



# Advancing Excellence

Update From the Development & Alumni Relations Office  
No. 20 | Fall 2022



The University of Texas at Austin  
Jackson School of Geosciences

# DEAR JACKSON SCHOOL FRIENDS,

Greetings from the Forty Acres! As we prepare to kick off another academic year here in Austin, I find myself filled with appreciation and gratitude for the generous support you have shown our beloved Jackson School of Geosciences. The past academic year was filled with some truly remarkable activity.

We welcomed students back to campus, which allowed them to immerse themselves in our important, groundbreaking science and research. I traveled around the country from Denver to Portland, Houston to New Orleans, Austin to Midland and beyond. Being on the road again meant I got to spend meaningful time with many of you, which was refreshing and energizing for me and my team. We successfully launched the public phase of the What Starts Here campaign for the Jackson School and welcomed hundreds of you back to campus for meetings and events. And all of this happened before we even made it to graduation in May! It was wonderful to be back together to celebrate our outstanding students with their families and friends. It felt good to be back to (almost) normal.

We still spent plenty of time navigating the issues the pandemic has caused, but thanks to the ingenuity and diligence of our faculty, researchers, students, and staff, we have weathered the storm. **As we look to the fall, I can't help but share the exciting news that 70 freshman students joined us for new student orientation, which translates to one of the largest freshman cohorts in years.** And how could I go this

long without mentioning that we remain the No. 1 geology program\* in the country! We also rose from seventh to fourth in geophysics and seismology, while also being ranked 4th in paleontology (which was previously unranked). It's thanks to donors and alumni like you that we continue to excel and push the boundaries of science, allowing the school the opportunity to recruit and retain the best and brightest students, faculty, research scientists and staff!

In this issue of Advancing Excellence, you'll hear first from our now not-so-new Chief Development Officer, Andrew West, about our record-breaking fundraising year and our ambitious vision. You'll also learn about a prestigious award from the Keck Foundation supporting our own Dr. Ginny Catania's work in Greenland. There is an exciting feature on the impact of individual philanthropy, highlighting a recent gift from Terry and Elliott Pew. And we have a section devoted to our What Starts Here campaign that details key initiatives we are focused on to prepare our students for successful careers where they will create, innovate and lead.

Our job here at the Jackson School is to prepare the next generation of Longhorn geoscientists: to provide them with the skills, resources and instruction that will help them do what we do best here at UT—change the world! Please visit us on campus soon and thank you for all that you do!

Hook 'em!

*Claudia Mora*  
Claudia Mora, Dean



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## On the Cover

Professor Bayani Cardenas with students during Hydro Field Camp in Port Aransas, Texas. Photo: Peter Flemings



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## INFUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH NEWFOUND SUPPORT

### Jackson School of Geosciences Sets Ambitious Fundraising Goals for the Future

When I joined the Jackson School of Geosciences in the Spring of 2021, we were working to chart a new course for philanthropy and engagement. Through the vision and leadership of Dean Mora and our What Starts Here campaign committee co-chairs and members, we have developed a newfound infusion of investment in the Jackson School.

This year's successes were realized in the creation of new endowments to reward collaborative research, to acquire and repair needed equipment and technology, to support our outstanding faculty, and by significant investments in our graduate and undergraduate students through fellowships and scholarships.

These kinds of investments send waves of energy and opportunity through our Jackson School community. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, you are directly impacting our upward trajectory. This year, we celebrated and gratefully appreciated more than \$25,000,000 in philanthropic support for

the Jackson School. A remarkable year and one of the most successful in our history.

As many of you know, The University of Texas at Austin is embarking upon one of the most daring and aggressive capital campaigns in the history of higher education. The university aims to raise \$6 billion dollars by the end of fiscal year 2026. To date, the university has raised \$3.6 billion towards that goal. The Jackson School has taken on a fundraising goal of \$110,000,000 for this campaign and thanks to many of you, we have raised \$75,000,000 to date. Tremendous progress, but we are far from done.

The Jackson School sits at the epicenter of energy, the environment, climate science and planetary science. The research happening here is informing the best utilization of fossil fuels for the future, carbon capture and storage, weather patterns, planetary habitability and beyond. These endeavors are critical for the advancement of Texas, our society, and the world. In order to prepare the next generation of Longhorn geoscientists, we will continue to call on you for help.

Did you know that less than 10 percent of our alumni support the Jackson School annually? We have immediate and pressing needs for scholarships, fellowships, research support, unrestricted funds and equipment. Will this be the year that you make your first gift to the Jackson School? Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

"We celebrated and gratefully appreciated more than \$25 million in philanthropic support."  
-ANDREW WEST

The fall is always an exciting time on the Forty Acres. We welcome back students, researchers and faculty, we award much deserved scholarships and fellowships and we spend time together with old and new friends. I sincerely hope that you will join us on campus for our annual tailgate on October 1 when we play West Virginia University. You will also be seeing me and my team as we travel the country for visits, conferences and receptions. This upcoming

academic year, we will be in Houston, Denver and Chicago for conferences and events. Please join us if you are able.

Thank you again to our friends and alumni who continue to support us during this critical time of growth for the university and Jackson School. I hope to be able to report back to you next year that our alumni participation numbers have grown, that we have seen significant progress in our capital campaign and that the football team has a winning record!

If you plan to be in Austin for meetings or an event, please let us know. We would love to host you on campus and give you an update on our progress. Here is to another great year!

Hook 'em!

*Andrew West*

Andrew West, Chief Development Officer

## WHAT STARTS HERE

### CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

\$110 MILLION

\$75 MILLION

As of August 2022, devoted Longhorn Geosciences alumni and friends have invested over \$75 million to ensure the continued success of the Jackson School. With your help, we know that we will meet and exceed this goal!

Hook'em!



## THE GIFT OF COLLABORATION

### Longhorns Terry and Elliott Pew Want to Help the Jackson School Take Research to the Next Level

When Elliott Pew came to the Forty Acres as a young graduate student in 1978, an early experience conducting research helped him realize that he was somewhere special.

The research involved interpreting a grid of seismic lines recently shot in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico. The grid stretched from Florida to Mexico to Texas and was shot on a research cruise by the geophysics arm of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (now the University of Texas Institute for Geophysics).

To interpret the data, Elliott recalls how he and his colleagues would roll long paper records reaching 20 to 30 feet down the hall of the geology

building. The view let them see from one end of the Gulf to the other. And the state-of-the-art data brought into view structural and stratigraphic features that had rarely ever been seen before.

"I thought to myself, 'this is like the coolest thing ever!' I was hooked," Elliott said. "I realized at that point that UT is able to give students opportunities for research that other institutions just can't match."

Given the hindsight of a four-decade career as a geologist and geological engineer in the energy industry, Elliott's appreciation of what he gained during his time at UT has only grown. He's spent years giving back to the Jackson School of Geosciences, serving on the Geology Foundation's advisory council and making a series of gifts to the school. Of these gifts, none is more important than his latest.

Elliott and his wife Terry are giving \$1.45 million to support Jackson School research. Most of it will be used to support collaborative research projects—with \$100,000 set aside for the Jackson School's

Rapid Response program, which sends scientists to collect data in the wake of natural disasters before it disappears.

Elliott's career began as a young geologist generating prospects for the old Tenneco Oil Company in the early 80s. He remembers a siloed work environment where different disciplines worked almost independently. As prospects were generated, geological maps were handed off to the reservoir engineer for further analysis without much give and take between disciplines.

But later, as he rose professionally and the industry became more collaborative, he saw amazing innovations occur where disciplines intersected, such as combining 3D seismic imaging with integrated geological interpretations to improve subsurface assessments, or bringing together horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to create an energy revolution. Now most organizations routinely work in multidisciplinary teams.

"Collaboration allows you to innovate at the margins of scientific disciplines," he



said. "That's where the major discoveries are often made. And it's so much fun when you're part of a new approach that leads to something of real value."

That philosophy—one linked to collaborative, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research—is a major focus of the Jackson School, said Dean Claudia Mora. The Pews' gift will help power that type of research.

"This is such a tremendously generous and impactful gift that Elliott and Terry are honoring us with," she said. "The benefits to our students and research will be long-lasting and are probably going to be realized in ways we can't even imagine."

Terry is also a proud Longhorn (she and Elliott met as next-door neighbors when they were students). As a former teacher, she said she loves seeing the impact that their gifts can have on the next generation.

"I hope our giving helps inspire future students to achieve their full potential," she said. "There's no greater satisfaction than seeing one of your former students succeed!"

The gift itself is an unconventional one. Elliott and Terry are gifting some recently vested, long-term compensation that came with Elliott's retirement as a corporate director. By giving now, they are taking advantage of current tax laws to maximize the impact for the school.

In addition to their most recent gift, the Pews have supported the Jackson School for years in many other ways. This includes an endowment funding student support for the Jackson School's Earth and Energy Resources graduate program, which provides just the type of interdisciplinary education that Elliott thinks is key to tackling the complex problems the world is facing. From climate and water issues to finding critical minerals and making the transition to low-carbon energy sources—including reliable hydrocarbon sources coupled with carbon capture and storage technology—geoscientists are needed across the board.

"It's a profession that touches every aspect of life," Elliott said.

The Pews have now retired to a 700-acre Hill Country ranch and are continuing their support of the Jackson School from there. They are working with the school to install a monitoring station from the Texas Soil Observation Network (TxSON) on the ranch and hope to have students out for field work (and barbecue) in the near future.

"The doors the University of Texas opened for me just gave me such tremendous opportunity," Elliott said. "At a time when the geosciences are so incredibly important, we felt that there was a real need for support. We know it's money well invested in the future."

OPPOSITE PAGE: TERRY AND ELLIOTT PEW AT LAKE LOUISE IN ALBERTA, CANADA.

ABOVE: JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES DEAN CLAUDIA MORA (RIGHT) PRESENTS ELLIOTT AND TERRY PEW WITH A GIANT AMMONITE TO COMMEMORATE THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE FLAWN CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AT THE JACKSON SCHOOL EVENING OF THANKS CELEBRATION.



results show the big difference that small gifts can make: the majority of donations were between \$5 and \$500. Each campaign focused on a specific program or priority of the Jackson School and had a group of passionate donors who lent their support. The online giving campaign for the Jackson Scholars Program raised \$21,085 to help students pay for program costs. The funds will also pay current members in the program with financial need to be official peer mentors to new students. Of the 27 donations, 25 were between \$25-\$525.

The Jackson School Haertlein Technology and Innovation campaign raised \$75,400 to purchase necessary equipment for students.

## SMALL GIFTS COME TOGETHER IN A BIG WAY

### Gifts of All Sizes Create Lasting Opportunities for Students

We are happy to announce that the Jackson School of Geosciences has had its most productive year of online giving ever. Alumni and friends made more than 250 gifts to online campaigns, totaling more than \$600,000 supporting programs and research needs for students and faculty. The

"We are grateful to have funds to help qualified students participate or complete the program," said Mary Poteet, the Jackson Scholars program co-chair. "These donations are helping to provide hands-on experiences that will transform Jackson Scholars students into community leaders, creative and innovative thinkers, and geoscientists who will change the world."

The Jackson School Haertlein Technology and Innovation campaign raised \$75,400, with gifts matched 2-to-1 up to \$50,000.

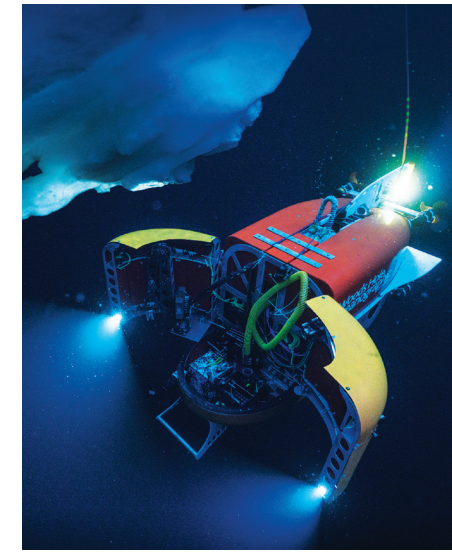
The funds will be put toward the purchase and upkeep of instruments—from basic handheld tools to microscopes, visualization technology and drones—for Jackson School students, faculty and research scientists. The majority of donations made were between \$25-\$500.

"Funding for technology innovation and acquisition and maintenance of equipment represents a major challenge," said Danny Stockli, the Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at the Jackson School. "Having access to designated resources for the purchase and upkeep of essential equipment is a tremendous benefit to the Jackson School community."

Contributions to two other campaigns, Rapid Response and Undergraduate Research, also included matches thanks to generous donors. Most of the gifts to those campaigns were also under \$500.

Matches are a great way to amplify the impact of gifts. But donations of all sizes, with or without matches, are meaningful and can combine into a strong network of support. That support extends beyond the walls of the Jackson School of Geosciences, into the larger community and the world.

We are grateful for the generosity of our Jackson School alumni and friends. So, whether you give as a passion, to invest in your alma mater, or pay it forward because of the support you received, know that all gifts—no matter their size—have value.



## ROBOTIC EXPLORATION OF UNDERWATER GLACIAL WALLS

### Jackson School Professor Partners with Keck Foundation to Lead Voyage into Uncharted Waters

It's the front line of climate change and could hold the key to predicting global sea level rise, but what goes on at the underwater face of Greenland's glaciers is a mystery to science.

That could change in 2023 with a bold new mission led by researchers at the Jackson School of Geosciences that will explore three of Greenland's glaciers with a submersible robot. The voyage will be the first time Greenland's glaciers—which make up the world's second-largest ice sheet—will be seen up close underwater.

The mission is made possible by funding from the W.M. Keck Foundation, one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations, and Nereid Under Ice (NUI), a remotely operated vehicle that's engineered to survive ice-covered seas by project partner the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). NUI will brave icebergs and riptides to approach within feet of the glaciers and return with data and samples from their underwater environment.

The scientists' primary focus is not glacial ice, but the natural sand walls—or

moraines—that buttress the glaciers and are thought to naturally, but precariously, stabilize the ice sheet. What they learn will reveal what's shoring up glaciers across the entire Greenland ice sheet, which could lead to more accurate model projections for future sea level rise.

"The big uncertainty in Greenland's contribution to sea level rise is how fast the ice sheet is going to lose mass," said Jackson School Professor Ginny Catania, who is leading the voyage. "We know how much sea level is stored in the ice sheet, we know climate is warming and changing the ice sheet, but what we don't know is the rate at which these glaciers will contribute to sea level rise."

NUI will make its way underwater to three glaciers, mapping the seafloor topography as it goes. Once at its target site, operators aboard a nearby support ship will remotely guide the robot's manipulator arm to retrieve sediment cores from the glacier's moraines. The vehicle will also gather samples from the massive sediment plumes jetting from under the glaciers.

According to WHOI engineers, the robot has layers of built-in redundancy, including multiple thrusters, battery packs and navigation systems to allow it to operate in difficult conditions far from its support ship.

"The big uncertainty in Greenland's contribution to sea level rise is how fast the ice sheet is going to lose mass."

-DR. GINNY CATANIA

Despite the precautions, the hazardous ocean conditions mean the mission will face significant challenges. That's why Catania approached the Keck Foundation, which is known for supporting high risk, high-reward science.

According to Demian Saffer, director of the University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG), where Catania also works, the project is exactly the kind of bold step needed to tackle questions about climate change and geohazards.

"If it succeeds, it could transform our understanding of sea level rise," he said.

The mission will investigate glaciers in Western Greenland that lie in the path of warming Atlantic waters but have responded to climate change in different ways. Since 2000, glacier Kangilliup Sermia has experienced only minor retreat, Umiammakku Sermiat glacier retreated rapidly before stabilizing again in 2009, and Kangerlussuup Sermia glacier has remained largely unaffected by warming.

"They provide a nice test case for ideas about what's building the moraines and how those processes may vary between location," Catania said.

The information could also be crucial for future geoengineering projects. Some scientists have suggested building artificial moraines as a way of buying time while the world transitions to low-carbon energy sources.

The voyage is scheduled for midsummer 2023. Partner institutions include the University of Idaho, the University of Florida and UTIG.



OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE: JACKSON SCHOLAR ANTHONY EDGINGTON IN CROATIA.

LEFT: NEREID UNDER ICE (NUI) WITH ITS INSTRUMENT BAY DOORS OPEN AND READY TO COLLECT SAMPLES DURING A 2019 EXPEDITION IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN. CREDIT: LUIS LAMAR, COURTESY OF THE AVATAR ALLIANCE FOUNDATION.

ABOVE: THE GLACIER KANGERLUSSUUP SERMIA WHERE IT FLOWS INTO THE SEA IN GREENLAND. CREDIT: DENIS FELIKSON.

# GEOFORCE TEXAS



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

THANK YOU TO SHELL FOR SUPPORTING GEOFORCE SINCE 2005

As one of the initial sponsors of the GeoFORCE Texas program, Shell has now passed **\$2 million** in funding for the GeoFORCE summer academies.

**"Shell is proud to continue our commitment to GeoFORCE. We hope that the program inspires the next generation of geoscientists to help provide the world with more and cleaner energy."**

- Bill Langin  
Senior Vice President of Deep Water Exploration

**"Thank you so much for all that you have done for us GeoFORCE kids."**

- Isabella De Luna  
Student from rural Southwest Texas



## BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

### Field Course Provides Tools and Training for Successful Careers

The Jackson School of Geosciences Marine Geology and Geophysics (MG&G) Field Course uniquely prepares future geoscientists for a career in industry, providing real world, hands-on educational experiences that position students for success in their future careers.

This three-week field experience takes students to the Texas Gulf Coast and puts them in the role of expeditionary scientists. They work in teams to collect diverse types

of data and then process and interpret their findings. On the last day, they present a final project to their peers, instructors, and course sponsors.

Companies such as Chevron, Shell and bp sponsor the course because they value the wide variety of skills students learn and apply. Geoscientists working in exploration use data every day, but industry leaders said that the field course experience of acquiring and processing data helps students gain another layer of understanding that can serve them well in their careers.

In fact, when leaders from bp heard about the course, they were eager to come on as new sponsors for summer of 2022 and wanted to enroll a few of their own early career geoscientists. As part of their sponsorship, the Jackson School welcomed four bp employees to audit the course, embedding them fully in the entire MG&G field experience.

*“We communicated with students at all levels — we were able to get to know them, make connections, and serve as mentors.”*

*~Adam Tuppen (B.S '16)*

“On my team, this type of real-world experience helps a geoscientist become someone who really looks at their data, understands where it came from, and why it might not be perfect.”

said Gabriel Ritter, Gulf of Mexico Exploration Team Lead at bp. “When constantly dealing with uncertainty and risk, this understanding is critical.”

In addition to brand exposure, sponsors are able to identify potential recruits with the skills taught in the field class being exactly what they are looking for in a new hire. This course uses techniques that improve a person’s ability to understand the shallow subsurface, which is useful in the hydrocarbon space and beyond, including offshore wind, carbon storage, and geohazards.

“We communicated with students at all levels—we were able to get to know them, make connections, and serve as mentors,” said Adam Tuppen (B.S. '16), a geophysicist at bp and course auditor. “It was good exposure to promote bp to the students and talk to them about our experiences working for a big company in industry.”

As part of the training, students are introduced to a variety of tools and methods used in geohazards surveys, including side scan sonar, multibeam, high resolution seismic, and CHIRP. Sebastian Ramirez (Ph.D. '16), a geologist at Shell, took the course in 2012 when he was a student at the Jackson School and now plays an integral role on the recruiting team at Shell.

“I also went to Port Aransas with the field course, and we used similar techniques,” Ramirez said. “I am happy to see updated equipment and new tools. You can clearly see that the funding is being used well.”



## THE WORLD NEEDS GEOSCIENTISTS

The Jackson School of Geosciences is one of the largest and most prestigious programs in the world. We lead the way in geoscience education and have strong ties to a global research network and industry partners. The Jackson School solves complex problems across Texas, the globe, and our universe. We investigate fundamental questions about how earth systems work and we seek to apply our knowledge for the benefit of humankind.

The Jackson School offers degrees that combine rigorous classes, fieldwork and labwork experience, and opportunities to conduct research with award-winning faculty and scientists. This real-world experience helps prepare students for successful careers where they can create, innovate and lead.

With your help, this next generation of geoscientists will be equipped to change the world.

## JACKSON SCHOOL PRIORITIES

### Innovating From the Core

Fostering cutting-edge research and innovation is the cornerstone of the Jackson School’s mission. In order to harness our resources and propel the Jackson School into the future, we are keenly focused on the following key initiatives that ensure our continued success.

### Enhancing Graduate Student Support

The Jackson School has some of the most sought after and competitive master’s and doctoral programs in the country. Recruiting the best and the brightest graduate students to work alongside our renowned faculty and scientists on the critical research needed to solve society’s greatest challenges is key to our success and has earned us top ranking as the No. 1 geology program\* in the United States.

### Unlocking Undergraduate Student Potential

As a top-tier geosciences program, the Jackson School is positioned to attract and recruit high-achieving students. By investing in the undergraduate experience—especially through scholarships and research—students will be prepared with the critical thinking skills to undertake tomorrow’s biggest challenges.

### Investing in Faculty and Research

Research is at the core of what the Jackson School does. We are working to solve some of the most complex problems facing society and pushing the boundaries of innovation to uncover the opportunities of the future. Providing opportunities to work at the leading edge of scientific discovery attracts topnotch faculty, scientists and students and ensures the Jackson School remains a preeminent scientific institution.

\* according to U.S. News & World Reports Graduate School Rankings

To learn more specifics about this unique field experience, scan the QR code below:



If your company would be interested in sponsoring the course or recruiting students with this training, contact:

**Kristen Tucek** at  
ktucek@jsg.utexas.edu or  
512-471-2223

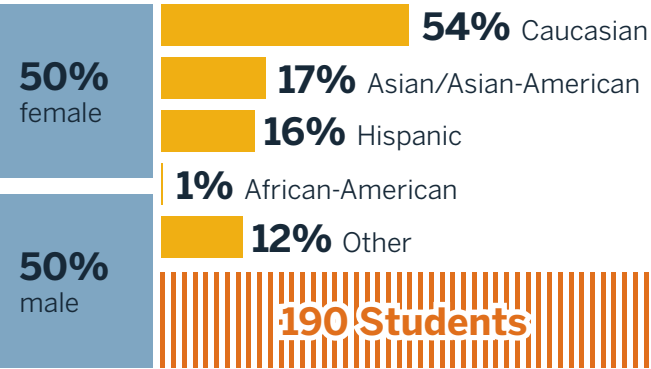
Your support will allow students to participate in a one-of-a-kind learning opportunity.

### THANK YOU TO THE 2022 SPONSORS!:

- Arthur E. Maxwell Memorial Endowment
- bp
- Chevron
- Quarles van Ufford UTIG Field Endowment
- Scott Petty Foundation
- Shell
- The Hydrographic Society of America — Houston Chapter

# JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES SNAPSHOT

## Undergraduate Students



### Degrees offered

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

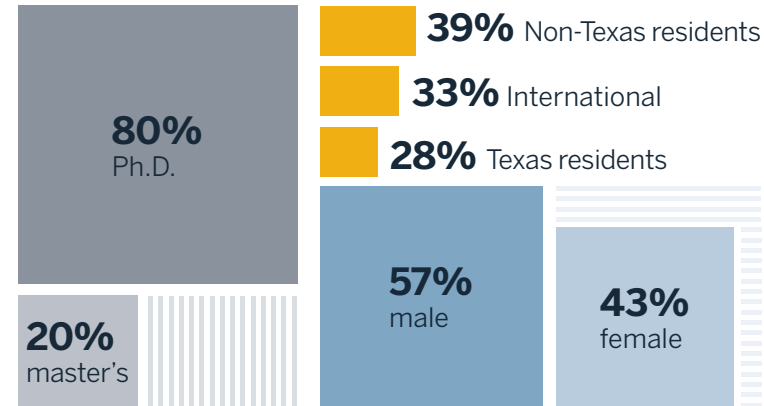
- Geological Sciences
    - ◆ Option I: General Geology
    - ◆ Option II: Geophysics
    - ◆ Option III: Hydrogeology
    - ◆ Option IV: Teaching
  - Environmental Science
  - Geosystems Engineering and Hydrogeology
- Offered jointly by the Cockrell School of Engineering and the Jackson School

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

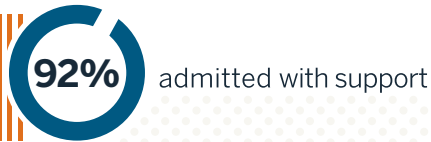
- Geological Sciences

## Graduate Students

### Geosciences



169 Students



### Energy and Earth Resources

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

54% female

46% male

41 Students

71% domestic

29% international

OVER 5,000 ALUMNI

50 states

52 countries



## RANKINGS

- #1 in Geology
- #4 in Geophysics and Seismology
- #4 in Paleontology
- #6 in Earth Sciences

Rankings were reported in the Spring 2022 edition of the U.S. News & World Reports Graduate School Rankings

54 FACULTY MEMBERS

90 RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

110 RESEARCH STAFF & POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

## MULTIPLY 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 of Geosciences 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 our development team at [development@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:development@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.



**LUCY ALLMAN**  
Director of Major Gifts  
lallman@austin.utexas.edu, (512) 471-1661

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



**MEG GUERRA**  
Director of Gift + Estate Planning  
mguerra@austin.utexas.edu, (817) 999-5260

Meg assists donors in making tax-wise estate and planned gifts for the Jackson School, as well as assists with gifts of real estate and aids in the expansion of the UT Field Station Network.



**GEORGIA SANDERS**  
Chief of Staff, Development and Alumni Relations  
gsanders@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 471-1282

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



**COURTNEY VLETAS**  
Associate Director of Donor and Alumni Engagement  
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.



**NINA STAEBEN**  
Donor and Alumni Engagement Coordinator  
nstaeben@jsg.utexas.edu, (512) 471-0120

Nina assists with event execution, building alumni relations and with annual giving programs.



**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.



**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.



# LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

The beauty of Texas lands, waters and ecosystems lies at the heart of our identities as Texans. Today these natural treasures are becoming ever more fragile.

The University of Texas at Austin is driving ecological research and restoration that works in harmony with the goals of Texas landowners, like alumnus Leslie P. White and his wife Dianne. The family gifted their ranch to the Jackson School of Geosciences to establish the White Family Outdoor Learning Center, part of UT's growing Texas Field Station Network.

Field stations are living laboratories for students and scientists — a vital window into the natural world that will help sustain our lands, waters and ecosystems for future generations.

*"We are not wealthy philanthropists, but we were able to donate this ranch land. Young people are going to learn to love the land, to respect and take care of it. That's absolutely thrilling to us."*

LESLIE (B.S. IN GEOLOGY) AND DIANNE WHITE ▶



★ **Help Expand UT's Texas Field Station Network**

A gift of real estate can powerfully impact our state's future and provide you with tax benefits.

To learn more, contact Meg Guerra, J.D., director of gift and estate planning, at 817-999-5260 or mguerra@austin.utexas.edu.

[utexas.planmygift.org/land-jsg](https://utexas.planmygift.org/land-jsg)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Chief Development Officer Andrew West at the What Starts Here capital campaign launch.

Dean Emeritus Sharon Mosher and Dean Claudia Mora at Tailgate 2021

Students deploying equipment during the Marine Geology and Geophysics field course summer 2022.

A GeoFORCE student at the Grand Canyon during summer 2022 trip.

PhD student Ethan Conrad presents his poster at the student research symposium.

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

(L to R) Alican Ozkan, Dilge Kanoglu Ozkan, Energy and Earth Resources Graduate Program Director Richard Chuchla, and Robert Chuchla at Tailgate 2021.

Jackson School students taking notes in their field note books during GEO 660 summer 2022.

Students showing their core samples from Marine Geology and Geophysics field course 2022.

Chuck Caughey (B.S. '69, M.A. '73) checking in at the What Starts Here capital campaign launch.



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

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## EVENTS

### TAILGATE

October 1, 2022  
Austin, TX

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING GSA'S ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 2022  
Denver, CO

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING AGU'S ANNUAL MEETING

December 14, 2022  
Chicago, IL

### ALUMNI RECEPTION DURING NAPE SUMMIT

February 2023 (Date TBD)  
Houston, TX

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



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No. 4 in Paleontology | No. 6 in Earth Sciences

*U.S. News and World Report, 2022*



The University of Texas at Austin  
Jackson School of Geosciences