



# Advancing Excellence

Update From the Development & Alumni Relations Office  
No. 19 | Fall 2021



The University of Texas at Austin  
Jackson School of Geosciences



# DEAR JACKSON SCHOOL FRIENDS,



We have just kicked off another academic year and everyone at the Jackson School is fully engaged in our special brand of education and research. Our spirits are profoundly buoyed by the presence of students on campus again!

Jackson School scientists were in the field this summer, including a full complement of students in our Geo 660, Hydrogeology, and Marine Geology & Geophysics field camps, and graduate students working on much-delayed thesis efforts. Earlier this summer, a team of Jackson School researchers returned from a Rapid Response mission to Calcasieu Lake, southwestern Louisiana, where they collected data on damage and impacts to the environment due to two of last summer's hurricanes, Laura and Delta. For others, field work was more remote: Mars, Europa, even far West Texas!

Throughout the pandemic and last winter's Big Chill, the strength and resiliency of our faculty, students, scientists and staff has been nothing short of amazing, despite the palpable stress. Your generous donations to the student emergency fund provided truly critical help to students in need, and your long-term support for the Jackson School helped keep many programs running despite the extra costs driven by the pandemic. We are deeply blessed to have such supportive alumni and friends!

This edition of *Advancing Excellence* is filled with outstanding examples of how you have enabled the Jackson School to

thrive. I hope you enjoy learning about the unique contribution of the Petty family to the field of geophysics, and their positive impact on so many aspects of UT geophysics (page 2), from the Scott Petty Jr. Endowed Director's Chair, which helped us attract the immensely talented Demian Saffer to be UTIG Director, to keeping the MG&G field camp students afloat—literally!—aboard the R/V Scott Petty. Meet Kameel Kisheck, the first Jackson School Masri Fellow, supported by an extraordinary gift from the Munib and Angela Masri Foundation (page 4), and learn more about Ed and Karen Duncan and their planned gift. Enjoy an update on our bustling GeoFORCE program and an enabling new challenge match for the program. Start your reading with a brief story about our enterprising new Chief Development Officer, Andrew West, and his plans for the development team.

Our job at the Jackson School is to tackle society's biggest issues through leading-edge research and to assure that the next generation of Longhorn geoscientists is knowledgeable, capable, and well-prepared for the future. We can only achieve this vision hand-in-hand with all of you. Thank you for all that you make possible!

Hook 'em!

Claudia Mora, Dean

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## On the Cover

GE0660 field camp students near Steamboat Point in Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains. Photo: Mark Helper.



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## BUILDING EXCITEMENT, STRENGTHENING SUPPORT

### Andrew West's Big Plans for Jackson School of Geosciences Development

Andrew West hasn't let the pandemic put a damper on fundraising at the Jackson School of Geosciences. Since joining the Jackson School as its new chief development officer in March 2021, he has travelled across the state to meet with over a dozen donors, chatted with even more over the phone or Zoom, and oversaw the school's most successful 40 Hours for the Forty Acres annual giving campaign yet, which was orchestrated by Courtney Vletas, the associate director of alumni relations and annual giving, and raised \$66,400 to help send Jackson School students to field camp.

West has big plans to keep the momentum going. And he wants the entire Jackson School community to be a part of it.

"I really want to involve the community as much as possible," West said. "When we have big wins, it's a win for the Jackson School, it's a win for everyone."

West officially began his new role at the Jackson School on March 1, filling a role formerly held by Belle German, who is now the Jackson School's executive director of foundation relations. His addition marks a new investment and commitment to the Jackson School from Texas Development

at The University of Texas at Austin, said Jackson School Dean Claudia Mora. That investment also includes the addition of major gifts officer Lucy Perpich, who came to the Jackson School in August from the University of Minnesota Foundation.

"These are great additions to an already strong development team," Mora said. "Andrew's passion and expertise are already serving us well, and I am confident that the growth of this team will pay big dividends for the students and research at the Jackson School."

West got his start in development two decades ago when he was an undergraduate at The University of Texas at Austin's Butler School of Music. After helping bring his music fraternity into the black through a t-shirt sale, he became the organization's treasurer and started raising funds with the intent of giving back to the school.

He said he remembers the pride he felt giving a \$1,000 check to the director of the school, a gift from the fraternity back to the school.

"When we have big wins, it's a win for the Jackson School, it's a win for everyone."

**-ANDREW WEST**

West has been working in development ever since, with the past six years being at UT. The gifts have certainly grown in size and scope since that very first check. As the senior director of development for principal gifts with Texas Development, West's most recent role before joining the Jackson School, he helped secure more than \$40 million for the College of Fine Arts and UT as a whole.

West said that this success was achieved by pursuing new opportunities for growth. At the Jackson School, West sees plenty of opportunities to do the same by broadening the school's base of support beyond the oil and gas industry—which has for years been the bedrock of Jackson School giving—to reflect the diversity of research happening across the school.

"That means reaching out to folks in technology, and the wind energy side, and the water side," West said. "We need to be

building out our overall cadre of prospects to really make sure we're managing not just a really strong pipeline, but a broad-based pipeline of support that represents all of what the Jackson School does."

As an overall goal, West said that he wants additional streams of support to help lighten the load currently carried by the Jackson endowment, the gift bequeathed by Jack Jackson in 2001 that enabled the school's formation.

West knows from experience just how powerful a good messenger can be when it comes to building awareness and support of the geosciences. As an undergraduate at UT, he was a student in Professor Emeritus Leon Long's Introduction to Geology course, GEO 303. While he can't recall the grade he earned, the excitement he felt listening to Long's lectures, and the knowledge that "geology is so much more than rocks" stuck with him.

As he currently plans for a fall of in-person events, West said that he is looking forward to connecting donors with members of the Jackson School community who can inspire that same sort of excitement. He sees his job as channeling that excitement into material support for the world-class research and education happening at the Jackson School.

"I want to take that passion and make it an opportunity," West said.





## COMMITMENT, DRIVE AND VISION

### Generations of the Petty Family Have Helped Build UT Geophysics Into One of the Best

Scott Petty Jr. was born into geophysics.

“From the time I was really little sitting on my dad’s lap, I used to get explanations about geophysics and what a seismograph was and how it worked,” he said. “I would be sitting in his office with him, and he would draw diagrams for me and tell me how it worked. Those are my earliest memories.”

Given Petty Jr.’s background and he and his father’s love for their alma mater, it is fitting that the Petty family is such an ardent supporter of geophysics at The University of Texas at Austin. In many ways, they helped make geophysics at the Jackson School of Geosciences what it is today.

The scope of their support and generosity is longstanding and impressive, punctuated most recently by a new endowment to support the director of the University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG). But it goes well beyond that. They donated the research boat, the RV Scott Petty, that is used to take students on the three-week-long Marine Geology and Geophysics field camp every summer. The boat also serves as a critical part of the Jackson School’s Rapid Response Program, which sends geoscientists to the site of natural disasters shortly after they occur to collect fleeting data. The Petty’s also started the endowment for the vessel’s upkeep and, long ago, created the O. Scott Petty Geophysical Fund, which supports the efforts of the Jackson School’s Wallace Pratt Professorship in Geophysics.

“Our primary mission at the Institute for Geophysics is to conduct—and lead—world-class expeditionary-scale research focused on societally relevant and scientifically fundamental problems,”

said UTIG Director and Scott Petty Jr. Endowed Chair Demian Saffer. “The Petty family understands the importance of these endeavors, particularly for researchers to have the flexibility and resources to launch ambitious programs and expand into new areas. They have been tremendously supportive. I can’t thank them enough.”

The Petty family has been in geophysics almost as long as it has been a viable industry in this country. Petty’s father, O. Scott Petty, was a pioneer in the business. He founded the Petty Geophysical Engineering Company in 1925, one of the first seismic service companies in the country. That same year, as his 1994 New York Times obituary retells, “he developed what he called his ‘little jigger,’” an electronic seismograph detector utilizing vacuum tubes. The “little jigger” was about the size of a suitcase and was used to find deposits of petroleum by picking up vibrations in the earth. Years later, a smaller version of the device was used in the country’s burgeoning space program.





The elder Petty came by his fascination of geophysics and seismology as a young man after experiencing its practical application in the field. As a soldier on the front lines in World War I, he couldn't help but notice that German guns always seemed to knock out Allied artillery soon after they began firing. His curiosity to figure out how they were doing it led him to a discovery that would shape his life. The Germans were using early seismic equipment to triangulate the position of the Allied guns and help guide their return fire. A few years after returning from the war, he founded Petty Geophysical Engineering Company, which would become Petty-Ray Geophysical, a division of Geosource Inc., and then became part of Halliburton Geophysical Services and eventually Schlumberger.

Petty Jr. grew up in the family business working with his father and mother, Edwina Harris Petty. He worked on a seismograph crew during the summer in high school and very much wanted to study geophysics in college. Unfortunately, the only program he could find was at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology, which he determined was not the place for him after a visit. He decided to attend UT and major in engineering like his father, but he found only a single course in geophysics, offered by the physics department.

Thus began, for Petty and his father, a lifelong effort to support and foster the growth of geophysics education at UT, both through philanthropy and by lobbying the powers that be to increase UT's educational offerings. Father and son both served on the Geology Foundation Advisory Council. The elder Petty served from 1955-69, before becoming an honorary life member until his death in 1994. Petty Jr. joined the advisory council after his father stepped down in 1969 and served until 1990.

The Petty's efforts got a major boost when the Jackson School of Geosciences was formed in 2001, tying UTIG to the Department of Geological Sciences and the Bureau of Economic Geology to form one of the nation's premier geoscience schools. Among the benefits, it put students at the department within easy reach of the world-class geophysics expertise housed at UTIG.

Research Professor Sean Gulick, who is in both the department and UTIG, has seen the fruits of the Petty's generosity firsthand, particularly when it comes to the geophysics field course that teaches students how to collect and process data in the field. Students often cite the camp as one of the best education experiences of their lives, he said, and it's something that would be very difficult to accomplish

without the Petty's generous donation of the RV Scott Petty and the vessel's maintenance fund.

"Scott and Eleanor and the family have been tremendously supportive of getting students into the field to teach geophysics," he said. "It really helps students understand how the science gets done. It's one of the things that we offer that is unique to UT."

Although Petty Jr. is no longer active in the geophysics industry, he and Eleanor are still very active in their support of geophysics at UT and the generations of students it is producing. They are especially excited about the role geophysics is playing in space exploration and want to see the Jackson School's strength in the discipline continue to grow. In fact, Petty Jr. has a pretty good idea of where the school should be.

"We need to be No. 1 in geophysics," he said, breaking into a wide smile. "That seems like a good goal."

**OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE:** SCOTT PETTY JR (CENTER-LEFT) WITH DAUGHTERS JOAN PETTY (LEFT) AND SUSAN PETTY AND SON SCOTT JAMES PETTY.  
**RIGHT:** SCOTT PETTY JR. AND WIFE ELEANOR.

**ABOVE:** SCOTT AND ELEANOR PETTY CHRISTENING THE RV SCOTT PETTY AT THE DONATION CEREMONY.



## INSPIRED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Kameel Kishek is the First UT Fellow Supported by the Munib and Angela Masri Foundation Endowment

This fall, Kameel Kishek is making the long trip from Jordan to The University of Texas at Austin to enter the Energy and Earth Resources (EER) Program. He was drawn by the university's global reputation and the interdisciplinary nature of the Jackson School of Geosciences EER master's program, a combination that dovetails perfectly with his desire for a career in energy and sustainability fields.

But before any of that could take hold, his interest was piqued by one key factor—the name on the fellowship he has been awarded to support his education: Masri.

"When I told my father about the fellowship, he instantly started talking about the Masri family and the impact they have," he said. "It is really amazing, and it really gives us young people the motivation to follow in their path of having an impact on this world."

Kishek is the Jackson School's first Masri Fellow. And it is not hard to see why Kishek was chosen as the inaugural recipient. The Munib and Angela Masri Foundation created the prestigious fellowship with a twofold goal: to build a lasting cultural and educational pipeline between Texas and the

region of Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, and to support education and research in water, land use, energy, climate and environmental resilience

Kishek fits that bill perfectly.

He recently graduated from the Princess Sumaya University for Technology in Amman, Jordan, where he earned his bachelor's degree in power and energy engineering and has been working for a solar power company. He is interested in renewable energy and has already published on the topic, coauthoring a study, "Economic Advantages of Decentralized Solar PV Systems," in the *International Journal of Strategic Energy and Environmental Planning* in 2020. EER Director Richard Chuchla said Kishek is exactly the kind of student his program is looking for.

"The premise of the EER graduate program and the cornerstone of the vision of the Masri fellowship are one and the same: sustainable energy and earth resource solutions," Chuchla said. "I can think of few students better prepared to embrace this challenge than Kameel Kishek. We are extremely grateful that we were able to offer the Masri fellowship to Kameel to attract him here."

"It is really amazing, and it really gives us young people the motivation to follow in their path of having an impact on this world."

**-KAMEEL KISHEK**

Kishek is equally as grateful. He sees UT as the perfect place to advance his lifelong love of education and jumped at the chance to join the EER program, which mixes technical geosciences and engineering skills with education in management, finance, economics, law and policy. He also shares the Masris' passion that the fellowship have a positive impact on the planet for the next 100 years.

"Once I saw the foundation's name and the program associated with the fellowship it was really a sign that I should apply," he said. "I've always looked up to Mr. Masri because of his contribution to society, whether here in Jordan or in Palestine or in Lebanon."

Munib Masri made a similar journey to the one Kishek is making some 70 years ago when he traveled from Palestine to Texas to pursue his education. He earned a bachelor's degree from UT in 1955 and went on to a long and legendary career as an entrepreneur in the energy and water sectors, as an advocate for a peaceful two-state solution and as a lifelong philanthropist. He founded Edgo, a leading oil and gas services company that operates throughout the Middle East, and co-founded and served for 20 years as chairman of the board of PADICO, a Palestinian development and investment company that established numerous subsidiaries focused on developing the infrastructure of the region. Masri and his wife formalized their philanthropic efforts in 1970 by launching the Munib and Angela Masri Foundation, which focuses on education, higher education, health, scientific research, culture and charitable initiatives.

His endowment to the Jackson School totals \$10.5 million and will eventually fund multiple fellows who will follow Kishek.

"We are so grateful to the Masri family for making it possible for students like Kameel to pursue his education and future here," said Jackson School Dean Claudia Mora. "These fellowships make such an impact on students' lives and really help make the Jackson School one of the premier places in the world to tackle the big issues facing our planet."





Today Ed and his wife Karen, who is also involved in the family business, focus their attention far north. Their company is exploring opportunities for oil and gas on the Alaska North Slope. The couple credits their life of geological adventure to Ed's education from The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences. And to help ensure a strong future, Ed and Karen established a gift to the Jackson School of Geosciences in their estate plans.

“We want those smart kids who will make a difference to become students at the Jackson School.”

-ED DUNCAN

scientists have a responsibility to help,” Ed said. “We want those smart kids who will make a difference to become students at the Jackson School.”

Ed and Karen are doing their part to promote STEM education and increase the number of diverse students pursuing STEM careers. They solicited the help of Doug Radcliff, former assistant dean of the Jackson School, and launched the University of Alaska Fairbanks' GeoFORCE Alaska program, based on the Jackson School's acclaimed GeoFORCE Texas program.

“UT helped us get the program started, and it's been transformative for many kids on the North Slope,” Karen said. “How can you not love watching these kids love learning about geology?”

LEFT: ED AND KAREN DUNCAN AT ALASKA'S CHUGACH STATE PARK. PHOTO: ED DUNCAN.

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF GEOSCIENCES

### Ed And Karen Duncan Leave a Lasting Legacy for the Jackson School

Geologist and entrepreneur Ed Duncan, B.S. '79, M.A. '87, has enjoyed years of success—until recently. “I failed miserably at retirement,” he said with a chuckle. “I love what I'm doing too much.”

“The professors I had—Frank Brown, Sharon Mosher, Bill Galloway, Al Scott, Sam Ellison—they were fantastic pioneers,” Ed said. “They were investing in me to help me become the best geologist and the best person I could be.”

Ed and Karen want the Jackson School to continue to attract world-class professors and top students who will better understand earth science and how to take care of the planet.

“The earth is being challenged, and earth

## New Job? New Adventure? Share Your News!

Your Jackson School family wants to hear from you. Visit [apps.jsg.utexas.edu/form/alumni-update](https://apps.jsg.utexas.edu/form/alumni-update) update your contact information. And connect with other Longhorns by joining [uthookedin.com](https://uthookedin.com).

GET CONNECTED. STAY HOOKED.

## EVENTS

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING SEG | AAPG IMAGINE '21

September 28, 2021  
Denver, CO

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING GSA'S ANNUAL MEETING

October 11, 2021  
Portland, OR

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING AGU'S ANNUAL MEETING

December 15, 2021  
New Orleans, LA

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING NAPE SUMMIT

Date TBD  
Houston, TX

Visit [www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni/events-calendar](https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni/events-calendar) to learn about these events and to stay informed about other upcoming events and activities.



## GEOFORCE GAINS GROUND

### The Jackson School's Flagship Diversity Program is Expanding Thanks to Donor Support

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for everyone, but the University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences' premier diversity program recognized a silver lining and used the opportunity to roll out exciting new programming that will increase outreach to underrepresented youth. Adding energy to the expansion, a donor stepped up in a big way with a challenge match of up to \$750,000 to support the growth of the GeoFORCE Texas program. The goal of this match is to connect students to a variety of companies and individuals working in STEM.

The geosciences are the least diverse of the STEM fields. Through GeoFORCE Texas, the Jackson School is partnering with underserved school districts to help drive student interest in careers in STEM, with a focus on the geosciences. During summer academies, students take trips to some of the most spectacular geologic sites in Texas and throughout the United States and learn first-hand from geoscientists in the field, the lab and the classroom. In 2015, GeoFORCE Texas was recognized with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring—the highest such honor from the United States government.

When travel was halted and in-person activities were canceled for the summer of 2020, the GeoFORCE team jumped into action. Within weeks, they curated professional online geoscience resources and created virtual curriculum to keep the program's participants engaged. The unique field experiences continued, but this time they were from the comfort of students' own homes. This got GeoFORCE Texas program director Leah Turner thinking—what better way to expand the reach of the program than to offer virtual academies every summer in addition to the field experiences? Starting in summer of 2022, that's exactly what will happen. All interested students in areas the program serves will be able to participate in the field or virtually.

"Every year, GeoFORCE has a waitlist of students because the field experiences can only accommodate a certain number of students per cohort due to travel costs," Turner said. "No one should have to miss out because of limited bus space."

The program's growth didn't stop there. Beginning this summer, cohorts were added from school districts in Central Texas including Austin, Del Valle, Manor and Pflugerville. These joined the original cohorts that were formed in southwest Texas when the program was created in 2005. In 2008, the program expanded to schools in the Houston Independent School District.

"It is amazing to see them experience the science firsthand and realize that they can study the Earth in college."

Now, STEM educational opportunities will be offered throughout the year in addition to the summer academies. GeoFORCE sponsors will connect with students through workshops, professional development trainings, individualized mentoring and much more. The goal is to keep students thinking about big geologic questions that impact society all year and to help prepare them for college and future careers. By bringing on new STEM-focused

companies as sponsors, students will get broader exposure to opportunities and career paths.

Recognizing the influence family has on a student's decision to attend college, GeoFORCE is launching the GeoFORCE Family pilot program. Sponsored by Repsol, the program will start with cohorts from southwest Texas and focus on informing their parents, guardians and siblings about the educational experiences and job opportunities available in STEM. Family members will visit Repsol's job sites, meet some of the geoscientists and engineers that mentor their children, and learn about the college application and admissions processes. GeoFORCE hopes to expand this effort to Houston and Central Texas families by 2023.

A key part of GeoFORCE's success is offering the experience at no cost to students. This is possible because of the generosity of its donors. Many donors have firsthand experience with these students, and that really drives home the impact of their support.

"I continue to be impressed by the students every year," said a longtime donor who wishes to remain anonymous. "It is so much fun to see their faces light up when they see the Grand Canyon and Crater Lake. It is amazing to see them experience the science firsthand and realize that they can study the Earth in college. Then they realize there are careers they never would have considered, and the options are wide open to them. GeoFORCE changes their lives!"

Because of the impact he has witnessed during his interactions with students, this donor and his wife have established a matching gift challenge to expand GeoFORCE's influence on underserved students in Texas. They will match every new gift to the program over the next 4 years, dollar for dollar, up to \$750,000. Over the years, GeoFORCE Texas has largely been supported by companies in the oil and gas industry. While these relationships remain strong, diversifying sponsoring industries will yield even greater results. If you or your company are interested in increasing diversity in the geosciences, please contact Kristen Tucek at [ktucek@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:ktucek@jsg.utexas.edu) or (512) 775-6745 to learn more about this critical matching-gift initiative.

ABOVE: GEOFORCE STUDENTS ON THE TEXAS COAST LEARNING HOW TO READ THE CHANGE IN ELEVATION OF DUNES ALONG THE BEACH.





## CHARITABLE GIVING AFTER THE CARES ACT OF 2020 AND THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted in March 2020 to provide much-needed relief from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the CARES Act primarily provided economic stimulus for businesses, certain measures had an impact on planned giving—but they were only in place for 2020. In December 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), which extends some of these measures for 2021.

### Encouraging Charitable Support

Two specific measures under the CAA are designed to encourage giving in 2021. Increased AGI limit for individual gifts For taxpayers who itemize their returns, the CARES Act raised the individual limitation for cash gifts to qualified charitable organizations from 60% of AGI to 100% for 2020. The CAA extends that increased limit for 2021. (This does not apply to donor-advised funds.) Corporations also continue to have higher limits for 2021 cash gifts under the CAA—25% of AGI, up from the usual 10%.

### Above-the-Line Deduction

For taxpayers who do not itemize but take the standard deduction, the CARES Act introduced a \$300 above-the-line charitable income tax deduction (\$600 for married couples filing jointly) for 2020. The CAA extends that for 2021. This applies to cash gifts to qualified charitable organizations.

### Examining Your Giving Options

While the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 made special provisions for cash gifts, other gift options may also be a good fit for you this year.

### Donor-Advised Funds

Individuals with established donor-advised funds may be in a better position to give, as the money has already been set aside and donations through the DAF will not affect personal financial security.

### Qualified Charitable Distributions

IRA owners over age 70½ can give up to \$100,000 (annual aggregate amount) directly from their IRA to qualified charitable organizations. Although the gift does not qualify for a deduction, there is no tax on the distribution. Transfers count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution if one is due (generally, age 72 or over). These transfers must be made directly from your IRA to the charity.

### Gift Annuities

Donors who wish to secure a reliable stream of income during this uncertain time may find value in charitable gift annuities.

### Revocable Gifts

Of course, another way to reach charitable goals without impacting current financial resources is to make a revocable gift, such as a gift in a will or a designation of a charitable beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement account.

**Gift and Estate Planning**  
(512) 475-9632  
giftplan@austin.utexas.edu

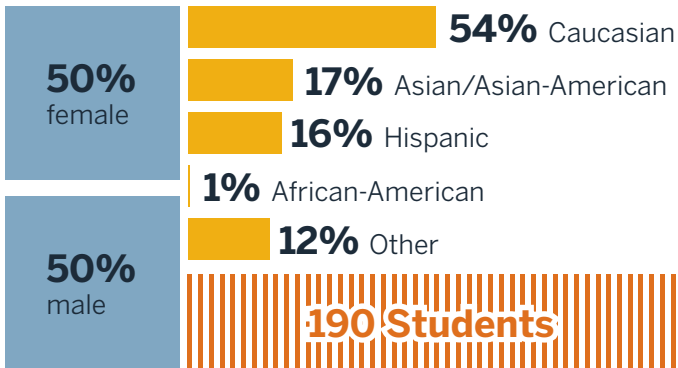
1 University Station  
Mail Stop A3000  
Austin, TX 78712

*Tax information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice and cannot be relied on to avoid statutory penalties. Always check with your tax and financial advisors before implementing any gift.*



# JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES SNAPSHOT

## Undergraduate Students



### Degrees offered

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

- Geological Sciences
    - ♦ Option I: General Geology
    - ♦ Option II: Geophysics
    - ♦ Option III: Hydrogeology
    - ♦ Option IV: Teaching
  - Environmental Science
  - Geosystems Engineering and Hydrogeology
- Offered jointly by the Cockrell School of Engineering and the Jackson School

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

- Geological Sciences

## RANKINGS

**#1 in Geology**

*U.S. News & World Report*

**#7 in Earth Sciences**

*U.S. News & World Report*

**#7 in Geophysics & Seismology**

*U.S. News & World Report*

*Rankings are from 2018, the most recent year these disciplines were ranked.*

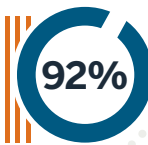
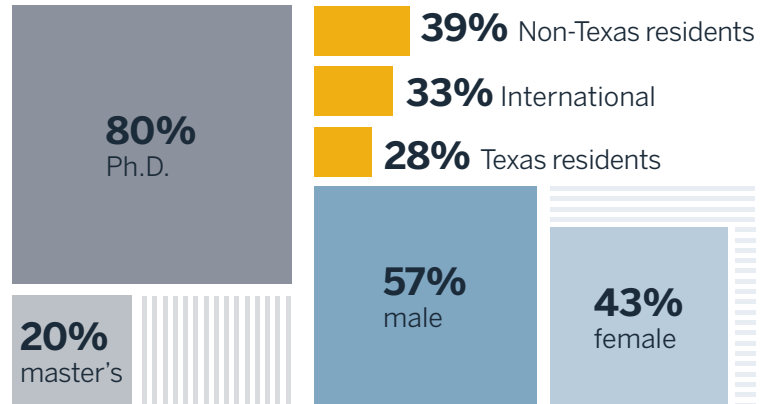
**54** FACULTY MEMBERS

**90** RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

**110** RESEARCH STAFF & POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

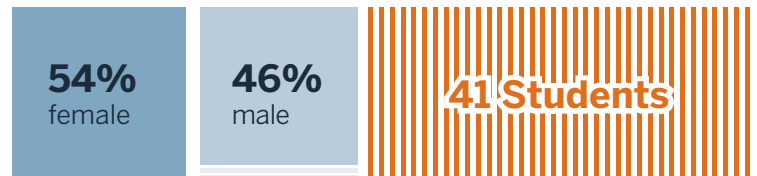
## Graduate Students

### Geosciences



### Energy and Earth Resources

The Energy and Earth Resources Graduate Program provides the opportunity for students to pursue multidisciplinary studies in areas of geosciences, engineering, finance, economics and policy.



**71%** domestic

**29%** international



UPDATED APRIL 2021





## MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

The University of Texas at Austin and the Jackson School of Geosciences have several philanthropic opportunities that can significantly increase your impact on students and research on the Forty Acres:

### Texas Challenge

The University of Texas at Austin educates the future leaders of Texas, our nation and the world. But recruiting high-potential students gets more challenging each year as top universities offer more financial incentives. Strong scholarship packages ensure that UT can compete with other universities to recruit the best and brightest students—future leaders who will reach their full potential because of your support.

If you've been considering a gift to support students, now is the time. **You can double your impact through the Texas Challenge.** Make a gift to create a scholarship endowment and your gift will be **matched dollar-for-dollar** to support high-potential Texas students from middle- and low-income families.

### Rapid Response

Rapid Response is the brainchild of Jamie Austin, Ph. D., a senior research scientist in the Jackson School's Institute for Geophysics. "There is no more societally relevant research activity than learning from, and learning to live with, natural disasters," said Austin. But, many research opportunities are missed because of the difficulty of finding research funding on-the-fly. The Rapid Response Program, an initiative of the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, funds this critical work. **In June 2021, Austin put up a \$1 million match for any gift to the Rapid Response Program. Help us prepare the next generation of geoscientists by making your gift to this critical initiative today!**

### Legacy Challenge

You can make an impact today and a lasting one in the future by participating in the Jackson School of Geosciences Legacy Challenge. **Document a new planned gift of \$100,000 or more, and an immediate donation will be made to the department, program, project or area of your choosing within the school.** Contact us today to join the challenge!

### GeoFORCE

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Jackson School has established a challenge match of \$750,000 for GeoFORCE over the next four years. Funds will support programmatic expenses for the GeoFORCE Texas summer academies and annual programs. The generous donation was gifted to GeoFORCE in an effort to diversify funding. **Eligible donations will be matched from new corporate sponsors, individual donors or by "in kind" donations that offset programmatic costs.**

*For more information or to get involved today with these exciting initiatives, please contact Andrew West ([awest@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:awest@jsg.utexas.edu)).*



# DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS CONTACTS

Meet Your Development and Alumni Relations Team



## ANDREW WEST

**Chief Development Officer**

*awest@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 471-6010*

Andrew oversees all development and alumni relations activities for the Jackson School of Geosciences.



## KRISTEN TUCEK

**Associate Director of Corporate Relations**

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Kristen works strategically with industry partners to maximize their philanthropic impact and to increase collaborative opportunities between companies and The University of Texas at Austin.



## GEORGIA SANDERS

**Administrative Manager**

*gsanders@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 471-1282*

Georgia is responsible for overseeing the donor relations programs and coordinates the Geology Foundation Advisory Council meetings.



## BELLE GERMAN

**Executive Director of  
Foundation Relations**

*bgerman@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 471-1993*

Belle serves as the liaison between the Jackson School of Geosciences and the Texas Development Foundation Relations team.



## COURTNEY VLETAS

**Associate Director of Alumni Relations  
and Annual Giving**

*cvletas@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 232-4824*

Courtney provides leadership and direction to strategic alumni engagement and giving programs for the Jackson School of Geosciences.



## JOEL FLORES

**Development/Administrative Assistant**

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Joel supports both the dean's office and the Jackson School of Geosciences development and alumni relations team.



## LUCY PERPICH

**Director of Major Gifts**

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Lucy is responsible for raising philanthropic support for the Jackson School of Geosciences focusing on major gift donors.

**THANK YOU TO THE MORE  
THAN 700 DONORS WHO  
SUPPORTED THE JACKSON  
SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES  
DURING THE 2020-2021  
ACADEMIC YEAR!**