

# Advancing Excellence

Update from the Development & Alumni Office at The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences - No. 5, Spring 2011



Alumni and Friends of the Jackson School,

Please enjoy this edition of *Advancing Excellence*, the supplement to our annual newsletter highlighting the many ways your support is helping the school realize its vision of becoming the best geoscience program in the nation.

We continue making strong progress toward construction of our new student center, with plans to break ground this May. As the focal point of our campus community, the student center will have an enormous positive impact on the school. If you have not already made a contribution, please consider a gift of any size to help with this historic project.

The new outreach initiative led by our FANs alumni board will also have a major impact, both at UT Austin and beyond, as we mobilize alumni to inspire the next generation of geoscientists. Alumni have taken the lead on this project from start to finish, which is very gratifying. See the article on page 4 to learn how you can get involved.

As always, I have enjoyed catching up with many of you in Austin and on the road this past year. I look forward to seeing more of you at our upcoming events. Together, we can do great things.

Warmly,  
Sharon Mosher



## For Texas, I Will: A World Class Student Center

When Bonnie Weise (B.S. '74, M.A. '79) was a student in what was to become the Jackson School, there were few places inside the geology building to sit and go over notes with classmates or prepare for an exam. There was no place to eat lunch. Well, almost no place.

"The best place I could come up with was in a sitting area in one of the women's restrooms," she laughed. "That little spot in the restroom was my student center."

Not much has changed since then. Weise, a consulting geologist in San Antonio and president elect of the FANs board, made a contribution to the school's new student center, slated for groundbreaking as early as this May.

"The best thing about it is that it's so tangible," she said. "Even though my donation is just a small fraction of what's needed, I'll be able to feel a distinct connection with that facility. Every time I go there, I'll see students benefiting directly from it, enjoying it, and making it their home on campus. That will be very satisfying."

During the 1930s, UT alumni led the "For Texas, I Will!" campaign and raised funds to build the Texas Union, Gregory Gymnasium, Anna Hiss Gymnasium, and Hogg Auditorium—buildings that changed the face of the Forty Acres and the face of Texas.

Continued page 2

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

# JACKSON

SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

## Student Center — Cont'd

Today, we envision a student center worthy of the nation's preeminent program in the geosciences, one that enhances the strong sense of community that makes our school so unique. The student center will provide opportunities for collaboration, idea generation and future growth, as well as ensure that our school continues to attract top students and faculty.

Groundbreaking is slated for May 2011 and the center could be completed as early as August 2012, but only if we have raised enough to complete the project. Thanks to the vision and generosity of our alumni and friends, we have raised over \$3 million. That's a far cry from just last summer when early commitments totaled \$1 million. When coupled with internal university resources, we are over half of the way to our goal. Yet our work is far from over as another \$3.5 million is needed.

To break ground in May 2011, we're asking you to say, "For Texas, I Will!"

### Together, We Can

The Jackson School Student Center will be a gift to generations of geoscience students to come. Years from now, you can look back and say you helped transform the face of the Jackson School.

It's a bit of a cliché, but with this project, we firmly believe that every dollar counts. That's why each donation to the student center, regardless of size, will be acknowledged in a recognition area with an interactive digital screen. Larger gifts will be honored in an even more prominent way.

Even if you only give a little, you can be a part of something big.

**"The center will bring all the integral parts of the school closer together than ever before and enrich the experience of future longhorns."—Steven Gohlke, UGS president**



*Left: An open-air courtyard with the Brundrett Rock Garden allows the school to entertain guests on a grand scale while providing additional gathering space for the community. Right: The Louis M. Pearce Family Commons will provide the geosciences community a place to build upon our fundamental strength—our community of students, researchers, faculty, and alumni.*

Make a Gift to JSG



## It's a Click Away - Help Us Break Ground by May 2011

We've made it easy to give online. Just visit the Jackson School website and click the "Make a Gift to JSG" button.

Take for example our graduate advising suite. Graduate students of the school from the 1940s to '70s remember Professor Ronald K. DeFord as an inspiring teacher and mentor who emphasized the importance of good communication skills. To honor his outsized impact on graduate students, we're collecting donations to build the Ronald K. DeFord Graduate Advising Suite within the student center.

Finkelstein Partners, a company with deep roots in oil and gas, named the Jerry McQueen Student Leaders Collaborative Space in honor of McQueen's longtime leadership and service with the company, reflecting his respect for the Jackson School. McQueen was touched by the gesture, sharing that having a space that would forever bear his name would be "a major event in my lifetime."

As much learning and discovery takes place outside the classroom as in, and our new center will allow conversations to continue and provide the vital spark that transforms a good academic experience into a great one.

David F. Martineau (B.S. '60), exploration manager for Pitts Oil Company in Dallas, says the country needs more young geologists to find new sources of oil and gas. He sees the Jackson School's new student center as an important way to encourage students to consider the geosciences as a career.

"Students are going to be looking around and saying, 'Do I want to study accounting or engineering or geology or chemistry?'," he said. "And when they see the Jackson School's student center, they'll see how highly students are valued."



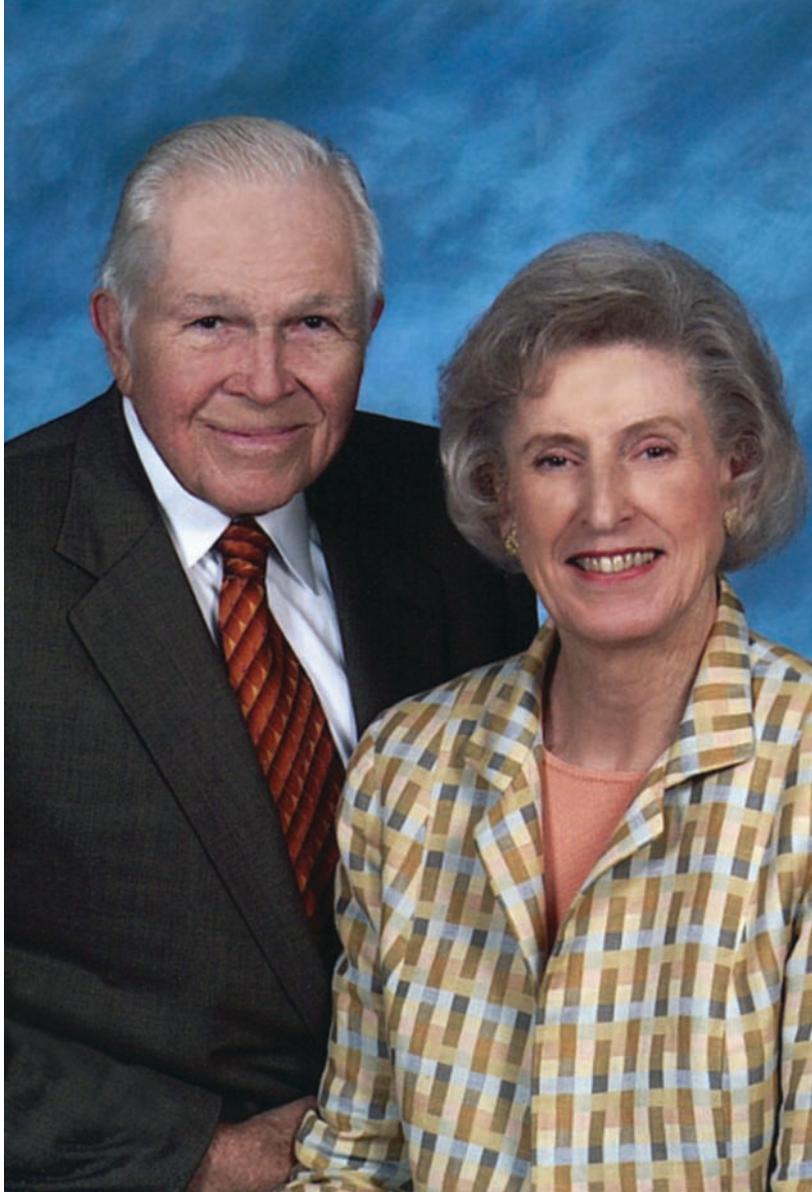


*Campaign Launch: This past July, Chuck Williamson (Ph.D. '78), a member of the Geology Foundation Advisory Council, and his wife Cathy hosted a spectacular weekend in their home in Sonoma, Calif., to launch fundraising for the student center. The event ended with an elegant dinner at Benzinger Winery.*

Martineau announced at last summer's school-wide reunion that he and his son—David T. (M.S. '97), also a graduate of the Jackson School—were sponsoring the David F. Martineau and David T. Martineau Student Services Suite. He said the success he's had in the oil industry is directly related to the quality of education he received in the Jackson School. But the thing he's perhaps most thankful for from his time at the school was meeting a certain freshman in a class for which he was the teaching assistant.

"We'll celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this September," he said.

Donations at all levels bring us closer to our goal. To learn more about our vision for the student center and how you can contribute, please contact Ann Flemings, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, 512.471.1993 / [aflemings@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:aflemings@jsg.utexas.edu), or visit the student center links on the Jackson School website.



## Thank You, Donors

### Named Spaces in the Student Center

- The Louis M. Pearce Family Commons
- Pangea Café sponsored by Cathy J. and Chuck R. Williamson
- Janice H. and Thomas D. Barrow Study
- Jesse L. Brundrett Family Rock Garden
- David F. and David T. Martineau Student Services Suite
- Richard A. and Kathy Leach Conference Room
- Jereld E. McQueen Student Leaders Collaborative Space sponsored by Finkelstein Partners, Ltd.
- Elizabeth G. and Richard J. Chuchla Graduate Advising Office
- Ann H. and Henry R. Hamman Graduate Advising Office
- RK DeFord Graduate Advising Suite sponsored by
  - Marion Wier DeFord
  - Estate of Dan Bridges
  - Corinne P. and A. Toby Carleton
  - Robbie R. Gries
  - Hugh and Grace Hay-Roe
  - William Allen Monroe
  - Anne H. and Peter R. Rose

## Thank You, Tom Barrow (1924-2011)

Tom Barrow (pictured with wife Janice), a major supporter of the student center and Jackson School, Distinguished Alumnus, and a life member and former Chairman of the Geology Foundation Advisory Council, died January 27. In honor of his life-long commitment to higher education, we are creating a graduate fellowship in his name. We are honored to be able to offer this acknowledgement of Tom's dedication to the university, his friendship with the members of the Advisory Council, and his unflinching dedication to making the world a better place through education. Read our online memorial at: [www.jsg.utexas.edu/news/rels/012811.html](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/news/rels/012811.html).

### General Support

For a complete list of donors who have given general support to the student center, visit [www.jsg.utexas.edu/](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/)

# Help Us Inspire the Next Generation of Geoscientists

Anyone who has had teenagers can attest—it's not until high school that kids seem to really notice the world around them. They start to become aware of global issues, including energy, climate, and water. It's also a time when they're starting to think about what they want to do with their lives. Yet few understand the geosciences and the vital role they play in addressing these challenges. Most have never met a geoscientist.

At the Jackson School, we'd like to change that. We're seeking alumni volunteers to visit select high school classes around the state to tell students about careers in energy, water, and the environment and to show them the path through higher education. The goal is to get more

drives them to do what they do.

This project was initiated by Friends and Alumni Network (FANs) board members, led by Bonnie Weise. An alumna from San Antonio, Bonnie is passionate about



students into college to study earth sciences. As a bonus, we hope to welcome even more talented students into the University of Texas at Austin overall.

To help, we're producing a short video with a brochure and distributing them to local FANs chapters around the state. Alumni volunteers will meet with a science or math class, present the DVD, provide handouts, and talk about the opportunities involved with a geoscience career.

The beauty of the video is that it exclusively features recent graduates who are passionate about their work in the geosciences. High schoolers will easily connect with these young people who are successfully following their dreams and who can articulate what

recruiting talent into the geosciences. She germinated the idea for FANs members to serve as champions for the geosciences in their local communities. Financing for the outreach materials was provided by Dan Smith, Julie Garvin, Bonnie Weise, and corporate partners Nexen and Hilcorp.

To volunteer, contact your nearest FANs chapter director:

- **Houston:** Bill Agee, bill.agee@halliburton.com or David Wallace, david.wallace@ihs.com
- **Dallas:** Stan Ballard, ballard.s@sbcglobal.net
- **Austin:** Patricia Bobeck, pbobeck@earthlink.net or Dax McDavid, daxmcd@gmail.com.

Watch or display the video online from [www.jsge.utexas.edu/outreachvideo](http://www.jsge.utexas.edu/outreachvideo).

*FANs Board Member Bonnie Weise, B.S. '74, M.A. '79, was a driving force behind the outreach initiative.*



# Recent Graduates Double Impact Through Match Program

So here you are, out of college, you've got that first real career-type job. You've started saving up to live in a nicer place and paying off some of that college debt, and you're finally able to afford more than ramen noodles and canned beans for dinner. Still, you've got to make the most of every dollar.

Then your alma mater sends a letter asking for a donation. Who are they kidding?

But wait a second. Remember what made your education at the Jackson School outstanding? Was it the field experiences? Was it the opportunity to do real research? Was it the honors program? A certain professor? Perhaps it was the financial support. Whatever meant the most to you, now you can give a small token of gratitude and we'll make it go twice as far, thanks to the Jackson School Match Program. You can even direct it to the specific program or part of the school that's most important to you.

Now, that's making the most of every dollar.

Here's how it works: If you're a recent graduate (past three years) and you give a gift up to \$3000 (really, every gift is appreciated—how about \$25?), the Jackson School will match you dollar for dollar. Just tell us where you want it spent. In a sense, you're helping us decide where to grow by directing how we invest in ourselves.

Josh Ward (B.S. '09), a geoscientist at environmental consulting firm Talon/LPE, recently made a donation to the school that was doubled by the match program. He gave in part to thank the school for covering most of the cost of the Geo 660 summer field course that is the cornerstone of a geoscience education in the Jackson School. He described it as a "rite of passage for geologists" and loved the sense of camaraderie that developed. Ward was also persuaded by the fact that potential corporate donors use the percentage of actively donating alumni as part of their decision to donate to a school.

Leonel Gomez (Ph.D. '07), a senior research geologist with ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company, recently made a donation to the Structural Geology & Tectonics Fund which was tripled by his employer and then doubled again by the Jackson School. As a student, a scholarship from this fund made it possible for him to stay in the U.S. and complete his doctoral dissertation.

"The scholarship allowed me to concentrate on writing my dissertation and preparing my defense without having to worry much about money," he said.

The Undergraduate Geological Society (UGS) has leveraged the match program with great results for their philanthropy of choice: GeoFORCE Texas, a program that inspires high school students to



## Making the Most of Every Dollar:

*Steven Gohlke and Anine Pederson of the UGS raised money for GeoFORCE, a gift that was then doubled by the Jackson School.*

pursue science in college by taking them on summer field experiences. Last fall, the society collected donations from students and alumni at a tailgate party, raising nearly \$1000 for GeoFORCE, which was then doubled by the match.

"The match program definitely made a difference," said Steven Gohlke, president of UGS. "I know that thinking about how every dollar we raised was actually two dollars made me want to make sure we did the best we could to encourage others and thank them as well."

If you've given a donation in the past year, your donations have already been matched. And remember, if your employer has a match program, you can effectively triple your contribution. To make a donation, go to [www.jsg.utexas.edu](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu).



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Keywords: UT Jackson School

# Scenes from Recent Alumni Events



## 2010 Tailgate, Alumni Receptions, & Scholars Luncheon

*Top left: President William Powers and wife Kim Heilbrun enjoy the Jackson School Tailgate Party.*

*Top right: Geology Foundation Advisory Council Member Robbie Gries (M.A. '70) with student leaders Tim Shin and Marin Troutman at the 2010 JSG Scholars Luncheon.*

*Middle left: Rowland Burno, Nexen Petroleum, sharing professional insight with undergraduate student Elizabeth Collins at the JSG Scholars Luncheon.*

*Bottom left: Brandon McElroy (Ph.D. '09), Ryan Ewing (Ph.D. '09), and Esti Ukar (Ph.D. '10) catch up at the annual GSA alumni reception.*

*Bottom right: Susi and Mike Looney (B.S. '71, M.A. '77) support the Horns at the Jackson School Tailgate Party.*

*Opposite page, top left: Bill (B.S. '54) and Carolyn Holland and Weyman (B.S. '50) and Carol Crawford at the Geology Foundation BBQ dinner.*





## Upcoming Alumni Events

### Celebration of Philanthropy Dinner & Hall of Distinction Induction (during Spring Advisory Council Meeting)

Thursday, March 31  
AT&T Conference Center, Austin, Texas

### AAPG Alumni Reception

Tuesday, April 12, 5:30 p.m.  
Minute Maid Park, Houston, Texas

### The University of Texas Class of 1961 Reunion

Thursday-Friday, April 28-29  
Austin, Texas

### Continuing Education Lecture & Private Reception

Featuring Dr. Bob Loucks  
Thursday, May 5, Dallas, Texas

# Jackson School Inducts Four Legends into Hall of Distinction

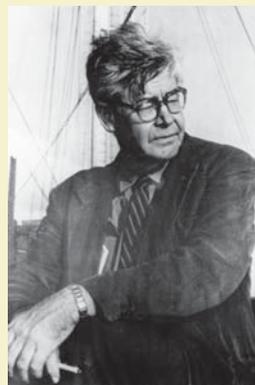
The Jackson School Hall of Distinction recognizes individuals who are or were strongly affiliated with the school and who achieved exceptional standing in industry, government, or academia. For more information about the four 2011 induct-

ees, visit our website. If you would like to nominate someone for this honor, contact the Jackson School Development Office to request a nomination form (Georgia Smith, 512.471.1282, [gsmith@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:gsmith@jsg.utexas.edu)).



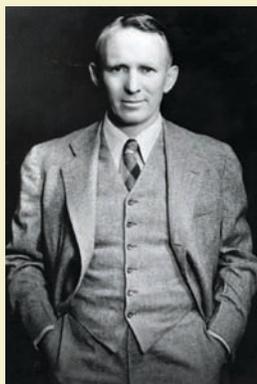
### Milo Backus

Emeritus Professor,  
Department of Geological  
Sciences; Senior  
Research Scientist,  
Bureau of Economic  
Geology; Pioneer in  
Geophysics



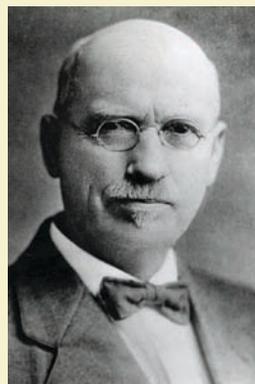
### W. Maurice Ewing (1906-1974)

Founder, Lamont Doherty  
Geological Observatory;  
Inaugural Director,  
Institute for Geophysics;  
Pioneer in Geophysics



### Ronald K. DeFord (1902-1994)

Professor, Graduate  
Advisor, and Research  
Supervisor for more than  
150 students, Department  
of Geological Sciences



### Johan A. Udden (1859-1932)

Director, Bureau of  
Economic Geology; Oil &  
Gas Advisor to University  
of Texas Board of  
Regents; Pioneer in Texas  
Geology

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- Student Center Progress
- Matching Gift Program
- Upcoming Alumni Events
- Outreach Initiative

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