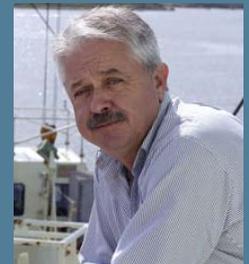
Rapid Response field research enables communities to recover and plan for natural disasters.

Rapid Response Goes on the Road

The Jackson School is taking to the road to raise awareness about Rapid Response. This one-of-a-kind program enables time-sensitive field research in the wake of natural disasters, providing valuable information that allows affected communities to recover and plan for future destructive natural events.

James Austin, senior research scientist and associate director at the Institute for Geophysics, has seeded an endowment for Rapid Response that will facilitate mobilization of equipment and personnel to the sites of geo-hazards as quickly as possible. He and Ph.D. student Cassandra Browne recently spoke to Jackson School friends and alumni in Dallas about the scientific, humanitarian and economic impacts of Rapid Response research. Dr. Austin is scheduled to address similar audiences at events throughout Texas. Stay tuned for information about events in your community.

If you would like to support Rapid Response, please contact Belle German at (512) 471-1993 / bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu or Karen Cochran at (512) 471-6010 / kcochran@jsg.utexas.edu. You can also visit www.jsg.utexas.edu, click on make a gift and enter 'Rapid Response' in the special instructions box.



Dr. James Austin is scheduled to speak about Rapid Response at events throughout Texas.

UT Fossils Get a New Home



Echinoid and crinoid specimens from UT invertebrate paleontology collection

It is with open arms that we welcome UT's paleontology collections to the Jackson School. The Vertebrate Paleontology Lab (VPL) and Non-Vertebrate Paleontology Lab (NPL) have played a vital role in learning and research for our students, faculty and research scientists, which reinforced the decision to transition these resources from the College of Natural Sciences.

Founded in 1948, VPL is the principal repository for vertebrate fossils collected from state and federal lands in Texas and contiguous areas, as well as for specimens collected on research expeditions and donated by private individuals and museums. The NPL was founded in 1999 to provide a unified hub for the development of UT's vast repository of over 4 million specimens. The focus is invertebrate and paleo-botanical fossils, complemented by a wealth of recent marine, freshwater and terrestrial specimens, and an extensive rock, mineral and impact-related collection.

"Both the VPL and NPL labs play a major role in public outreach, education and research. Their specimens enrich the scientific community of Texas, and it is critical to ensure their continued care in the future," says Sharon Mosher, dean.

"The paleontology labs are an important tool for faculty, scientists, students and partner institutions to conduct cutting-edge research. For example,

working with the UT High Resolution X-ray Computed Tomography Facility, we can apply exciting new technologies, like CT scanning and 3-D imaging software, to the morphology of NPL and VPL specimens," says Ann Molineaux, NPL curator.

The Jackson School is currently raising funds to ensure that we can properly catalogue, house and care for VPL and NPL specimens moving forward. Funding will be used to maintain a climate-controlled space and to cover costs for curation and outreach personnel.

To learn more about how to contribute or get involved with the VPL and NPL labs, please contact Belle German at (512) 471-1993 / bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu or Karen Cochran at (512) 471-6010 / kcochran@jsg.utexas.edu.



Vertebrate fossils like the one shown above are in need of ongoing care and maintenance

Alumnus Establishes Undergraduate Research Endowment in Honor of Professor Bill Carlson

After serving as an icon on the Forty Acres for over 30 years, Professor Bill Carlson is set to retire in August 2014. Despite this transition, Dr. Carlson's legacy will live on through a new endowment that supports undergraduate geoscience research.

Carlotta Chernoff (B.S. '92, M.A. '95) has made a lead gift to establish the William D. Carlson Undergraduate Research Program Fund. This endowment will ensure that undergraduate students at the Jackson School continue to take part in research experiences that enrich their academic studies and career trajectories.

One area directly impacted by this endowment is the Undergraduate Honors Research Program. Dr. Carlson is founder and co-director of this unique program, which enables undergrads to work with faculty and scientists in conducting their own independent research.

"I am thrilled to be able to establish this endowment in honor of Dr. Carlson. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to acknowledge his legacy than by continuing to provide undergraduate students with access to rewarding research opportunities. I know first-hand that these kinds of research experiences can have a lasting impact on a student's personal and professional development," says Chernoff.

Help us to further honor Dr. Carlson by making a contribution to the William D. Carlson Undergraduate Research Program Fund. For more information, please contact Belle German at (512) 471-1993 / bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu or Karen Cochran at (512) 471-6010 / kcochran@jsg.utexas.edu.



*Prof. Bill Carlson
will retire in August 2014*



*Carlotta Chernoff
(B.S. '92, M.A. '95)*



A team of UTIG scientists, technicians and students, led by Prof. Sean Gulick, investigate the rapid thinning of key East Antarctic glaciers. (Left) UTIG postdoc Rodrigo Fernandez and JSG Ph.D. student Jamin Greenbaum deploy a seismic streamer with a large iceberg that calved from Mertz Glacier in background. (Right) View from the bridge of the research icebreaker Nathaniel B. Palmer as it breaks ice off the shore of Antarctica.

Jackson School Family on Campus and Around the Globe



(Left) Jamie Long, John Long (MA '78), Bonnie Weise (BS '74, MA '79) and Donna Balin (BS '78) at the annual Jackson School Tailgate Party in the Holland Family Student Center. (Center, right) The Jackson School family of students, alumni, faculty, research scientists and friends show Longhorn pride during the tailgate party.



The Jackson School celebrates 125 years of geosciences at the University of Texas. (Left) Current MS student Brandon Okafor celebrates with schoolmate Jackie Chicon. (Right) Advisory Council member Bill Holland (BS '54) with wife Carolyn during 125 Anniversary celebration.



Recent graduates Tim Prather and Jessica Hudock at Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony.



JSG student Mitchell Riegler connects with Prof. Emeritus Ernest Lundelius during the Scholars Luncheon.



JSG students showcased more than 165 posters at the 2014 Research Symposium, sponsored by ConocoPhillips. (Left) PhD student Tricia Alvarez presents research poster to Juli Hennings (ConocoPhillips) and Samuel Moore (JSG Staff). MS student Xufeng Liu explains research findings to Carlotta Chernoff (ConocoPhillips, BS '92, MA '95).



(Left) Scott Tinker presents BEG Alumnus of the Year award to Jonathan G. Price at GSA alumni and friends reception in Denver. (Right) Recent Jackson School alumni reconnect at GSA reception. Group includes Lindsay Szramek (PhD '10), John Shaw (PhD '13), Philip Guerrero (JSG staff), Laura DeMott (MS '07) and Brandon McElroy (PhD '09).

Jackson School Welcomes New Chief Development Officer

We are excited to welcome Belle German as the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the Jackson School. In her role, Belle works with the Dean and other members of the leadership team to set strategic direction and deliver best practices in friend and fundraising. She also serves as Associate Director of the UT Geology Foundation, working with the Advisory Council to advance the mission of the school.



Belle has a wide range of development experience in the non-profit and higher education sectors, both domestically as well as internationally. Prior to the Jackson School, she served as Director of Development for Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. In that role, she was responsible for building a philanthropic program to benefit the university's newly established charitable foundation. Previously, she held senior positions in a number of top tier public universities in the United States, including Michigan State University and the University of Toledo.

"We are delighted to have Belle as part of the Jackson School family. Not only does she bring a wealth of leadership experience in fundraising, but she also brings a fresh perspective on global outreach and engagement," says Sharon Mosher, dean.

A native of Dallas, TX, Belle is no stranger to the University of Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree from UT Austin and previously held other fundraising roles at the university. Belle also holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from Angelo State University.

"The Jackson School is an incredible place. Our students are leaders among their peers, and our research makes significant impacts on the regional, national and international arenas. I am thrilled to work on behalf of our students, staff, faculty, research scientists, alumni, and friends to advance our institutional priorities and strengthen our foundation for years to come," says Belle German.

An avid traveler, Belle enjoys reading and horticulture in her spare time. She lives in the Greater Austin area with her husband, Eric, and two-year-old Chihuahua, Steve, who is still adjusting from the Dubai desert to the Texas climate. Belle can be reached at (512) 471-1993 or bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu.

Are You Planning Your Legacy?

The Texas Leadership Society recognizes individuals who have included The University of Texas at Austin in their estate plans. The Jackson School is fortunate to be the beneficiary of a game-changing bequest from its namesakes, John A. and Katherine G. Jackson.

"Jack and Katie were visionaries. They realized that uniting the Department of Geological Sciences, the Institute for Geophysics, and the Bureau of Economic Geology would create an academic and research powerhouse with global influence. Their planned gift made this vision a reality," says Sharon Mosher, dean.

Estate gifts from the Jacksons and other leaders enable the school to support faculty and research scientists, provide scholarships and graduate fellowships, and keep our laboratories, library and facilities up to date. As a result of these gifts, the Jackson School is transforming lives by producing ground-breaking research and educating tomorrow's geoscience leaders.

"Our planned gift will ensure that future generations of Jackson School students benefit from the incredible education and research experiences that impacted our lives"

— Steve Weiner, M.A. '81

We want to express our appreciation to the generous individuals who have included the Jackson School in their estate plans. We realize there are individuals who have not shared their plans with us, and we respect their right to privacy. However, last year we learned of a notable estate donation, posthumously. We had no prior knowledge of the donor's intent. While it was delightful to be the recipient of this donation, it was also very sad not to have known beforehand so that the donor could have been thanked while living.

Thus far, we are profoundly grateful to know that the following individuals have made bequests to the Jackson School:

- Benjamin M. and Mary G. Anderson*
 - David K. and Barbara G. Arctur
 - Walter and Vada Boyle
 - Philip and Barbara Braithwaite
 - Dr. L. W. Dan Bridges II*
 - Mrs. Ina R. Brundrett
 - Miss Thais Freda Bullard*
 - Mrs. Susan K. Cage
 - Mr. L. Decker Dawson
 - Byron F. and Constance M. Dyer
 - Mr. Fred M. Gibson
 - Ms. Drane Fones Grant*
 - Dr. Hugh and Ms. Grace Hay-Roe
 - Mrs. Caroline Rose Hunt
 - Myrtle and George Isensee*
 - John A. and Katherine G. Jackson*
 - Mr. William Y. Klett, Jr.
 - Dr. Wann and Mrs. Marietta Langston, Jr.*
 - Jimmie N. and Rita L. Russell
 - Mr. Kevin A. Tuerff
 - Glenn and Martha Vargas*
 - Stephen P. and Katherine H. Weiner
 - Michael A. Wiley, Ph.D.*
 - John A. Wilson, Ph.D.*
 - Mr. Raymond D. Woods*
 - Mr. John B. Wright
 - Other Anonymous Donors
- [* deceased]

There are numerous options for making planned gifts, including: charitable bequest through a will or personal trust; gifts of remaining retirement plan assets; and charitable life income plans, among others.

If you would like to learn more about the process of leaving The University of Texas in your estate plans, please contact Belle German, director of development and alumni relations, at 512-471-1993 or bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu.



Steve and Kathy Weiner at 2013 Jackson School Society Dinner. The Weiners embrace estate planning as a critical component of establishing a lasting legacy at UT.

Get to Know Your Development and Alumni Team

We are in your communities, meeting with alumni, engaging with supporters, and working on behalf of the Jackson School to secure its vision of becoming the best geoscience program in the world. You've learned a little about Belle German, our new director. Meet the rest of the team:



Karen Cochran – associate director of development

Karen has over 20 years of experience in development, program management and marketing. In her current role, she travels frequently, partnering with friends and alumni across

the nation to realize their philanthropic vision through support of the Jackson School. Born in Naples, Italy and raised in Texas she holds a B.A. degree from UT Austin and is thrilled to work on behalf of her alma mater.



Jazmine Leon-Wing – assistant director of corporate & foundation relations

Jazmine brings over a decade of experience in client relationship management, marketing and communications in the private, non-profit and education sectors.

She currently works with external companies and philanthropic foundations to establish mutually beneficial relationships on behalf of the Jackson School's students, faculty and research scientists. Originally from New York City, Jazmine holds a B.A. degree from Yale University (Magna Cum Laude) and a Masters of Business Administration from Columbia University (Beta Gamma Sigma).



Kristen Tucek – assistant director of alumni relations

Kristen is your go-to professional for alumni relations at the Jackson School. With more than 10 years of experience in non-profit volunteer management, Kristen fosters life-long relationships

between our alumni and the Jackson family through regional and national programming, personal visits and meaningful volunteer opportunities. Hailing from Corsicana, TX, Kristen has a B.S. degree in Nutritional Sciences from Texas A&M University – but don't let her Aggie background fool you. Her heart definitely bleeds burnt orange.



Georgia Sanders – development specialist

Georgia is the glue that keeps the Development and Alumni office running. She wears many hats – office manager, event planner and administrative coordinator. More recently, she

has taken on responsibilities that enable the team to provide exceptional stewardship services to our support base.

The Jackson School heads to Scotland



The Jackson School will join the Flying Longhorns from August 23 – September 3 on an exciting and unique trip to Scotland. The Scotland: Highlands and Islands tour will enable a group of 24 guests to discover Scotland's enduring appeal as we travel from city to country and loch to glen, catering both to people with a general interest in the Scottish landscape, its origin and evolution, and to those with a more specific interest in the geology of Scotland and its role in the development of scientific thought. Scotland native and Jackson School professor Ian Dalziel will participate in the excursion and provide geological enrichment opportunities along the route.

The following is Professor Dalziel's overview of the trip:

We will land at Glasgow in the western part of the Midland Valley of Scotland and travel north across the Highland Boundary Fault into the Grampian Highlands. After reaching

the Great Glen, in which Loch Ness is situated, we will go further west and north into the Northern Highlands and over to the Isle of Skye, part of the volcanic province associated with the early stages of the opening of the North Atlantic Ocean basin some 55 million years ago. The most northerly part of the main tour will take us back to the east coast in the rolling farmland along the shores of the Moray Firth, part of the hydrocarbon rich North Sea basin. Finally we will head south again, back through the Grampian Highlands and across the estuaries of the rivers Tay and Forth, to Edinburgh at the eastern end of the Midland Valley.

In Edinburgh we will be able to see how the combination of a more ancient (approximately 325 million years old) volcanic province and the recent ice sheets shaped the landscape and influenced the way the Scots built their castles and towns. An optional walking excursion will take the participants into the interior of one of the volcanoes and allow full views of this landscape and the City of Edinburgh, including the Castle.

We plan two additional optional excursions as alternatives to the tour's main itinerary.

- On Day 7, there will be a trip across to the Northern Highlands to the classic "northwest Caledonian front," the Moine Thrust Zone, where the Moinian rocks forming the Caledonian Mountain Chain prove that the westernmost part of Scotland is a small sliver of North America detached during the opening of the Atlantic.
- On Day 11, our last day in Scotland, there will be an afternoon excursion to the world-famous Siccar Point, a spectacular part of the coast near the border with England.

The trip is currently sold out. For more information about excursions through the Texas Exes, contact Jere Davis at davis@alumni.utexas.edu or (512) 471-3822. To discuss other potential trips co-sponsored by the Jackson School, please contact Kristen Tucek, assistant director of alumni relations, at (512) 471-2223 or ktucek@jsg.utexas.edu.



Ian Dalziel is a renowned Professor of Geological Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin and Research Professor at the UT Institute for Geophysics. Ian has dedicated his career to understanding global tectonic processes and mapping out the geography of ancient times on a dynamic Earth.



Upcoming Alumni Events

AAPG Alumni Reception

Monday, April 7, 6-8pm
Houston, TX
*Massa's Seafood Grill,
1331 Lamar St.*

Continuing Ed Talk on Rapid Response & Luncheon with Dr. Jamie Austin

Wednesday, April 30,
12-2pm
Corpus Christi, TX
*Corpus Christi Town Club,
800 N. Shoreline Blvd.*

Southwest AAPG Alumni Reception

Monday, May 12, 5-7pm
Midland, TX
*Petroleum Club of Midland,
Derrick Room*

Continuing Ed Talk & Reception

Tuesday, September 9
Midland, TX

GSA Alumni Reception

Monday, October 20, 6-8pm
Vancouver, British Columbia
*Mahony & Sons
Burrard Landing,
1055 Canada Place #36*

SEG Alumni Reception

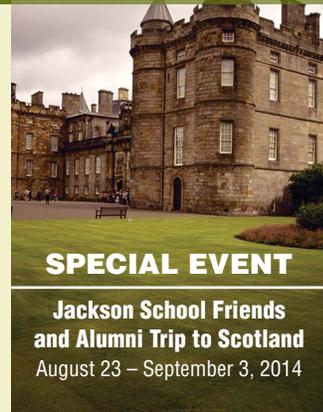
Tuesday, October 28, 6-8pm
Denver, CO
*Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.,
1600 California St.*

Alumni and Friends Tailgate Party

Saturday, November 8
UT v. West Virginia
Austin, TX
*Geology Building,
23rd and San Jacinto*

AGU Alumni Reception

Wednesday,
December 17, 12-2pm
San Francisco, CA
*Thirsty Bear Brewery,
661 Howard St.*



SPECIAL EVENT

**Jackson School Friends
and Alumni Trip to Scotland**
August 23 – September 3, 2014

Stayed tuned to www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni for information about networking receptions, educational talks, and outreach efforts in your area.

You can also check your inbox and mail box for chapter event invitations.

Make sure the Jackson School has your current contact information!

For details about any event, please contact Kristen Tucek at alumni@jsg.utexas.edu or 512-471-2223.

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