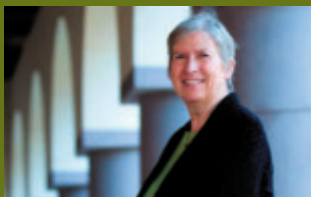


# Advancing Excellence

Update from the Development & Alumni Office at The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences - No. 8, Summer 2012



Alumni and Friends of the Jackson School:

The eyes of Texas and the world were upon us. And we shined.

In June, I had the privilege of welcoming 250 friends and alumni to celebrate the dedication of the Holland Family Student Center. Built primarily with donations from more than 350 friends and alumni, we have forged Jackson School's place as a model program at UT and for geoscience programs around the country. In 2005, many people wondered if our community would rally around the new Jackson School. Would we have the continued support to realize our ambitions? You answered with a resounding "yes."

The Holland Family Student Center will strengthen our close-knit Jackson community, help attract the best students to the geosciences and shape our vision of a small-campus feel within the larger UT campus. On constant display for any visitor to the center will be the community, teamwork and sense of purpose that mark our school.

There is something else magnificent on display within the center: the names of hundreds of friends and former students (many whom I remember teaching) who made it a reality. That's the community that stands behind our students. When students join our team, they know they are part of something special, something great. And that feeling will sustain them as they build a successful future within the geosciences at UT. The real strength of our community lies with you. Together, we are making the Jackson School a better place.

On behalf of thousands of students who will pass through the Holland Family Student Center doors, I thank you.

Sharon Mosher, Dean



*Scotty and Jacque Holland are joined by Provost Steve Leslie and Dean Sharon Mosher to dedicate the new Holland Family Student Center, to educate future generations about our world through the Jackson School.*

## Just Warming Up: Enhancing the Student Experience

In 1924, the University finished construction on Memorial Stadium, at the time the largest sports facility of its kind in the Southwest. The Texas football team went on to become one of the dominant forces in college football, a legacy that has continued for decades. Not surprisingly, many of the other universities with the largest and best football stadiums are also perennial powerhouses, like Ohio State, LSU, and Alabama.

But ask Mack Brown or any of the top college coaches, and they'll tell you great spaces are a foundation for success, but they don't ensure it. To be the best, you need to recruit top talent, teach them the best skills, and foster their success.

Like DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium, the recently completed Holland Family Student Center also has the potential to unlock a wealth of opportunities for the geosciences in Texas, some we can't even imagine today, but only if we continue to fully invest in the students it was built to serve.

Continued page 2

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

# JACKSON

SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

## Just Warming Up: Enhancing the Student Experience (Cont')

The Jackson School has created a student experience unlike any other. From their first days on campus, students are welcomed into the geosciences community through the NeoGeo and Graduate Student Field Trips. We provide our students tutoring in math, physics, and chemistry, subjects critical to their success but taught in other departments. Through the Jackson Scholars program, we foster leadership and scholarly achievement in research, governance, work experience, study abroad, and/or community service. We pride ourselves on rigorous and extensive field training for future geoscientists. But if we want to be the best we must do more.

Now that we have a space that represents the strength of our community, we have the opportunity to fill it with the people, resources and activities that will keep our students on the road to success.

**It is a dynamic time to be involved with the Jackson School.**



*The entire Holland family joined together to celebrate the dedication. (L to R) Dashika and David Holland Jr., Katie Holland, Scotty and Jacque Holland, Nita and Terry Holland, Lila Grace Holland (with Nita), Travis and KC Holland.*



*The BhP Billiton Petroleum Magic Planet will be a teaching tool for our undergraduates, K-12 students and our guests.*

“Through the generosity of our friends and alumni, we are making a UT education financially accessible, rewarding academic excellence and leadership, while preparing students to successfully launch into professional life,” said Dean Sharon Mosher.

Rewarding students for academic merit is a proven incentive to raise GPAs and our merit-based scholarship program reinforces this measure. Instead of worrying about how they will finance their education or working long hours off campus to pay bills, students can concentrate more fully on their studies. Combined with stricter admissions standards, these scholarships help boost overall academic performance among Jackson School students, further enhancing our reputation as a premiere geoscience program.

We continue to be a leader in getting students into the field, the defining moment between being a student and becoming a geologist. Our goal is to continue to expand this unique feature of our curriculum, from the extremely important Geo 660 Summer Field Camp to parallel tracks in hydrogeology and in marine geology and geophysics.



*Professor Leon Long has taught Intro to Geology for over 38 years. With his retirement in May, he was personally responsible for recruiting hundreds of bright minds permanently into the geosciences.*

**“Through the generosity of friends and alumni, we are making a UT education financially accessible, rewarding academic excellence and leadership,”**  
— Dean Sharon Mosher

Providing meaningful recruiting packages for the most talented graduate students is vital to maintaining our competitive edge. This is a group of students who are smart, extremely mobile and in great demand. In a highly competitive marketplace, we should not lose any outstanding individual solely because of financial reasons. That’s why we created the Prestigious Graduate Fellowships.

Taken together, these resources will breathe life into the new student center. From the moment students step through its glass doors, to the day they graduate and begin their careers, they will know that the Jackson School has prepared them in mind, body, and spirit to meet the geoscience challenges of the 21st century.

We want your partnership as we grow on this path of excellence. Go to [www.jsg.utexas.edu](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu) to learn how you can become part of our continued success.



# Earth is Calling Program Expands Reach

As geoscientists, we know the geosciences are an exciting, high-tech career choice with plenty of job opportunities. But students are rarely exposed to the geosciences as a career option. Help us change that.

The Jackson School is on a mission to show students that the geosciences integrate chemistry, physics, biology, computational sciences and math to solve real world, societally relevant problems. With a career in the geosciences they can make an impact on some of the most important scientific questions of our time.

John Long (M.A. '78) almost didn't become a geologist. He went to college to be a writer, but when he took a geology class, something clicked. He switched majors and eventually went to work as a petroleum geologist. Now, he is taking an active role to ensure others learn earlier about the inspiring world of geosciences.

As co-director of the San Antonio FANs Chapter, he is leading the San Antonio effort to make sure students are exposed to geology early enough to make an informed choice. Long has assembled a team of 7 alumni volunteers and targeted 14 local schools for visits.

"I found geology almost by accident," says Long. "The potential to get a kid involved in geology who might otherwise miss the opportunity, the way I almost did, is very exciting."



*Watch for our new logo, to help you identify projects sponsored through the official Earth is Calling program.*



Last April, Long and other alumni made presentations about geoscience careers to over 100 students at Reagan High School. The Earth is Calling video was presented, along with personal stories of what life is like as a geologist. The science teacher who hosted Long, Matt Montamat, says the program fills a niche.

"Kids are concerned about the jobs they're going to have when they get out of college," said Montamat. "Not a lot of them thought of geology as a career option."

Long and other alumni also met with students at a career fair at Holmes High School. Long plans to ramp up efforts this fall and send volunteers to the 12 remaining schools in San Antonio.

We're asking alumni to serve as role models and ambassadors in their local high schools to inspire the next generation. With our toolkit—a tabletop display, short, high energy video, Q&A ice breakers and brochures—it's easy. Get your free kit at [www.BeAGeo.com](http://www.BeAGeo.com) or contact Julie Paul at [jpaul@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:jpaul@jsg.utexas.edu).

## Write? Right! The Writer-in-Residence Project

Writing is one of the most critical skillsets for any student to master. Successful geoscience leaders must be capable of communicating effectively through the written word. Most students are only trained in creative writing and develop scientific technical writing skills through trial and error, from an advisor or a class offered as extra credit. For the Jackson School, teaching students to write well is an expectation, not an exception. To assure that training for these skills are always part of the UT geosciences curriculum, we are raising funds for a Writer-In-Residence position.

The Writer-in-Residence will help our students strengthen their writing ability. This professional staff member will be a permanent part of our student services team. They will teach students to better their writing skills, help instructors integrate more written work into the curricula, and offer community-wide training. Serving as an advisor, students will have access to work one-on-one with the Writer-in-Residence to learn, practice and perfect

this important skillset. To provide easy access to students, faculty and the geo community, the Writer-in-Residence will be housed within the Holland Family Student Center.

With \$642,500 already committed, we are over halfway to our goal. All gifts at all levels will make this a success. Because we believe in the importance of this position, the Jackson School will provide a 50% match to any gift of \$25,000 or more. Corporate matches, as part of the total gift, are eligible to be matched as well. Gifts may be pledged over a three year period. For more information, please contact Ann Flemings at 512-471-1993 or [aflemings@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:aflemings@jsg.utexas.edu). Or make a gift online at <http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni/support>.

**Make a Gift to JSG**





#### **This page**

*Top left: Ina Brundrett celebrated the Rock Garden commemorating her husband Jesse with three generations of her family. Middle left: Bill Cotner flanked by his son Brian and grandsons dedicated the Career Resource Lounge named in honor of Dorothy Cotner, wife/mother and grandmother. Bottom left: Dave Lehman enjoys the new Marian B. and John C. Maxwell Plate Tectonics Office with Mrs. Marion Maxwell. Bottom right: Jan Barrow celebrated the opening of the Barrow Family Study with her daughter Elizabeth and husband Mark Brueggeman.*

#### **Opposite page**

*Top left: Steve Pearce, joined by Beth Robertson, helped celebrate the opening of the Louis M. Pearce Family Commons. Top right: Christopher Lerch and Julie Tushingham represented BHP Billiton, the largest corporate sponsor within the center, as we launched the BHP Billiton Petroleum Magic Planet. Middle left: Marion Deford (center) is joined by Colonel Greg Gregory and her daughter Lisa Hunter to dedicate the Ronald K. DeFord Student Advising Suite. Middle right: Galen Treadgold and Jeremy Greene, two of the seven sponsors of the burnt orange citrine, show their UT spirit. Bottom left: Jerry and Joy McQueen are joined by their extensive family to celebrate the dedication of the McQueen Conference Room, which was sponsored by Finkelstein Partners in recognition of Jerry's years of dedication to the company. Bottom right: Dean Sharon Mosher and Scotty Holland address the courtyard audience during the dedication.*



## **Holland Family Student Center Dedication June 15, 2012**











## Scenes from Recent Alumni Events



### This page

*Top: Alumni get hooked at the NAPE reception in Minute Maid Park, Houston, TX.*

*Middle: Led by FANs president Bonnie Weise (B.S. '74, M.A. '79) and chapter director John Long (M.A. '78), the San Antonio chapter visits Bracken Bat Cave for a private tour and lecture.*

*Bottom: All aboard! Alumni, faculty scientists, and students enjoy the AAPG alumni reception on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA.*





## Upcoming Alumni Events

**Friends and Alumni Network (FANs)  
Board Meeting**  
Sept. 7, 2012  
Austin, TX

**Holland Family Student Center  
Open House and Tailgate**  
Sept. 8, 2012  
Austin, TX

**Earth is Calling Receptions**  
Sept. 2012  
North, West and Downtown  
Houston, TX

**GCAGS Annual Convention**  
Oct. 21 — 23, 2012  
Austin, TX

**Geology Foundation Advisory Council  
Meeting**  
Oct. 25 — 26, 2012  
Austin, TX

**Jackson School Scholars Luncheon**  
Oct. 26, 2012  
Austin, TX

**GSA Alumni Reception**  
Nov. 5, 2012  
Charlotte, NC

**SEG Alumni Reception**  
Nov. 6, 2012  
Las Vegas, NV

**AGU Alumni Lunch**  
Dec. 5, 2012  
San Francisco, CA

**JSG & GSA sponsored  
Antarctica and The Scotia Arc \*FULL**  
Dec. 27, 2012 — Jan. 20, 2013

**For Your 2013 Calendar:  
NAPE Alumni Reception**  
Feb. 7, 2013  
Houston, TX

**JSGeo Travel to the Galapagos and  
Machu Picchu**  
Mar. 26 — Apr. 8, 2013

**GSA 2013 South Central Section  
Meeting**  
Apr. 4 — 5, 2013  
Austin, TX

**Jackson School Reunion**  
Apr. 26 — 27, 2013  
Austin, TX

**UTIG 40th Anniversary and Symposium**  
Apr. 28 — 30, 2013  
Austin, TX

Stay Tuned to [www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni)  
for 2012 Alumni Events in California,  
Colorado and Oklahoma

## JSGeo Travel Program



Join us!

### Machu Picchu and the Galapagos

Experience unique geology, natural history and  
spectacular wildlife with JSG geoscientists,  
Longhorns and UT faculty.

Learn more at [www.texasexes.org/travel](http://www.texasexes.org/travel).

Limited space.

Questions? Email [jpaul@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:jpaul@jsg.utexas.edu).

SAVE  
—the—  
DATE

Austin  
TEXAS

## Calling all Geoscientists

### Jackson School Alumni Reunion

April 26th-27th, 2013



[www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/alumni)

RELIVE | RECONNECT | REDISCOVER

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## Holland Family Student Center Open House and Tailgate

Alumni, Friends and UT Community invited to attend

September 8, 2012, 5-7pm | Geology Building, 23rd & San Jacinto

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